

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Thursday, April 17th, 2025
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

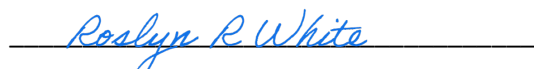
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by Kelia Bingham, APC Watershed Coordinator. Opening Statement: <i>" Welcome to public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Kelia Bingham, Watershed Coordinator for 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	Kelia Bingham led the Pledge of Allegiance and all stood and recited the pledge.
ROLL CALL	Roll call was taken by Kelia Bingham.
MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL FROM MARCH 18TH	Jessica Cornay made a motion to approve the minutes, and Donald Sagerera seconded the motion. All were in favor. VOTE: 9-0-1 YEA – 9 NAY – 0 ABSENT - 1

USGS DISCONTINUED GAGUGES	An update was provided on the LWI State gauges, indicating that flow measurements will no longer be reported due to staffing issues, but elevation and precipitation gauges will remain operational for now. The committee discussed the importance of these gauges and the need to assess their value for future decision-making regarding their continued operation. The committee discussed the discontinuation of certain USGS gauges and the potential impact on the general public's access to elevation information at Keystone. The participants speculated that the discontinuation might be due to a lack of staff at USGS, as they have lost funding for some of their operations. They also discussed the possibility of other agencies or drainage districts taking over the operations and funding of the gauges. The conversation ended with a discussion on the potential for cheaper alternatives and the need to find out what happens to the gauges that are discontinued. Regarding gauges in the Vermilion watershed, it was suggested that data could be obtained from the USGS or by recording it themselves. There was emphasis on the importance of monitoring the Bayou Teche at Adeline Bridge gauge due to its tidal nature and impact on drainage. The approximate annual cost to the Bayou Vermilion District to maintain the Surrey St. Vermilion River gauge is \$30,000 per year and its importance due to the amount of water that flows from Ile des Cannes Coulee. APC referenced the Acadiana Regional Gauge Network project, which is still in progress. APC also mentioned the collaboration with Dr. Emad Habib and Dr. Robert Miller from the UL Watershed Flood Center for public outreach and determining the best locations for gauges. It was clarified that the regional gauge project would not duplicate efforts with existing gauges. The timeline for implementation is slow due to the need for public bid for gauge purchasing and installation. APC is waiting for additional funds to be transferred by GOHSEP. The state LWI gauges are already installed and operational, but their future depends on sustainable funding.
FLOOD COORDINATION SYSTEM	The Acadiana Watershed District discussed their role in regional coordination and flood management. They proposed to facilitate communication, provide points of contact, gather information, and share it with parishes before anticipated events. They also discussed the need for a standard operating procedure (SOP) to outline their steps and responsibilities. The district is considering email as a communication format for now, but they are open to more sophisticated options like text messages or apps in the future. They also mentioned the need for Points of Contact (POC) from various agencies to share information. The next steps include creating an SOP and gathering input from the technical committee members.
	APC discussed the project prioritization framework, focusing on population and regional structures benefited, project constructability, and sustainability. APC also mentioned the need for a Proof of Concept to run projects through the LWI watershed models. This could involve significant costs. The committee considered additional criteria such as social vulnerability and nature-based solutions. The committee also

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	highlighted the importance of considering roadway and crop flooding in project evaluations. The group acknowledged the upfront costs of running models and the need for data and science to justify project funding. Federal funding was discussed and the committee noted that while some programs have been eliminated, others are being reviewed for alignment with current administration priorities. APC warned that the competition for federal funds will increase, requiring stronger data and science backing. Emad inquired about lessons from the LWI Round 2 projects, to which APC responded that the Low to Moderate Income or LMI criteria is not a reliable metric for all projects. Committee members suggested running existing projects through the proposed criteria to calibrate the framework correctly. APC discussed the need for a calibrated framework for project evaluation, suggesting the use of existing projects and community contacts to gather more data. Emad proposed analyzing past projects to calibrate criteria and metrics.
NEXT MEETING	July 17 th at 10am
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	• APC is working of the RFI for the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan • Sustainable funding will be discussed at the next Board meeting on May 15th • APC is open to ideas and strategies anyone has for more parish participation in the NFIP Community Rating System • Dr. Garland Pennison with HDR Engineering announced a training session on June 12th from 9 AM to 12 PM to demonstrate the watershed models and how to access them through EnDMC. He explains that the models cover most of the state, including LiDAR data and major structures. Garland also mentions ongoing work on consequence models using design storms from 2 to 500-year events. • Jessica Cornay shared information again about the Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer tool available here: https://webapps.usgs.gov/infrm/estbfe/ This tool provides detailed 2D flood modeling data for the entire state. • Upcoming conferences in New Orleans the week of May 19th - National Conference for the Association of State Floodplain Managers and State of the Coast conference
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
ADJOURNMENT	Jessica Cornay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Donald Sagrera seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 11:35am.
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	<u>Delegates Present:</u> Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District – Donald Sagrera UL LA Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib LA DOTD – Brent Domingue CPRA – Jody Roger-White LA Soil & Water Commission – Chip Vosburg At-Large Member (>30K) – Jessica Cornay At-Large Member (<30K) - Cassidy Lejeune At-Large Member (<30K) – Richard Greig Point Coupee Parish – Nathan Cobb <u>Others Present</u> USACE – Isaac Mudge St. Landry Parish – Ken Marks APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Sean Reed CPRA – Ivy Thibodeaux
ABSENTEES	<u>Delegates Absent:</u> USDA/NRCS – Kirk Garber

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



Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District