Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Board Meeting Minutes

10am-12pm, Thursday, May 15th, 2025
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafyette, LA 70501

AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The meeting was called to order at 10:11am by Mayor White, AWD Secretary. Opening Statement: *" Welcome to public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Kelia Bingham, Watershed Coordinator for the District.* *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.* *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."*
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Rachel Godeaux, Vice Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and all stood and recited the pledge.
ROLL CALL	Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham. A quorum was not present as there were only 8 Board members in attendance.
ACTION SUMMARIES APPROVAL	Action summaries from previous AWD meetings could not be approved as there was no quorum. Mayor White motioned to defer this action until the next Board meeting. Earl Garber seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS APPROVAL	The vision and mission statements were discussed, with suggestions to include water quality in the vision statement. This approval is deferred until the next Board meeting.
BYLAWS AMENDMENTS	Officer term limits and board member attendance requirements were discussed and reviewed. Approval is deferred until the next Board meeting.
SUSTAINABLE FUNDING	Sustainable funding strategies for the District were discussed. The Board explored various funding mechanisms including parcel fees and membership dues, while discussing the need to establish a funding plan before the end of the year as current funding is set to expire. The District has the authority to manage large-scale projects that benefit multiple parishes, though it lacks the financial capacity to undertake such projects. The group discussed potential funding strategies, including leveraging the district's power as a legal entity with tax levying and stormwater fee authority, and reviewed budget items such as internal capacity, support, and coordination. The conversation ended with a discussion on the district's future role and the need to define its objectives. The board discussed funding options for a regional stormwater management fee of $30 per year per parcel and parish membership dues to keep the meetings going. They reviewed an operating budget estimate of $300,000 for regional capacity support and coordination, with additional funds needed for grant tracking and modeling staff. The board agreed to further explore stormwater fee implementation, which was legally authorized by the state in 2022, while acknowledging the need for parish buy-in and detailed planning over the coming year. The board discussed the need to establish a funding plan before December 31st, as current funding will expire. They explored the possibility of engaging with CPRA's inland water team and discussed the importance of collaboration at an executive level. The group also considered how to fairly distribute funding among different areas and agreed to use a prioritization matrix that takes into account factors like population impact and regional benefits. Board members discussed implementing a $30 parcel fee as a simple and understandable funding mechanism, with APC explaining that this breaks down to $2.50 per month. They explored various funding options, including membership dues and pre-impact fees for new developments, but APC noted that the simplest approach would be through individual parcel assessments. The discussion also covered potential challenges in obtaining funding from federal and state sources in the future. APC will revise the proposed budget structure, breaking it down into categories: administrative, planning, modeling, and project funding and develop multiple scenarios for membership dues based on different criteria (e.g., population, flat fee, etc.). APC via Rep. Landry will try to schedule a meeting with CPRA at the executive level to discuss collaboration.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	APC will prepare a formal letter allowing the chair to approve support letters for grant applications. This will be voted on at the next meeting.
NEXT MEETING	August 28th at 10am
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
ADJOURNMENT	Terry Frelot made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mayor White seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 11:45am.
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 notice in advance.
	ATTENDANCE RECORD
ATTENDEES	**Delegates Present:** Acadia Parish – Earl Garber Allen Parish – Tylier Tullier (virtual) Avoyelles – Jacob Coco Calcasieu – Terry Frelot Evangeline – Dirk Deville (virtual) Lafayette – Rachel Godeaux Rapides – Matt Johns St. Landry – Van Reed Vermilion – Keith Roy Senate Committee Natl Resources – Mayor White **Others Present** GOHSEP – Ashley LeBlanc BVD – Stephen Broussard TVFWD – Donald Sagrera BVD – Karen Hail

ABSENTEES	LCG – Jessica Cornay APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Sean Reed APC – Kade Jones **Delegates Absent:** Cameron – Kara Bonsall Iberia – Ben Langlinais Iberville – John Clark Jefferson Davis – Kori Myers Point Coupee – Nathan Cobb St. Martin – Chris Tauzin St. Mary – Sam Jones House Comm Natl Resources – Rep. Jacob Landry

Minutes approved on **August 28, 2025,** by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.

Roslyn R White

Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District