

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District (LWI Region 5) Inaugural Meeting Minutes



10am-11am, Thursday, June 13th, 2024
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<p>CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p> <p>Roll Call & Public Introductions</p> <p>Welcome</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:11am by Kelia Bingham. All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Roll Call was taken by Kelia Bingham to establish a quorum. A quorum was present with 14 Board members. Kelia Bingham and Sara Gary introduced themselves and welcomed everyone. Sara Gary stated the following:</p> <p>“Opening Statement: Welcome to this first, public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed district. I am Sara Gary, CEO of the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC).</p> <p>Agendas are available at the room’s entrance and were made available through email and online at planacadiana.org.</p> <p>For our records to reflect your attendance please sign-in at the table or drop a message in the chat box listing your name and affiliation.</p> <p>The purpose of this public meeting is to consider items established by the agenda. Public input is welcome on these items. However, to ensure an orderly meeting, members of the public shall speak at the time designated. Each organization may be permitted one representative to speak for 3 minutes on its behalf and individual public members are permitted 3 minutes. For those wishing to speak in-person, complete a speaker card and present it to the APC staff. For members of the public participating online, please submit your comments and questions in the chat box. Comments/questions will be read aloud during the public comment period.”</p>
<p>OATH OF OFFICE FOR BOARD MEMBERS</p>	<p>Each Board member who was present took the Oath of Office as required by the State Boards & Commissions. The Oath of Office was administered by Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court, Louis J. Perret, and was recorded in Oath Book 26. The remaining Board members will take the Oath of Office at the next scheduled meeting.</p>

<p>ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS</p>	<p>Election of officers for the District were held. Each officer will serve a term of one year. Board members introduced themselves and gave a background to their professional history.</p> <p>Keith Roy made a motion to nominate Rep. Landry as Chairman. Ben Langlinois seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Rep. Landry is the Chairman of the District.</p> <p>VOTE: 14-0-4: Yea – 14; Nay – 0; Absent –4;</p> <p>Mayor-President Boulet made a motion to nominate Rachel Godeaux as the Vice Chairman. Mayor White seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Rachel Godeaux is the Vice Chairman of the District.</p> <p>VOTE: 14-0-4: Yea – 14; Nay – 0; Absent –4;</p> <p>Mayor White made a motion and nominated herself for Secretary/Treasurer. Van Reed seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor White is the Secretary/Treasurer of the District.</p> <p>VOTE: 14-0-4: Yea – 14; Nay – 0; Absent –4;</p>
<p>VOTE ON BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE</p>	<p>Bimonthly or quarterly options were given to the Board for their meeting schedule with dates. Keith Roy made a motion to meet quarterly, and this was seconded by Rep. Landry. All were in favor. The specific dates will be decided on later by the Board after options are sent out to accommodate the majority’s schedule.</p> <p>VOTE: 14-0-4: Yea – 14; Nay – 0; Absent –4;</p>
<p>VOTE ON BOARD BYLAWS</p>	<p>The Board asked for more time to review the Bylaws and tabled this vote until the next meeting.</p>

<p>TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham stated that before the first TAC Committee meeting is scheduled, the member list will need to be completed. There will be appointed members from UL Watershed Flood Center, TVFWD, LA SWCD IV, USDA/NRCS, DOTD, CPRA, USACE and four At-Large Members. Nominations will be solicited for the four At-Large Members: 2 to be nominated by a municipality with a population of 30K or greater; 2 to be nominated by a municipality with a population of less than 30K. APC will contact those city mayors to nominate and present names to the Board to vote on At-Large members at the next AWD meeting.</p>
<p>DISTRICT LETTER TO ACADIANA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION – STATE RIVER & RAIN GAUGE NETWORK</p>	<p>USGS and LDEQ presented on the state LWI Gauge Network on May 22nd. There are no long- term funding solutions to operate & maintain the state gauge network. The O&M contract with USGS ends October 2025. Region 5 has a total of 18 state gauges – 14 Flow, 4 Stage. The annual cost for USGS to O&M these 18 gauges is \$539,000.</p> <p>Asking Board to approve a letter to send to Acadiana Delegation stating the importance of these gauges and that the state should find a way to O&M the LWI state gauges as the goal for these gauges are to: <u>provide real-time observations and support flood warning, preparedness and response and Support calibration & validation of LWI models developed by DOTD modeling consultants and improve their utility for evaluation of mitigation projects.</u></p> <p>Chairman Landry asked to have a meeting set up with himself, LDEQ and USGS representatives before drafting a letter. APC will set up this meeting. This topic can also be discussed at a TAC meeting once the committee is established.</p>
<p>GROUND TRUTH FLOOD RIKS APPLICATION SURVEY</p>	<p>Kelia Bingham reminded the Board to participate in the ground truth flood risk application survey as this is needed for the LWI Region 5 Q2 Report and part of the future regional watershed plan. This was sent out on May 30th. She asked the Board to complete this by June 28th.</p>
<p>UPDATES</p>	<p>The following updates were provided by Kelia Bingham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Region 5 watershed models</u> – Complete; AWD legislation states we will have a CEA with DOA regarding housing our watershed models at UL. The models are being moved from DOA to DENR. We will resume talks with DENR for a CEA. b) <u>USACE Silver Jackets Technical Report</u> – I sent this final report to you on May 21st. The USACE has the Silver Jackets program and Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) is part of this program. A portion of the FPMS is reserved for interagency non-structural work for flood risk management benefits. All the work was done by the USACE and their staff. The estimated in-kind services provided by this study is \$100,000.00. This study identified structures that intersect flood vulnerability and social vulnerability for 12 of our 16 parishes. The anticipated use of the document is to bolster future grant applications as a region or for the individual parishes in our region and add to our regional watershed plan due December 2025.

	<p>c) <u>Round 2 Projects</u> – This is being handled by OCD and each project has a grant manager. Kickoff meetings began in March and progress is continuing. There are nine Round 2 projects in Region 5.</p> <p>d) <u>West of the Atchafalaya Basin (Alexandria to the Gulf) Feasibility Study</u> – This is through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works unanimously passed the 2024 WRDA on May 22. WRDA is a two-year bill that authorizes flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Senate bill currently includes 81 feasibility studies and eight new or modified construction projects. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is still drafting its version of the bill, and a markup is expected later in June.</p>
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	Kelia Bingham stated the annual requirements of Board members such as state ethics training certificates by 12/31/24 and Tier 2.1 Annual Financial Disclosure that will be due by 05/15/25.
PUBLIC COMMENT	There were no public comments.
ADJOURNMENT	<p>President Sam Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor White seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 12:00pm.</p> <p>VOTE: 14-0-4: Yea – 14; Nay – 0; Absent –4;</p>
MEETING DETAILS	
CONTACT	Kelia Bingham, LWI Region 5 Watershed Coordinator kbingham@planacadiana.org or (337) 446-0807
ADA/TITLE VI NOTICE	The Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) convenes public meetings in accessible locations. Meeting materials can be provided in accessible formats and in languages other than English upon request. If you would like accessibility or language accommodation, please contact the ADA/Title VI Coordinator via email at amoran@planacadiana.org: or by phone at 337-806-9364. If you wish to attend an APC function and require special accommodations, please provide at least 72 hours advanced notice.
ATTENDANCE RECORD	

ATTENDEES

Delegates Present:

Allen – Tyler Tullier
Avoyelles – Jacob Coco
Calcasieu – Terry Frelot
Evangeline – Dirk Deville
Iberia – Ben Langlinais
Jefferson Davis – Kori Myers
Lafayette – Mayor-President Monique Boulet
Rapides – Matt Johns
St. Landry -Van Reed
St. Martin – Chris Tausin
St. Mary – President Sam Jones
Vermilion – Keith Roy
House Committee on Natural Resources & Environment – Rep. Jacob Landry
Senate Committee on Natural Resources – Mayor Roslyn White of Abbeville

Others Present

Kelia Bingham - APC
Sara Gary – APC
Allison Clarke - APC
Kade Jones – APC
Tina Wilson – GIS Engineering
Kyle Stakes – GIS Engineering
Whitney Broussard – Freese & Nichols
Stephen Broussard – Bayou Vermilion District
Dr. Emad Habib – UL Watershed Flood Center
Jody Roger White – CPRA
Raymond Reaux – Fenstermaker
Jeanne Hornsby – Fenstermaker
Pete Delcambre – St. Martin Parish President
Jessica Cornay – Lafayette Parish
Wes Dupuis – St. Martin Parish
Donald Sagera – Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District
Mark Schexnayder – Coastal Environmental
Phillip Parker – CPRA
Dr. Garland Pennision – HDR Engineering

ABSENTEES

Delegates Absent:

Acadia – Earl Garber
Cameron – Kara Bonsall
Iberville – John Clark
Pointe Coupee – Nathan Cobb