

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Special Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



1:30pm -2:30pm, Tuesday, March 18th, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom



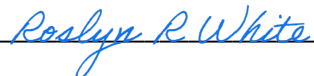
AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Kelia Bingham, APC Watershed Coordinator.
ROLL CALL	Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham.
Presentation on Resilience Matrix	<u>Brief summary</u> The meeting featured presenters from CPEX, a nonprofit organization based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who discussed a plan alignment matrix framework. This tool could be useful for the watershed region, particularly in ranking and prioritizing projects and plans. The matrix was developed by CPEX's team, including Jeannette Dubinin, Macey Williams, Simbrey Majors, and Dr. Denise Reed. The meeting aimed to explore how this matrix could be applied to the watershed region's planning efforts. <u>Detailed Summary</u> Jeannette presented a matrix aimed at supporting the development of a regional resilience planning framework. The matrix is designed to align strategies and projects across various sectors and jurisdictions, with a focus on flood resilience. It considers four elements of resilience: a robust environment, vibrant economic activity, sustainable natural environment, and health and opportunity for all residents. The matrix also includes columns for capturing existing relevant plans, other relevant resources, and key questions. The goal is to leverage existing plans and resources to support specific goals, such as flood resilience, and to identify opportunities for adjustments in existing strategies and approaches. The matrix is intended to be a useful tool for the Regional Planning Commission and is open to feedback on its usefulness and effectiveness. Denise presented a framework for building a resilient regional plan that considers multiple aspects of resilience beyond just flood risk. The framework uses a matrix to evaluate projects across four resilience elements: robust built environment, health and opportunity, vibrant economic activity, and sustainable natural environment. Projects are rated on various questions within each element using a color-coded system (green, yellow, red) based on how well they address different aspects of resilience. Denise demonstrated the framework using two example projects: a Cajun prairie restoration project and a transit project connecting Carencro and Lafayette. The goal is to create a

	comprehensive plan that addresses all aspects of resilience by evaluating and potentially adjusting various projects to contribute to multiple resilience elements. Denise discussed a new evaluation system that focuses on the distribution of the color green across various aspects rather than aiming for all in green color. She emphasized that the system is not designed to be quantitative and is not meant to assign numerical scores to each aspect. The system allows for a focus on areas that could be improved to enhance overall resilience across multiple projects. Denise discussed the importance of balancing a portfolio of projects to address various facets of resilience. They emphasized the need for a structured approach to evaluate projects, considering factors such as funding sources, environmental impact, and support for underserved communities. Denise suggested that the tool could be adjusted to better suit different project orientations and that it could be used to identify potential improvements in projects. The tool is not yet finalized and is intended to be tested with experts to refine its effectiveness. Jeannette added that the tool could be used to develop projects with multiple benefits and to better communicate the concept of resilience. CPEX personnel discussed that the project was funded by the Walton Family Foundation, focusing on regional resilience. They considered APC/AWD as a test case for this approach. APC expressed interest in using the project's template and suggested a focus group or workshop for further development. Jeannette confirmed the project's funding source and expressed openness to partnerships. Denise offered to share a report on coastal projects and their community impact. APC ended the conversation by suggesting a follow-up email to gather feedback on potential focus groups or workshops.
NEXT TAC MEETING	April 17 th , 2025, from 10am to 12pm
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	None
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm
MEETING DETAILS	
CONTACT	Kelia Bingham, LWI Region 5 Watershed Coordinator kbingham@planacadiana.org or (337) 446-0807

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	ATTENDANCE RECORD
ATTENDEES	<u>Delegates Present:</u> LA Soil & Water Commission District IV – Chip Vosburg Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District – Donald Sagrera LA DOTD – Brent Domingue CPRA – Jody Roger-White At-Large Member (>30K) – Jessica Cornay At-Large Member (<30K) – Cassidy Lejeune AWD Secretary/Treasurer – Mayor Roslyn White of Abbeville Pointe Coupee Parish – Nathan Cobb <u>Others Present</u> APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham CPEX – Jeannette Dubinin CPEX – Denise Reed CPEX – Macey Williams CPEX - Simbrey Majors USACE – Isaac Mudge Lafayette Consolidated Government – Jackie Vargas-Beitia Lafayette Consolidated Government – Jade Boudreaux Freese & Nichols – Whitney Broussard CPRA – Ivy Thibodeaux Bayou Vermilion District – Stephen Broussard Capital Region Planning Commission, LWI Region 7 – Brian Matherne Society of LA Irises- Mark Schexnayder Franklin Associates – Andrew Santee Tulane University – Simone Domingue <u>Delegates Absent:</u> UL LA Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib USDA/NRCS – Kirk Garber At-Large Member (<30k) – Richard Greig
ABSENTEES	

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



**Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District**