

AUGUST 5, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Thursday, August 5, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 11:21 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Haase calls the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Lori Dupont, Council Secretary

- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority: Bren Haase
- Department of Transportation & Development: Chris Knotts
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries: Matt Weigel
- Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness: Casey Tingle
- Louisiana Office of Community Development: Pat Forbes

5 members of each agency confirmed. Mr. Chairman, we do have a quorum.

Chairman Haase reminded everyone joining virtually to submit public comments directly through the Zoom Q&A feature for review at the beginning and end of the meeting.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Haase leads the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Public Comment

Chairman Haase calls for public comment.

No public comments.

V. Consent Agenda Items

A. May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Haase calls for queries or objections to the May 27, 2021 meeting minutes.

No objections, the May 27, 2021 meeting minutes are accepted as written.

VI. Opening Remarks

Chairman Haase gave an overview of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Pat Forbes: Acknowledged the 100% virtual format due to COVID and noted that it does help reach a wider audience and the removal of time/space barriers in all corners of the state.

VII. Updates



A. Summary of Project Announcements and Statuses

Alexandra Carter, OCD: Provided a summary of project announcements and statuses, and project summaries.

Sean Wyatt, GOHSEP: Gave brief overview of the Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program for the 2016 Storms. \$291 million in FEMA HMGP funding matched by \$96.6 million in CDBG-MIT funding. To-date, approximately 100 projects have been funded. The Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program for the 2020 Storms initial match includes the \$40 HMGP (Laura) installment announced in November 2020.

Billy Williamson, DOTD: Provided updates on the State Projects and Programs. The program now includes a total of 20 projects statewide totaling \$213 million. Applicants are at various stages of project kickoff.

Spring Garcia, OCD: About \$70 million of the \$213 million in State Projects and Programs is going towards the Statewide Buyout Program, voluntary buyouts and relocation. We have some areas that have officially launched and we are seeing a lot of interest in buyouts. In other areas we are completing initial meetings and/or working with officials to identify and finalize project areas.

Sam Martin, CPRA: Brief reference of the 16 Round 1 Projects awarded. OCD continuing to move towards implementation and has issued 15 conditional award letters and holding kick-off meetings with applicants. Successful launch, acknowledged there is still much to do across the state to reduce flood risk and enhance natural functions.

Alexandra Carter, OCD: Round 1 includes regional recommendations to the Council for an additional \$40 million. We will review that recommendation as part of the action items later in today's meeting. Note that since May 27, Regions 1-7 were able to submit recommendations as part of the RCBG Program and regions 2 and 5 pooled funding for a project that would be mutually beneficial.

B. Statewide Planning, Program and Policy Development

Nicolette Jones, OCD: Provided an update on the Regional Outreach events held during the Spring. Each RSC adopted a provisional watershed management recommendation, undertook a robust outreach initiative to engage local stakeholders in their regions. 78 communities are engaged by the Watershed Coordinators and the RSC members. A total of 163 meetings with over 1400 participants have been held. During these events regional staff met with parish and municipal leaders, including police juries and city councils, nonprofits and business associations, local floodplain managers, tribal leaders, and community organizations to ensure broad awareness and receive valuable feedback and insight into their watershed management recommendations.

VIII. Action Items

A. Watershed Projects and Programs: Round 1 Regional Awards

Chairman Haase calls for a motion and a second to approve the Regional Project Recommendations for Round 1 projects.



Motion: Casey Tingle, GOHSEP

Second: Pat Forbes, OCD

Chairman Haase asked that a roll call vote be taken.

Lori Dupont, Council Secretary

Council Member	Yea	Nay
DOTD: Chris Knotts	Y	
LDWF: Matt Weigel	Y	
GOHSEP: Casey Tingle	Y	
OCD: Pat Forbes	Y	
CPRA: Bren Haase	Y	

The motion to approve the Regional Project Recommendations for Round 1 projects passes unanimously.

B. Regional Capacity Building Grant Program: Phase 2 Budget

Chairman Haase calls for a motion and a second to approve the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program – Phase 2 implementation.

Motion: Chris Knotts, DOTD

Second: Matt Weigel, LDWF

Chairman Haase asked that a roll call vote be taken.

Lori Dupont, Council Secretary

Council Member	Yea	Nay
DOTD: Chris Knotts	Y	
LDWF: Matt Weigel	Y	
GOHSEP: Casey Tingle	Y	
OCD: Pat Forbes	Y	
CPRA: Bren Haase	Y	

The motion to approve the Regional Capacity Building Grant Program – Phase 2 implementation passes unanimously.

C. Statewide Data and Modeling Program: Long-term Model Use, Storage and Maintenance Plan upcoming public comment period

Chairman Haase calls for a motion and a second to approve the launch of the 60-day public comment period for the MUSM plan in late August.



Motion: Pat Forbes, OCD
Second: Chris Knotts, DOTD

Chairman Haase asked that a roll call vote be taken.

Lori Dupont, Council Secretary

Council Member	Yea	Nay
DOTD: Chris Knotts	Y	
LDWF: Matt Weigel	Y	
GOHSEP: Casey Tingle	Y	
OCD: Pat Forbes	Y	
CPRA: Bren Haase	Y	

The motion to approve the launch of the 60-day public comment period for the MUSM plan in late August passes unanimously.

IX. Public Comment

INSERT ZOOM/FACEBOOK COMMENTS HERE

X. Closing Remarks

Chairman Haase: Thanks everyone for your time and attention. We hope you have a great rest of your day and please do your part to stop the spread of COVID in Louisiana. Stay safe.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Haase calls for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Casey Tingle, GOHSEP

Second: Pat Forbes, OCD

--Meeting Adjourned--

11:21 a.m.