

INFORMAL MEETING SUMMARY
Region 1
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, March 9, 2021

The Region 1 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting was held at the Warrior Network in Bossier City, LA at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday March 9, 2021, pursuant to notice duly mailed.

Welcome/Call to Order/ Invocation/ Pledge

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matt Johns at 10:02 a.m., who welcomed the attendees, held the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

At the Chairman's request, Mrs. Heidi Stewart called the roll of members present or by proxy. Those present were: Chairman Matt Johns, Vice Chairman Butch Ford, Ms. Lindsay Gouedy, Mr. Ali Mustapha, and Ms. Zazell Dudley. Proxies held were: Mr. Tom Fontcuberta for Mr. Steve Brown. Others in attendance were: Mr. Ben Wicker, Ms. Jenae Arceneaux, Mrs. Randel Elliott, Mrs. Heidi Stewart, Ms. Christina Freeman, Mrs. Nicolette Jones, Mr. Pearson Harbour, Ms. Janice Lovett, Mr. Robert Tomasek, Mr. Marvin McGraw, Mr./Ms. K. Vidrine, Ms. Adrejia Boutte Swafford, Mr. Bump Skaggs, and Mr. Austin Vaughn. A quorum was not present.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Because a quorum was not present, the adoption of the minutes from the February 9, 2021 meeting did not take place.

Round 1 Project Selection Discussion

- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that DOTD issued a NTP for Task Order No. 1 to Atkins North America, Inc. for Region 1 on November 4, 2020 for data collection, stakeholder engagement, cost estimates, and proposed model setup.
- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that the Task Order No. 2, which will initiate actual modeling of the region, is estimated to be issued in May/June of 2021.
- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that the Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire was sent out to the members on 3-2-2021 and needed to be completed and returned as soon as possible.
- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee of the following timeline:
 - Applications for Round 1 were due on March 12, 2021.
 - Regions had a deadline to set Project Selection Priorities by April 30th.
 - The State was set to award the first \$60M and send out unawarded project lists to the regions to review in May or June. The Regions were then given the task to review the projects and select the projects that they wanted to award their \$5M to.
 - Regions were to submit recommendations to OCD in July.
- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that by the end of April, the State would provide a list of projects and a scoring breakdown for each project.
- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that once they received the list of projects, the region would then select a project that could not exceed \$5M by one of the following options:

- Option A, the region could select the projects that scored the highest under the State's scoring process.
- Option B, the region could follow another method, but written justification must be provided.
- Mrs. Stewart gave a list of the following as examples of some priorities that the committee might want to consider when deciding on the selection process they want to follow:
 - Project Types
 - a) Prioritize nature-based solutions.
 - b) Prioritize green infrastructure.
 - c) Make sure to define how you are defining these priorities.
 - Geography
 - a) Prioritize projects that impact LMI areas.
 - b) Prioritize projects that impact HUD MIDs.
 - c) Prioritize projects that impact the highest risk flood zones.
 - Project Qualities
 - a) BCA ration
 - b) Social impact
 - c) Low O&M cost
- Mrs. Stewart stated that before selecting which projects would receive money, the regions were not required to rank projects, just like the State did, but could use The State's method if they choose too.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that regions were not required to use a quantitative approach when assigning a score for making their recommendation either.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that not all regions had to score the same way or use the same process.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that all meetings would have to be public.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that formal presentations on projects were not allowed.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that public comments must be invited prior to voting on recommendations.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that the RSC must vote on the project recommendations.
- Mrs. Stewart went on and explained the State's evaluation process and scoring criteria for the Round 1 projects:
 - Projects submitted for the Watershed Projects Grant Program: Local and Regional Round 1 funding can earn up to 100 points in scoring criteria.
 - Each project will be scored and then ranked according to the following criteria with a 100-point maximum:
 - a) Effectiveness in Minimizing Risk = 44
 - Risk reduction value = 20
 - Future flood risk considerations = 2
 - Upstream and downstream flood effects = 2
 - Passivity and reliability = 2
 - Multi-jurisdictional risk reduction benefits = 4
 - Enhanced protection of critical lifelines = 3
 - Avoided damages/losses = 2
 - Adaptability to higher flood levels = 2
 - Replicability = 2

- Project design life = 3
 - Historical/archeological/geological impacts = 2
- b) Project Costs & Project Implementation = 13
 - Fund match = 1
 - Annual costs = 2
 - Implementation timeframe = 2
 - Project stage of development = 3
 - Operations and maintenance = 1
 - Consistency with other projects or plans = 1
 - Applicant capacity/previous experience in managing federal grant funding = 3
- c) Social Benefits = 12
 - Benefit to low- and moderate-income populations = 7
 - Economic opportunity = 3
 - Outdoor recreational resources = 2
- d) Enhancement of Natural Functions = 15
 - Natural hydrology improvements = 5
 - Water quality improvements = 5
 - Improvement to aquatic/floodplain habitat = 5
- e) Benefit to Most Impacted and Distressed Parishes = 16
- Mrs. Stewart stated that Region 1 had a maximum of eight projects, with a total amount requested as high as \$40 million.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that up to three projects had budgets over \$5 million.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that up to five projects had budgets under \$5 million.
- Mrs. Stewart explained that the following were the current unknowns for Region 1:
 - Will all eight projects be submitted?
 - How many projects will receive funding from the State's \$60 million?
 - Will larger projects be divided into phases?
- Mrs. Stewart reviewed some other selection concerns for the committee to think about and that would be decided on at the next meeting permitting that there was a quorum present. They were as followed:
 - Did Region 1 want to use the State's score but weight criteria differently?
 - Did Region 1 want to screen out projects asking for over \$5 million? (Unless they could identify other funds already in place.)
 - Did Region 1 want to only review a top number of projects or review them all?
 - Did Region 1 want to skip projects that the budget cannot cover?
 - a) Only up to \$5 million can be awarded by Region 1 during this Round 1.
- Vice Chairman Ford stated that based on all the information presented, his opinion was that Region 1 stick with the State's scoring and ranking process since they had a team whose daily job was to go through all the projects and score and rank them.
- Chairman Johns agreed with Vice Chairman Ford, reminded the committee that they could not vote because a quorum was not present, and asked the committee to take the next month to review everything before voting at the next meeting.

Governance Recommendation Discussion

- Mrs. Stewart reminded the committee that outreach and engagement would happen between January 2021 and April 2021.
- Mrs. Stewart stated that during May 2021 and June 2021 the committee would consider feedback gathered during outreach and engagement and refine their recommendations.
- Mrs. Stewart reviewed the Regional 1 Potential Coalition Structure that the committee had discussed at the previous meeting. It was as follows:
 - Regional Coordinating Entity will coordinate all regional activities and will assist in the development of recommendations to voting membership.
 - a) Staffed by the Northwest Louisiana Council of Government and The Coordinating & Development Corporation.
 - Watershed Coalition will vote on recommendations provided by committees based on the information and technical assistance provided to them by the Technical Advisory Committee.
 - a) Parish President, Parish Administrator, or their designee, one per parish [12]
 - Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, Webster, Winn
 - b) Mayor or their designee, one per municipality with population over 10K [4]
 - Shreveport, Bossier City, Natchitoches, and Minden
 - c) DOTD Administrator or their designee [2]
 - District 04 and District 08
 - d) At Large members, representing large regional entities [1 - 5]
 - Added by Coalition vote as needed.
 - Technical Advisory Committee will identify opportunities and challenges and make recommendations to the voting body.
 - a) Levee Boards and Drainage Districts [5]
 - Bossier, Caddo, Natchitoches, Nineteenth, Red River
 - b) Other Government Agencies [?]
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, LWI, DOTD, LDWF
 - c) Out of State Representatives [?]
 - East Texas, Southern Arkansas, Southeast Oklahoma?
 - d) Community Organization Reps [?]
 - Ex. Sparta Ground Water Conservation District Commission, The Port of Caddo Bossier, Red River Compact, Red River Waterway Commission, Caddo Lake Institute, etc.
- Finalization of the structure of the Coalition was postponed until a future meeting, at which a quorum is present.

Outreach and Engagement Strategies

- Mrs. Stewart informed the committee that the staff started on outreach and engagement with the public and that the State had sent some questions that would help with meeting with stakeholders and parish officials.

- The questions were:
 - What community events or interactions would strengthen you RSC’s provisional recommendations?
 - Whom do you need to talk to make sure your recommendations reflect the needs of the communities in your region?
 - Who are the champions of regional watershed management in your region?
 - Who can help build out the details of the watershed coalition or managing entity’s structure? What steps are needed to do this?
 - Are there specific groups or topics requiring public education in your region that would help build understanding and awareness of the LWI provisional recommendations?
- Chairman Johns expressed that he wanted to make sure that Region 1 spoke with the parish leaders of each parish, whether it be the Parish President or the entire Police Jury, and explained that Region 2 was doing that.
- Chairman Johns stated that, in Region 2, they created a one page document to be presented at the meetings. He explained that on the front was the history and a summary of what had happened so far, and on the back was all the recommendations and the reasons why the RSC for Region 2 selected those recommendation.
- The committee decided that they would meet with the Parish President or Parish Administrator instead of trying to meet and present at a Police Jury meeting for each parish.

Program Updates from OCD

- Neither Mr. Ben Wicker nor Mrs. Nicolette Jones had any program updates from OCD for the committee.

Adjourn

Chairman Johns asked if there was any further business to come before the Committee, and with there being none, the March 9, 2021 meeting was adjourned at 10:59a.m.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Secretary to the Corporation, certifies that the above and foregoing is the true and correct informal meeting summary of the meeting of the Members of the Region 1 Regional Steering Committee held on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.



 Jack "Bump" Skaggs, Secretary