

Acadiana Watershed District Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Monday, October 28th, 2024
 Rosa Parks Transportation Center
 101 Jefferson St.
 Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

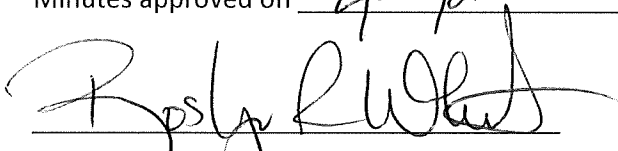
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Kelia Bingham, APC Watershed Coordinator. Opening Statement: <i>" Welcome to this first public meeting of the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Kelia Bingham, Watershed 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.

MISSION STATEMENT	The TAC started with a draft mission statement: <i>To safeguard communities and natural ecosystems through innovative regional flood coordination, sustainable flood mitigation projects, and a commitment to the long-term ecological and hydrological health of each watershed. We work collaboratively to manage water resources, enhance resilience to flooding, and protect and manage watersheds, ensuring a balanced and thriving environment for future generations.</i> The consensus was that the mission statement follows the goals and functions of the AWD. Also, AWD can have both Vision (general) and Mission (more specific) statements. The Vision statement could include water management coordination. The Mission Statement would include what is in the legislation and focus on coordination, communication, funding, science / data-based information & modeling. It was suggested that the TAC also review the LWI mission statement, which element may or may not be included in the AWD vision or mission statements. LWI Mission: <i>Reduce flood risk and improve floodplain management across the state, including through maximizing the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain.</i> The Vision and Mission statements will be further discussed at the next TAC meeting.
REGIONAL EMERGENCY/FLOOD COORDINATION	In 2021, the Region 5 Steering Committee did begin to address an emergency coordination plan, which later turned into a flood coordination plan. The draft outline from 2021 was reviewed and discussed by the TAC. The purpose in the draft outline is, <i>"To facilitate communication and provide flood related point of contacts to gather information prior to an anticipated flood event for regional flood coordination to protect life and property."</i> The TAC agreed that entities and structures need to be identified in the District. It was agreed that the role of AWD in emergency situations like a hurricane could be a communication hub to help with regional flood coordination during a storm event. There are already existing entities in each parish that serve the purpose of coordinating their emergency response during a storm. The AWD can be a connector for the parishes in the District during such an event. The draft outline will be amended and discussed at the next TAC meeting.
REGIONAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	In 2021, the region 5 Steering Committee drafted this project criteria. As the AWD, this must be re-evaluated for future projects and for certain deliverables to LWI in the Region 5 watershed plan. The TAC agreed that using the watershed models could be the first step in project prioritization. Additional criteria could be socially vulnerable and disadvantaged communities as well as low to moderate income. The TAC would like to review the LWI Round 2 criteria and see if any of those elements could apply to the Region 5 draft criteria. A copy of the Harris County Flood Control District Prioritization Framework was given to the Committee for their reference. It was decided to discuss more at the next meeting as there may be an At-Large member from the smaller municipalities that could give more insight to the project criteria.

NEXT BOARD MEETING	TBA as the meetings will be scheduled quarterly and held one month before the Board meeting. Exact dates are pending.
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	Kelia Bingham asked the group to consider designating a chair of the TAC at the next scheduled meeting as well as strategies and ideas for more parishes to participate in the NFIP Community Rating System.
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 11:45am.
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 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 USDA/NRCS – Kirk Garber LA DOTD – Brent Domingue CPRA – Jody Roger-White At-Large Member, City of Lafayette – Jessica Cornay <u>Others Present</u> APC – Sara Gary APC – Kelia Bingham APC – Sean Reed Iberia Parish – Ben Langlinais

ABSENTEES	Jeff Davis Parish – Kori Myers Evangeline Parish – Dirk Deville CPRA – Ivy Thibodeaux BVD – Karen Hail Power Engineers – Richard Greig <u>Delegates Absent:</u> LA Soil & Water Commission – Chip Vosburg
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Minutes approved on 2/27/2025 by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.



Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District