

Action Summary

Acadiana Watershed District Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



10am-12pm, Thursday, January 16th, 2025
Rosa Parks Transportation Center
101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501



AGENDA, NOTES AND DECISIONS

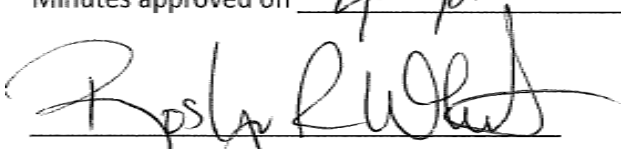
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME	The meeting was called to order at 10:06am by Kelia Bingham, APC Watershed Coordinator. Opening Statement: <i>" Welcome to the Acadiana Watershed District's Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. I am Kelia Bingham, Watershed Coordinator for the District.</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.
VISION MISSION STATEMENT	Members discussed the vision and mission statement for AWD. They considered two options, with the first being more specific and the second broader. Members also discussed the importance of water quality and quantity, and how these factors are related. They mentioned the need for infrastructure improvements and the potential for future funding opportunities. The team also discussed the potential for future changes in their mission and vision statements as the organization evolves. Lastly, they

	touched on the topic of water management, including surface water and groundwater, and the potential for unintended consequences in their efforts to improve water quality. The conversation ended with an invitation for further feedback and input from the committee members before the next board meeting on February 27. Draft Vision Statement: <i>To proactively address water quantity and quality for flood risk and mitigation, and ecosystem health through regional watershed management and coordination.</i> Draft Mission Statement: <i>To promote flood risk reduction through regional coordination, using science-based data by cooperating with agencies engaged in the planning and construction of projects and establishing best practice development standards in the region.</i>
REGIONAL EMERGENCY/FLOOD COORDINATION	Members discussed establishing a regional emergency/flood coordination system to for communication and information gathering before and during flood events. They identify relevant agencies and entities to involve, including parish offices, levee districts, drainage districts, state agencies like Wildlife and Fisheries, and federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers. An issue was raised about the long-term funding and maintenance of state LWI river gauges in the region as the state lacks a plan to continue operating many of these gauges. Potential triggers for activating the regional flood coordination system, such as hurricane forecasts, heavy rainfall predictions, and rising water levels were also discussed. The TAC discussed the importance of monitoring local weather conditions, particularly during hurricane season. Some members mentioned that they have been involved in meetings with various agencies in the parish to discuss emergency preparedness plans. The TAC also expressed interest in sharing water level information with other parishes to help them prepare for potential flooding. They suggested creating graphs to track water levels and sharing these with other agencies. The TAC also mentioned that they have been approached to partner in a project that involves modeling the effects of storms and adjusting predictions based on the storm's path. They agreed to consider this further.
	Members discussed the need for a communication format for their capabilities, including email and text options. They also discussed the prioritization of projects, considering criteria such as social vulnerability, low to moderate income, and the number of watersheds within a certain area. A pre-screening process was suggested to determine which projects are eligible for different funding sources. They also mentioned the need for sustainable funding for the district.

REGIONAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	Jessica Cornay told the group about a new online tool called the Base Level Engineering (BLE) Estimator developed by USGS and FEMA. The BLE tool provides detailed flood inundation mapping and depth data for much of Louisiana, Texas, and parts of other states. This tool can identify areas prone to street flooding based on elevation data. The BLE Estimator offers flood risk information at a granular level, even depicting flooding patterns within neighborhoods. This tool can help in understanding flood risks, communicating issues to residents, and informing development decisions. Jessica Cornay also mentioned new HUD requirements for plus 2 feet elevation standards for certain home loans in flood zones, advising municipalities and builders to consider this regulation.
NEXT TAC MEETING	Thursday, April 17 th - 10am to 12pm
MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES	APC received an RFI from FEMA/GOHSEP regarding the regional Hazard Mitigation plan application. APC encouraged volunteers for a sustainable funding group, not another committee. APC asked members to consider volunteering to chair the TAC. APC reminded the team about the need for more participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating system.
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment.
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting ended at 11:26am
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> Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District – Donald Sagrera 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 APC – Kade Jones St. Martin Parish – Chris Tauzin Tulane University – Dr. Simone Domingue Lafayette Parish Council Member – Brian Tabor
ABSENTEES	<u>Delegates Absent:</u> LA Soil & Water Commission – Chip Vosburg UL LA Watershed Flood Center – Emad Habib USDA/NRCS – Kirk Garber

Minutes approved on 2/27/2025 by the Acadiana Watershed District Board.



Mayor Roslyn White, Secretary/Treasurer
Acadiana Watershed District