

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Board Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Thursday, February 26, 2026
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Rachel Godeaux, Vice Chair of the Acadiana Watershed District. Opening Statement: <i>" Welcome to public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Rachel Godeaux, Vice Chair of the District.</i> <i>Agendas are available at the room's entrance and were made available through the AWD email distribution list and online at planacadiana.org. For our records to reflect your attendance, please sign-in at the table and any Board or TAC members online, please add your name to the chat box.</i> <i>The purpose of this public meeting is to consider items established by the agenda. Public input is welcome on these matters. For those wishing to speak in-person, please complete a speaker card and present it to the APC staff. Comments/questions will be read aloud during the public comment period. To ensure an orderly meeting, members of the public will 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. This will be strictly enforced. Thank you."</i>
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Rachel Godeaux led the Pledge of Allegiance, and all stood and recited the pledge.
ROLL CALL	Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham. A quorum was present with 12 attendees. Kelia Bingham welcomed Brittany Dupont, new Board member representing Iberia Parish.
	Meeting minutes approval on the following: • Board Meetings - August 28, 2025 & January 15, 2026 • TAC Meetings – October 16, 2025 & January 22, 2026 Earl Garber motioned to approve the minutes, and Keith Roy seconded. All were in favor.

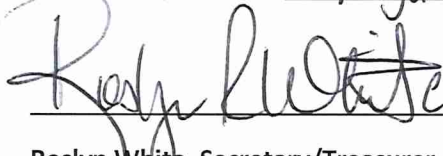
ACTION SUMMARIES APPROVAL	VOTE: YEA – 12 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 6
REGIONAL PROJECT CRITERIA	Mayor White motioned to approve the criteria, and Terry Frelot seconded the motion. All were in favor. VOTE: YEA – 12 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 6
BYLAWS AMENDMENTS – OFFICER ELECTIONS & BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE	Rachel Godeaux motioned to approve the Office Elections amendment and Kara Bonsall seconded the motion. All were in favor. VOTE: YEA – 12 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 6 Chris Tauzin motioned to approve the Board Member Attendance amendment, and Keith Roy seconded the motion. All were in favor. VOTE: YEA – 12 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 6
GUEST SPEAKERS – ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER	The board heard a detailed presentation from Dean Wilson and Kimberly Culotta of the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper regarding the declining flood capacity in the Atchafalaya Basin and its impact on central Louisiana. They presented a detailed analysis of declining flood capacity in the Atchafalaya Basin, showing significant concerns about water management and potential future flooding impacts across central Louisiana. Kelia Bingham will send a link to the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper’s Management Plan to the Board.

HYDRORISE MODELING CO- PRODUCTION WORKSHOP	Dr. Emad Habib with the UL Louisiana Watershed Flood Center presented on an upcoming workshop (date TBA) that will demonstrate the educational component of watershed modeling and focus on the Vermilion River Watershed (Lafayette, Vermilion, St. Martin and Iberia parishes). This workshop will help participants understand the role of modeling in flood mitigation and risks. A total of two workshops is proposed and there will be a limited number of participants.
PARISH PROJECTS FOR TAC REVIEW	Kelia Bingham provided updates on LWI Round 2 projects, including progress on flood protection, restoration efforts, and detention pond projects across multiple parishes. The Board discussed the following projects to be reviewed by the TAC committee to be potentially modeled: Vermilion Pump and Flood Gate, Bayou Blue Channel Re-Design (Allen Parish), and Bayou Amy Drainage Study (St. Martin Parish).
REGIONAL PLAN	Kelia Bingham emphasized that more participation is needed in the ground-truthing flood risk survey and that project modeling results are required in the plan.
DISTRICT FUNDING DISCUSSION	The board discussed funding options for the Acadiana Watershed District, ultimately voting to proceed with Option 1, which requires each parish to pay a minimum of \$2,500 annually. This fee option is also based on the population of each parish contained within the Acadiana Watershed District. Each Board member was tasked with contacting their respective governing body to get their input to adopt this type of funding for 2027.
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	Congressman Julia Letlow secured \$2Million in NRCS funding for LWI Region 9 (Amite River Basin Commission). Board members were encouraged to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators for future project funding. Grant funding opportunity (pre-proposals due March 31st) – National Coastal Resilience Fund through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. These details had been sent to Board members via email on February 24th.
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
NEXT MEETING DATE	May 21 st at 10am – Michael Hare, CPRA Executive Director, is scheduled to attend.
ADJOURNMENT	Terry Frelot made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Matt Johns seconded that motion. All were in favor. VOTE: YEA – 12 NAY – 0 ABSENT – 6
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 accommodation, please provide at least 72 hours advanced notice.
	ATTENDANCE RECORD
ATTENDEES	<u>Delegates Present:</u> Acadia Parish – Earl Garber Allen Parish – Tylier Tullier Avoyelles Parish – Jacob Coco Calcasieu Parish – Terry Frelot Cameron Parish – Kara Bonsall Iberville Parish – Brittany Dupont Lafayette – Rachel Godeaux Rapides – Matt Johns St. Landry – Van Reed St. Martin – Chris Tauzin Vermilion – Keith Roy Senate Committee Natl Resources – Mayor White
ABSENTEES	<u>Others Present</u> UL Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District – Donald Sagrera Atchafalaya Basinkeeper - Kimberly Culotta Atchafalaya Basinkeeper - Dean Wilson - St. Mary Levee District - Michael Brocato Lafayette Consolidated Government – Jessica Cornay DOTD & TAC Member – Brent Domingue City of Carencro -Purvis Morrison Vermilion Parish Police Jury – Tommy McGinnis Blue Wing Consulting – Alex Guillory Bayou Vermilion District – Karen Hail APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Kade Jones APC – Sean Reed <u>Delegates Absent:</u> Evangeline Parish – Jody Snoddy

	Iberia Parish – Ben Langlinais Jefferson Davis – Kori Myers Pointe Coupee – Nathan Cobb St. Marty Parish – Sam Jones House Committee Natl Resources & Env – Rep. Jacob Landry
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Minutes approved on August 27, 2026 by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.



Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District