

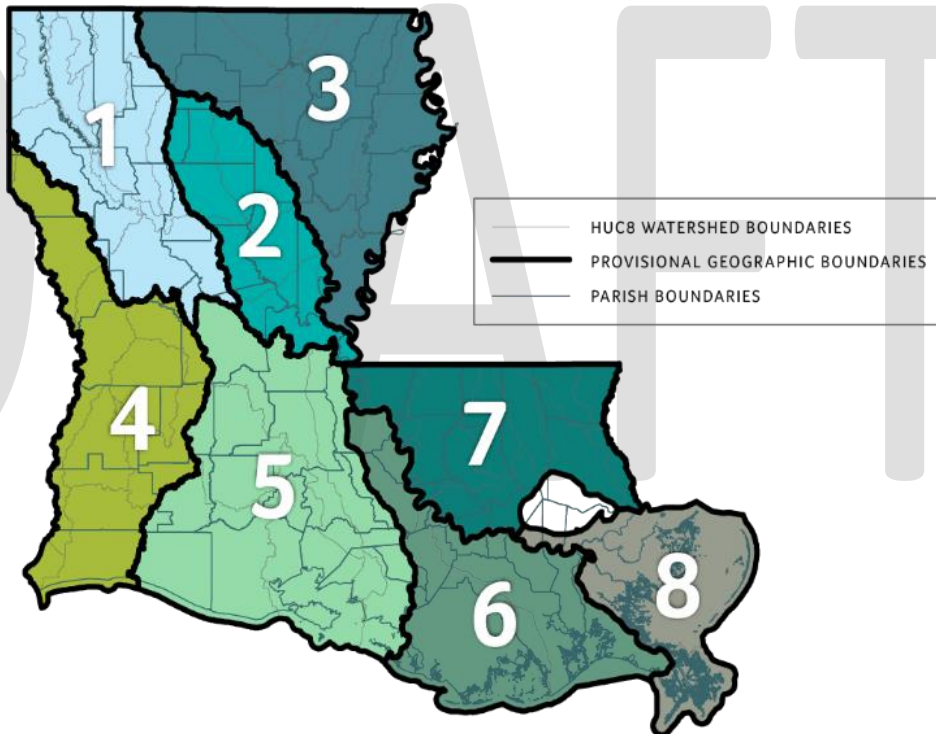
REGION 1

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 1 Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 1 as shown in Figure 1 below. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 1 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed



Recommendation Date & Vote

*The Regional Steering committee voted for adoption on January 12, 2021.
A quorum present (7 of 12 members) unanimously for this recommendation.*



REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning and Development Regulation

- The coalition should conduct regional planning to preserve some areas, retain water, and coordinate and prioritize O&M of river systems in region
- The coalition should potentially be tasked with facilitating updates to NFIP maps and building standards

Project Implementation

- The coalition should facilitate the development of passive projects (low O&M)
- The coalition should promote or require natural channel design to prevent further silting processes and allow for natural channel meanders and retention areas
- The coalition should coordinate with upstream states to improve channel health before it gets to Louisiana

Data and Modeling

- The Coalition should be enabled to house and operate the LWI watershed models in Region 1

Outreach and Engagement

- The coalition should provide public outreach and education to residents and local leaders

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g.: issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to adopt and enforce development codes



ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

- **The Coordinating and Development Corporation/Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments** shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition.
- The coalition should be enabled by legislation via a state agency, board or commission.
- All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters.
- The coalition should be composed of primarily public representatives and include a technical advisory committee. The technical advisory committee members should not be a part of the watershed coalition, but should act as subject matter experts and make recommendations to the coalition.
- A state agency should provide as needed technical support and facilitate coordination between regions.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a legislatively authorized state agency, board or commission that has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the coalitions through a public process.
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain funding through external sources, stable local sources and collect special assessments.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

REGION 2

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION



INTRODUCTION

The Region 2 Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 2 as shown in Figure 1 below (recognizing the action of January 28, 2020 to expand the leadership to include Concordia Parish representation). The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 2 Steering

Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

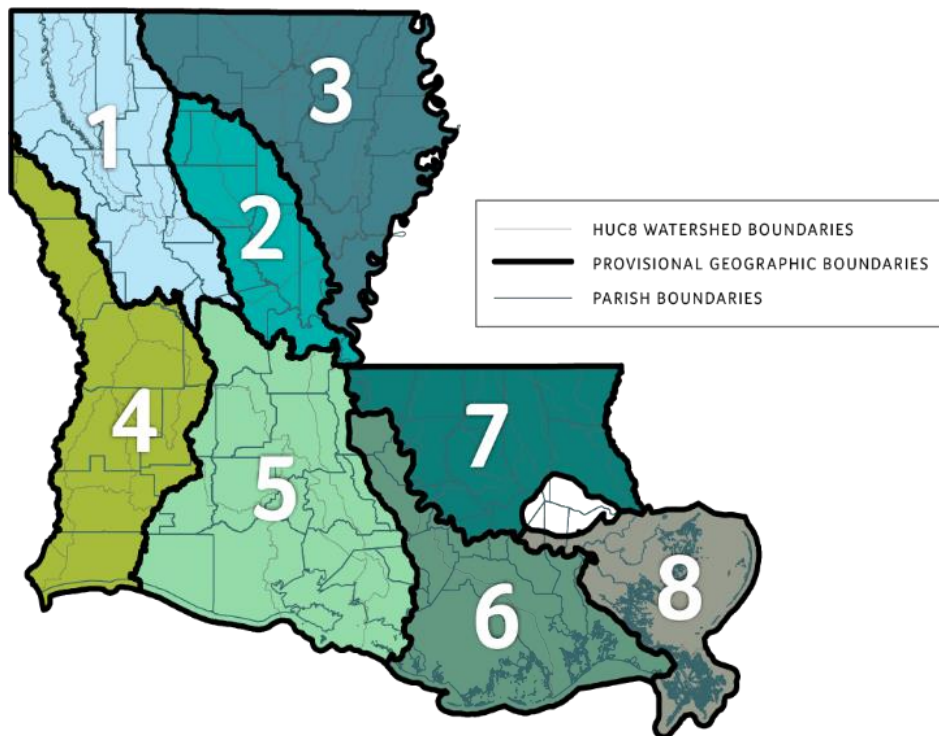


Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed





Recommendation Date & Vote

RECOMMENDATION

Unanimous recommendation was made by vote of the Regional Steering Committee members present at a regular meeting, on January 28, 2021.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning and Development Regulation

- The coalition should address capacity needs of smaller jurisdictions or rural areas
- The coalition should provide technical assistance to local governments

Project Implementation

- The coalition should review major projects for upstream and downstream impacts
- The coalition should facilitate capital improvement planning/prioritizations
- The coalition should provide match funding opportunities to local jurisdictions

Data and Modeling

- The coalition should manage modeling and other hydrological data

Outreach and Engagement

- The coalition should provide public outreach and education to residents and local leaders

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies



- Authority to review projects
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g., issues/sell bonds, borrow money, accept grants, collect fees, or levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to finance, plan, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

- The **Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning & Development District and Rapides Area Planning Commission** shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition.
- The coalition should be enabled by legislation via a state commission, board or agency.
- All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities. Each region chooses which standards or authorities to implement in accordance with its coalition bylaws.
- The coalition should be composed of an equal mix of public and private representatives.
- The coalition should be a legislatively authorized state agency, board or commission that has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the coalitions through a public process. have oversight by a state agency which provides consistency and state-level management.
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain external funding, obtain/maintain stable local funding, collect special assessments.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal authorities, such that regions may or may not choose to use all enabled authorities as a result of this process, allowing the region to adopt more authority as they see fit.

[By unanimous motion, the Regional Steering Committee for Watershed Region 2 certifies and formally represents the provisional recommendations as accepted and represented above, effective January 28, 2021.]

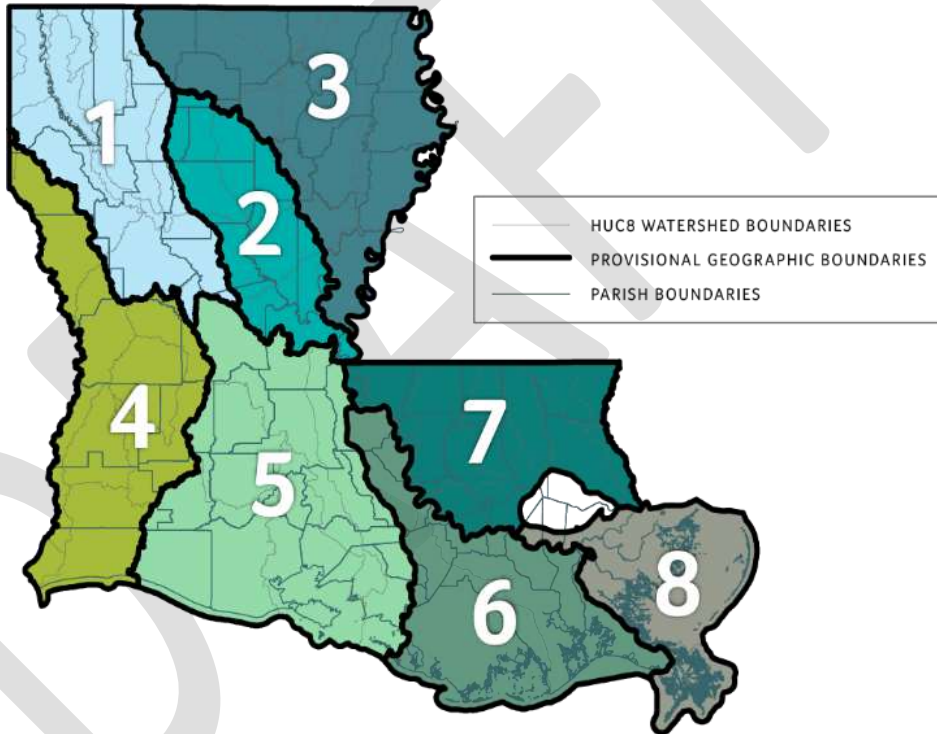
REGION 3

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 3 Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 3 as shown in Figure 1 below. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 3 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed





Recommendation Date & Vote

The Regional Steering Committee voted for adoption on January 21, 2021. A quorum (9 of 15 members) voted 7 in favor and 2 against this recommendation. The recommendation passed as a majority voted for approval.

The Regional Steering Committee agreed to make special note to their recommendation that the item reading “Authority to generate revenue (e.g.: issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)” was not agreed upon unanimously. The portion of the phrase that allows for the levy of taxes or special assessments remains in the statement after a poll of the Committee had 5 of the 9 members agreeing to keep the wording in the recommendation.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning and Development Regulation

- The coalition should conduct regional planning to preserve some areas, retain water, and coordinate and prioritize O&M of river systems in region
- The coalition should potentially be tasked with facilitating updates to NFIP maps and building standards
- The coalition should encourage adoption of regional standards for the watershed

Project Implementation

- The coalition should facilitate the development of passive projects (low O&M)
- The coalition should promote or require natural channel design to prevent further silting processes and allow for natural channel meanders and retention areas
- The coalition should coordinate with upstream states to improve channel health before increased water flow and silt and sediment get to Louisiana
- The coalition should work with other entities to ensure the use of data and LWI modeling in the development of projects

Data and Modeling

- The coalition should be tasked with housing and operating the LWI watershed model for Region 3
- The coalition should allow other entities to use the collected data and LWI modeling information in the development of projects that impact Region 3 and other regions



Outreach and Engagement

- The coalition should provide public outreach and education to residents and local leaders

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g.: issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to adopt and enforce development codes

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

- The Ouachita Parish Police Jury (OPPJ) shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition. OPPJ shall use other agencies such as but not limited to North Delta Regional Planning & Development District for technical assistance and advice to the Coalition.
- The coalition should be enabled by legislation via a state commission, board, or agency.
- All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters.
- The coalition should be composed of a mix of public and private representatives.
- There should be a board of representatives from each coalition to provide on an as needed basis technical support and coordination between regions.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a legislatively authorized state agency, board or commission that has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the coalitions through a public process.
- A legislatively authorized state agency should provide on an as needed basis technical assistance, coordination between regions, and an avenue to amend legislation within the state.
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain external funding, stable state or local sources, and collect special assessments.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

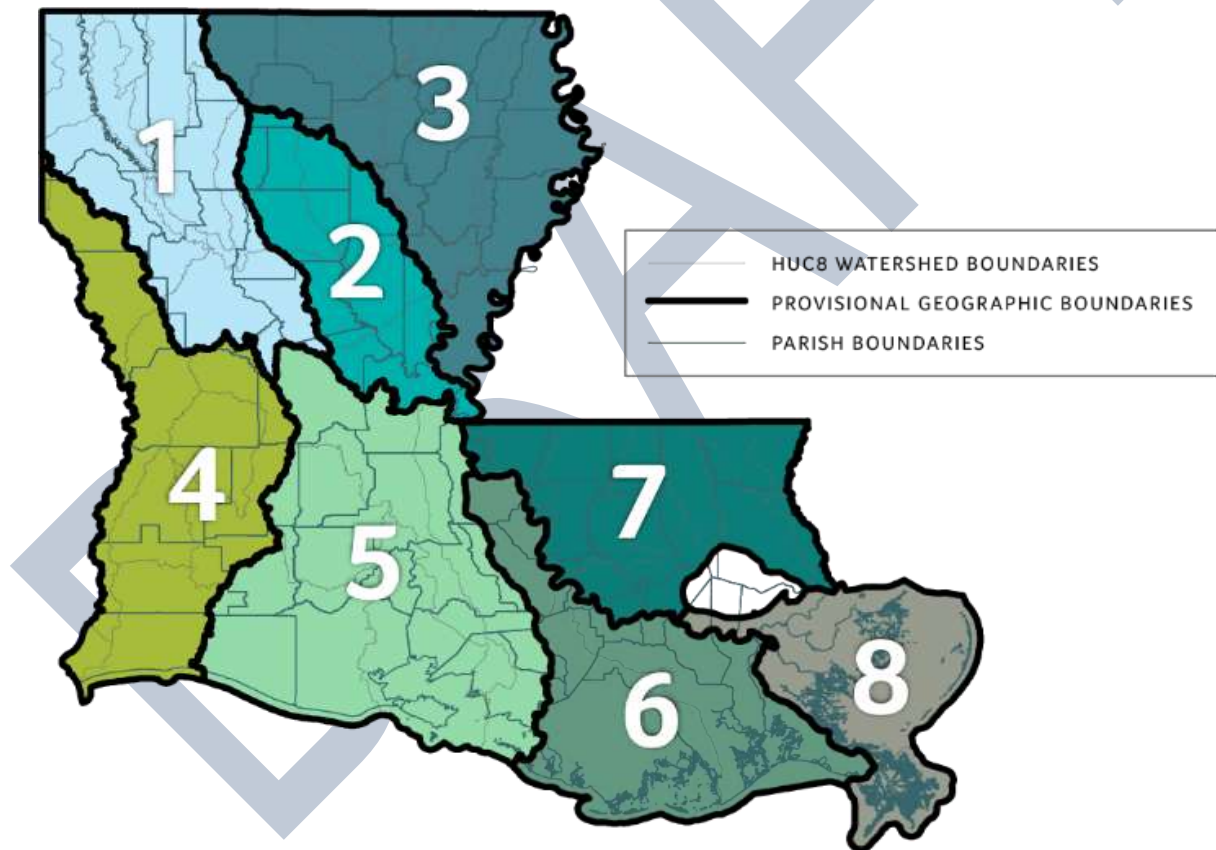
REGION FOUR

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 4 Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 4 as shown in Figure 1 below. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 4 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed





Recommendation Date & Vote
January 27, 2021 7-0 No objections

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning and Development Regulation

- Facilitate a watershed plan that may accomplish the following: more accurately identify flood risk in the region; identify potential areas for retention, discharge, and preservation; provide guidance and recommendations regarding development best practices; identify and prioritize potential regional watershed projects
- Serve as an apolitical clearinghouse to streamline efforts associated with different revenue sources for watershed planning and coordination; align floodplain managers
- State creates min. higher standards; regional entity tailors standards and develops consistent floodplain enforcement

Project Implementation

- Develop a regional pool of funds for regional mitigation planning and regional watershed projects
- Preserve land within the watershed with conservation easements/servitudes

Data and Modeling

- Coordinate data management with local stakeholders and create regional data repository
- Store watershed models locally with entity in charge of day-to-day operation

Outreach and Engagement

- Provide public outreach and education (re: Nature-Based Solutions, NFIP, CRS, and flood risk solutions identified from watershed models)

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g., issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to acquire, hold and use property
- Authority to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure



ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

- IMCAL (Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission) shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition.
- The coalition should be enabled by a combination of legislation via a state commission as well as locally in accordance with the state charter.
- All watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters.
- The coalition should be composed of a mix of public and private representatives and include a technical advisory committee. The technical advisory committee members should not be a part of the watershed coalition but should act as subject matter experts and make recommendations to the coalitions.
- The coalition should have oversight by a state agency which provides technical support, coordination among regions, and state-level management.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a state agency, board or program.
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding. The coalition should help local jurisdictions get access to grant funds and figure out how to administer them. The coalition could serve as a conduit for grant funds, but revenue streams should not be limited to only grant funds.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

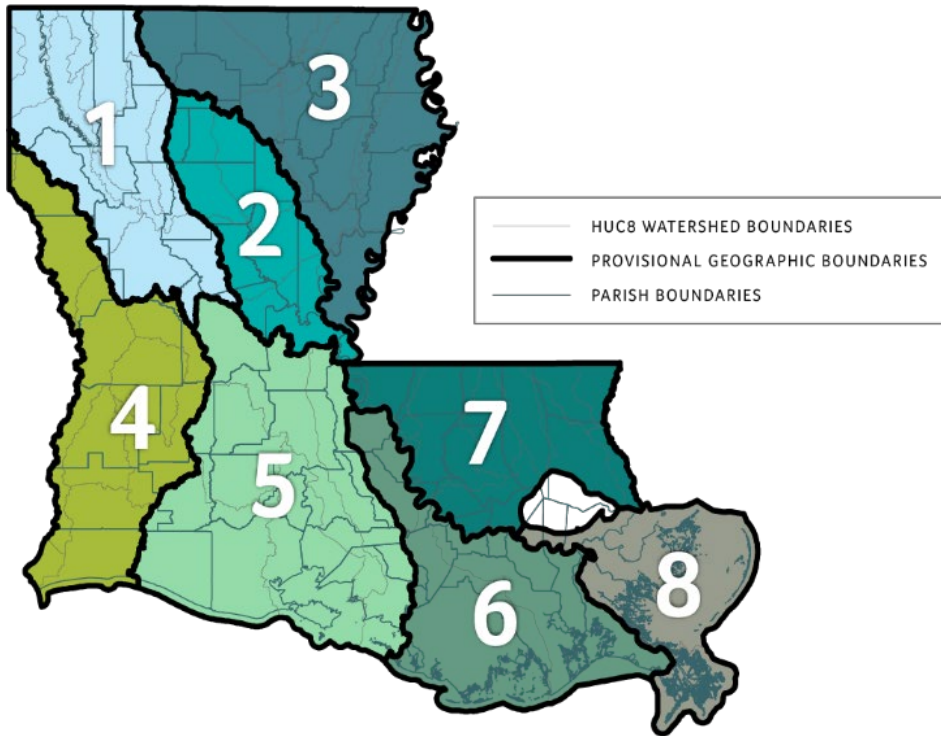
REGION 5

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 5 Steering Committee (R5SC) hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the amended provisional boundaries of Region 5 as shown in Appendix A. Below in Figure 1 is the original LWI provisional watershed boundary. Appendix A illustrates amendments to Iberia and St. Martin parishes, which include said parishes' geography entirely in Region 5 and a modified majority geography of Avoyelles Parish in Region 5. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 5 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed





Recommendation Date & Vote
<i>Date of recommendation adoption by the Region 5 Steering Committee: February 11, 2021</i>
<i>Vote tally:</i>
<i>Acadia Parish, Earl Garber – Yes</i>
<i>Allen Parish, Gardner Rose – Yes</i>
<i>Avoyelles Parish, Jimmy Landry – Yes</i>
<i>Calcasieu Parish, Terry Frelot – Absent</i>
<i>Cameron Parish, Scooter Trosclair – Yes</i>
<i>Evangeline Parish, Donald Bergeron – Yes</i>
<i>Iberia Parish, Larry Richard – Absent</i>
<i>Iberville Parish, John Clark – Absent</i>
<i>Jefferson Davis Parish, John Marceaux – Absent</i>
<i>Lafayette Parish, Jessica Cornay – Yes</i>
<i>Pointe Coupee Parish, Mark Ward – Absent</i>
<i>Rapides Parish, Matt Johns – Absent</i>
<i>St. Landry Parish, Karl Aucoin – Yes</i>
<i>St. Martin Parish, Chester Cedars – Absent</i>
<i>St. Mary Parish, Tim Matte – Yes</i>
<i>Vermilion Parish, Ralph Libersat – Yes</i>
<i>9 – Yes</i>
<i>0 – No</i>
<i>7 – Absent</i>

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS – “THE WHAT”

Planning and Development Regulation

- Develops watershed/hazard mitigation plan and development policies based on data and science
- Develop a regional Community Rating System strategy and best practice model for local jurisdictions to participate in the CRS program
- Promote consistent watershed-based floodplain management policies that align with state minimum standards for development based on flood risk, including preservation of undeveloped land
- Adopt a regional watershed-based permit and permitting process



1. Align with US Army Corps permitting process to ease permit-timing - As the state conducts vertical alignment efforts, the LWI Region 5 Steering Committee would request that LWI State Watershed Council would work with the USACE to identify methods for improving USACE permitting processes, timeframe and potential alignment with a regional permit developed by the Coalition.
2. Ensure adherence to watershed development standards set for each HUC 8 watershed within Region 5; this should include adherence by both state and local entities. Standards would include any minimum standards set by the state and other additional standards developed by the Coalition.

Project Implementation

- Coordinate with local entities to plan and fund regional projects. Federal and state funds often require a local cost share. The Coalition will assist local entities in coordinating project plans to meet requirements for local match, ownership, and maintenance.
- The Coalition becomes a clearinghouse for projects impacting the watershed.
- The Coalition would be tasked with finding supplemental funding for regional drainage projects and provide support for the implementation of projects by local jurisdictions.
- Provides technical and financial assistance to local jurisdictions in the development of project plans to include project modeling scenarios, environmental impact assessments, cost benefit analysis, and other pre-application project requirements.
- Assist local jurisdictions in funding long-term operations and maintenance of existing projects.

Data and Modeling

- Local/ Regional (Decentralized) Model Use, Storage and Maintenance (MUSM) – A resolution was passed in October 2020 which would allow an entity within Region 5 to house the regional models, see appendix B. In further discussion with the R5SC, a partnership between the “agency” Acadiana Planning Commission and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s LA Watershed Flood Center would be developed for MUSM.
- The utilization of the model would be through guidance from a technical subcommittee of the Coalition.
- The Coalition would financially sustain MUSM and make it publicly available.
- Operate and maintain a regional gauge network on behalf of the parishes that could be expanded depending on identification of funding sources.

Outreach and Engagement

- Build capacity for a public awareness campaign to promote best practices for development within a watershed system and the benefits of participating in a regional CRS strategy.



- Provide oversight and management of a CRS User Group.
- Support and promote inner- and intra- parish collaboration among municipalities, local drainage districts, and other entities involved in the watershed for effective watershed management.

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g., issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes
- Authority to issue permits

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the R5SC recommends the following implementation steps.

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS – “THE WHO”

- The **Acadiana Planning Commission**, is recommended as the “agency” and/or staff of the R5SC and would be responsible for facilitating all meetings of the Coalition and perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition. Through cooperative agreements, the following work will also be performed on behalf of the district.
 1. UL LA Watershed Flood Center – assist the Coalition in Model Use Storage and Maintenance, data analytics, project modeling scenarios, and general water science needs.
 2. Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District- assist with coordination, operations, and maintenance of the Coalition gauge network and general water quality efforts.

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS – “THE HOW”

ENABLING LEGISLATION AND VERTICAL ALIGNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Coalition should be enabled by legislation under state charter and ratified via local ordinances.
- All the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters.
- The Coalition should have the authority to generate revenue (e.g., issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments) for watershed management activities as decided by the Coalition.
- The Coalition should have the authority to implement a regional watershed-based permit process, wherein federal, state and local development complies to set standards. The intention is to provide oversight of development that has upstream/downstream impacts.



- The state should draft legal elements that reflect regional recommendations in coordination with the RSC coordinators. R5SC members should weigh-in on key decision-points and Watershed Coordinators should coordinate regional review of drafts by legislators, local elected officials, and the general public.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be enabled via state legislation and a process for boundary modifications should also be addressed. This could include review and recognition by a legislatively authorized state agency or board, who has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the adjacent coalitions upon completion of a public process.
- The Coalition recommends that appropriate state agency oversight is needed to maintain consistency across the state as it relates to the long-term operations and maintenance of the program.
 1. State Vertical Alignment Recommendations
 - Offer guidance to regional coalitions to include best practices
 - Set minimum standards for development
 - Assist with grant relationships and funding
 - Limited regional reporting requirements
 - Limited fiscal oversight
 - Ensure unfunded mandates are not pushed to the region
 - Advocate for the needs of the region
 - Address areas of concern that cannot be accomplished by the regions alone
 2. Regional Vertical Alignment Recommendations
 - Possess regional fiduciary authority and responsibility
 - Affirm state development standards and set any additional regional standards based on the HUC 8 needs, coastal considerations, etc.
 - Regional MUSM

DISTRICT REPRESENTATION AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The current committee determined that a similar coalition structure is preferred:
 1. “The District”- Region 5 Watershed Management District- comprised of appointments that can also include technical experts and advisors to the district by the parishes participating in Region 5.
 2. Subcommittees will also be formed to manage the above roles and responsibilities assigned to the coalition. Subcommittees would be formed and dissolved as needed and with approval by the Coalition.
- Parish representation on the coalition would consist of the following levels of representations, as represented in Appendix A.
 1. Region 5 Watershed Management District – this level of representation includes full representation, full voting rights, participation in the financial sustainability of the region, Coalition permitting oversight, project benefits, etc. Parishes proposed for inclusion:
 - Acadia
 - Allen (Portion)
 - Avoyelles (Portion)
 - Evangeline
 - Iberia



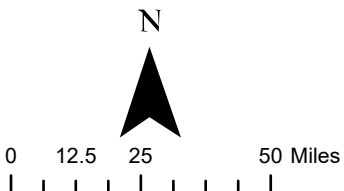
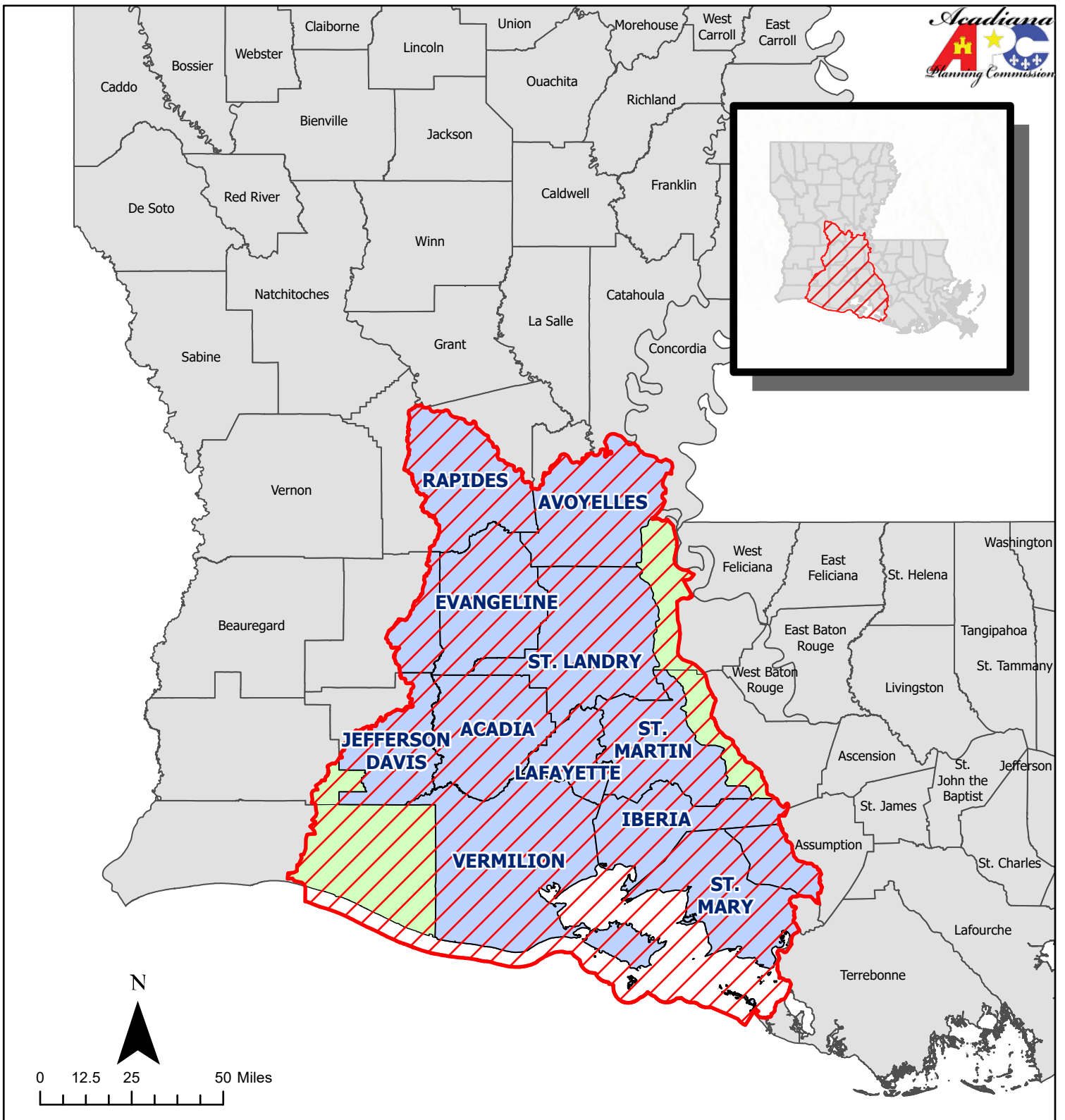
- Jefferson Davis (Portion)
 - Lafayette
 - Rapides (Portion)
 - St. Landry
 - St. Martin
 - St. Mary (Portion)
 - Vermilion
2. Region 5 Watershed Planning District- this level of representation includes parish representation, proportional voting rights*, non-financial participation, project benefits dependent on project impact on the entire region. The following areas are characterized as greater impact in a neighboring region and a lack of population in Region 5.
- Calcasieu
 - Cameron**
 - Iberville
 - Pointe Coupee**

Proportional voting rights to be later defined

Still in discussion with these parishes to decide what level of participation is warranted



APPENDIX A



LWI Region 5 Proposed Districts

- Proposed Management Districts
- Proposed Planning Districts
- Proposed Region 5 Boundary



APPENDIX B

**LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE REGION 5 STEERING COMMITTEE
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING
A REGIONAL HOUSING AND MAINTENANCE WATERSHED MODEL PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the LWI Region 5 Steering Committee of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) that:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative was established in 2018 introducing a new watershed-based approach to reducing flood risk in Louisiana, guided by the following principles: using scientific tools and data; enabling transparent, objective decision-making; maximizing the natural function of floodplains; and establishing regional, watershed-based management of flood risk; and

WHEREAS, LWI is developing computer models to better understand flood risk and help select projects best suited for investment in each watershed region to better safeguard our communities and culture for generations to come, as well as provide an example for other states facing similar flood risk challenges.; and

WHEREAS, these models will support greater regional collaboration around shared water management challenges and build an objective, science-based understanding of how projects, policies and other measures will reduce flood risk.; and

WHEREAS, the LWI Region 5 Steering Committee was formed to help guide the watershed region to build staff capacity for regional watershed management; to provide technical assistance to municipal partners throughout each region; to support strong and effective governance for each watershed region and ensure each region operates in a way that maximizes flood mitigation efforts and funds for risk-reduction projects as they become available.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative is tasked with developing a sustainable approach to a model use storage and maintenance plan and recognizes that all regional stakeholders should have the capacity to retrieve and utilize the models; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the Region 5 Steering Committee is to utilize these models to enhance data driven, water management decision-making at the local and regional level; to build expertise and capacity in our local government jurisdictions and local private sector firms; to build community understanding of existing and potential green infrastructure; to develop local watershed modeling expertise that can be leveraged for all local and regional comprehensive, strategic and community planning efforts in addition to watershed planning;

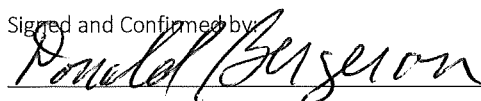
WHEREAS, the Region 5 Steering Committee recognizes that the success of these models is dependent on long term usage of the models by the local and region entities;

WHEREAS, the Region 5 Steering Committee recognizes that the success of these models is dependent on the development of regional capacity and local technical expertise for the long term sustainable use, storage, and maintenance of these scientific models; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Region 5 Steering Committee fully supports and requests the development of a decentralized, regional approach to a model use, storage, and maintenance plan.

And the resolution was declared to be a formal recommendation of the Region 5 Steering Committee on the 22 of October in the year 2020.

Signed and Confirmed by:



Donald Bergeron, Representative of Evangeline Parish
LWI Region 5 Steering Committee, Chairman

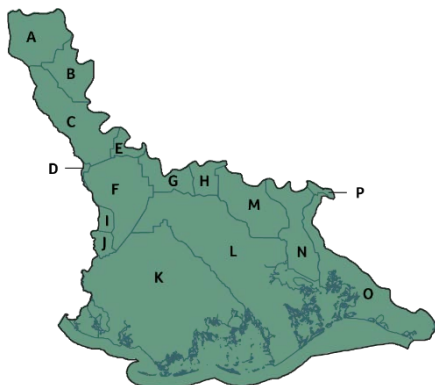
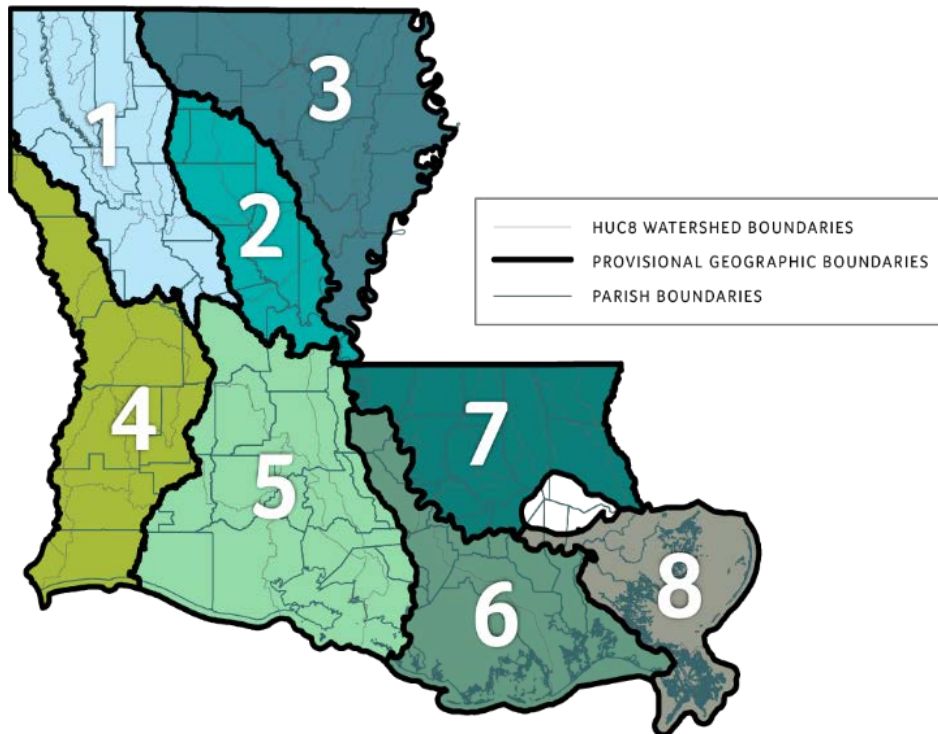
REGION 6

GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 6 Steering Committee hereby offers the Governance Recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 6 as shown in Figure 1 below. The recommendations are based on several Governance Exercises and the development of a provisional recommendation from the Governance Subcommittee and submitted and approved by the full Watershed Steering Committee on January 27, 2021,

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed



Parishes

A – Pointe Coupee
B – West Baton Rouge
C – Iberville
D – Iberia
E – Ascension
F – Assumption
G – St. James
H – St. John the Baptist

I – St. Martin
J – St. Mary
K – Terrebonne
L – Lafourche
M – St. Charles
N – Jefferson
O – Plaquemines
P – Orleans



Recommendation Date & Vote			
<i>(10/17 members present at 1/27/2021 Meeting):</i>			
January 27, 2021			
<i>For (10):</i> David Weil, John Boudreaux, John Clark, Amanda Voisin, Mark Ward, Earl Matherne, Devin Foil, Kasey Courville, Mart Black, Kevin Durbin	<i>Against: 0</i>	<i>Abstentions: 0</i>	<i>Absent:</i> Andrew Barron, Scott Saunier, Michelle Gonzales, Theo Sanders, Mike Metcalf, Marril McKarry, Tim Matte

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning and Development Regulation

- Develop and adopt regional watershed plans
- Align local ordinances/standards to manage development to reduce flood risk (e.g., stormwater regulations)
- Support local jurisdictions with technical assistance and provide capacity (e.g., assist with CRS program)
- Assist with FIRM map amendments, help with the administrative burden (i.e., noticing requirements)
- Advocate on behalf of localities at federal level (FEMA), coordinate with federal entities

Project Implementation

- Serve as clearinghouse who can find supplemental funding for watershed projects
- Implement a regional project O&M plan
- Reviews major projects for upstream and downstream impacts

Data and Modeling

- The coalition should be tasked with housing and operating the LWI watershed model for Region 6
- Create or update FIRMS based on models

Outreach and Engagement

- The coalition should provide public outreach and education to residents and local leaders

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies
- Authority to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems and infrastructure
- Authority to generate revenue (e.g.: issue/sell bonds, borrow money or accept grants, collect fees, levy tax/special assessments)
- Authority to adopt minimum development codes and allow localities to adopt stricter standards
- Authority to enforce minimum development codes if given permission by governmental agencies and allow localities to adopt stricter standards



ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

- South Central Planning and Development Commission shall facilitate all meetings of the Coalition and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Coalition.
- The coalition should be enabled by legislation under state charter.
- All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of minimum standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which additional higher standards or authorities to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters.
- The coalition should be primarily composed of public entity representatives.
 - These may include, but not limited to:
 - Local Governments
 - National Estuary Programs
 - Levee Districts
 - Drainage Districts
 - Higher Education Institutes
 - Research Institutes
 - Water Districts
 - Coastal Institutes
 - The coalition can establish technical or advisory committees that may appoint public members to assist in the committee's goals to report to the coalition.
- The coalition should have oversight by the established state agency for the Watershed Initiative that provides consistency and state-level management.
 - An established working relationship between the Regional Coalition and the State Agency is vital to the success of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized by a legislatively authorized state agency, board or commission that has the authority to amend the boundaries at the request of the coalitions through a public process.
- The coalition should have the ability to explore and maintain all options for funding.
- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

REGION 7

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

The Region 7 Steering Committee (RSC) hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 7 as shown in Figure 1 below. In the Regional Capacity Grant Building Program Policies and Procedures¹, Watershed Coalition is defined as, “A watershed coalition is a formalized entity based on regional watershed boundaries. Coalitions could be composed of representatives from existing political subdivisions and other stakeholder organizations such as PDDs [Planning and Development Districts]”, MPOs [Metropolitan Planning Organizations], and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among others.” That document goes on to state... “as part of this Program and the LWI design process, coalitions will assume different governance structures for developing watershed management plans; aiding in the implementation of projects, programs and policies emanating from those plans; and improving the lives of residents and the success of businesses affected by those plans. Watershed coalitions are an expected outcome of the Initiative. These entities do not currently exist in the state of Louisiana.”

Within the following text Region 7 Watershed Body will be used instead of Watershed Coalition. As the RSC continues to build out the future governance structure, it is important to recognize that the final governance structure could be a coalition, commission, council, committee, or perhaps another option that best fulfills the implementation of potential responsibilities and authorities. These definitions can be found

in the glossary. Note, that the name is not determinative and there is variation and overlap among the definitions. At this point, the priority is to explain the functions and scope that the Region 7 Watershed Body envisions for the organization. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 7 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

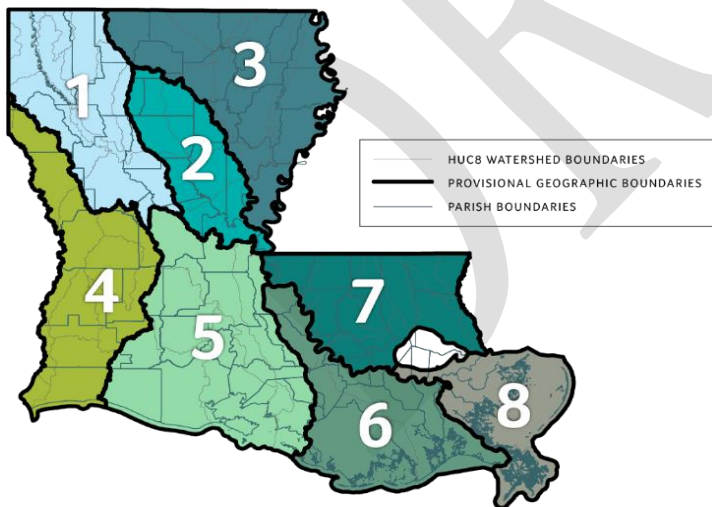


Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed

¹ <https://watershed.la.gov/assets/docs/RCBG-Policies-and-Procedures-6-9-20.pdf>



Recommendation Date & Vote

Date of recommendation of adoption was January 28, 2021. The vote tally was 12 for the recommendation and 2 against.

The following votes were recorded as in favor of the motion (Yay):

- *Ascension Parish (Yay)*
- *Iberville Parish (Yay)*
- *Livingston Parish (Yay)*
- *Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (Yay)*
- *Pontchartrain Conservancy (Yay)*
- *St. Charles Parish (Yay)*
- *St. Helena Parish (Yay)*
- *St. John the Baptist Parish (Yay)*
- *St. Tammany Parish (Yay)*
- *Tangipahoa Parish (Yay)*
- *Washington Parish (Yay)*
- *West Feliciana Parish (Yay)*

The following votes were recorded in opposition of the motion (Nay):

- *Amite River Basin Commission (Nay)*
- *Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge (Nay)*

Absent from the vote (non-attending) are the following Regional Steering Committee member affiliations:

- *East Baton Rouge Parish*
- *East Feliciana Parish*
- *St. James Parish*

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Region 7 Watershed Body should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Overall goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles framework² are:

² [Region 7 Guiding Principles framework](#)



- Equitable flood risk reduction (climate and environmental equity)
- Address urban/rural split and resource disparity.
- Upstream/downstream coordination
- Identify funding sources (short and long-term)
- Regional planning efforts and the development of a comprehensive strategy that extends beyond individual political terms.
- Understand, anticipate, and incorporate the impacts of migration and population shifts due to acute (flood events) and chronic (land loss and rising seas) disasters within our strategies.

Planning and Development Guidance

- Provide technical assistance to local entities, who create floodplain management plans.
- Provide coordination for regional planning processes.
- State should adopt minimum development standards based on local environmental risk factors, based on regional input.
- Region will provide “recommended” development standards based on local environmental risk factors.
- Region should provide technical assistance to local entities regarding the impact of development standards.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Incentivize improved development standards and the enforcement of them.
- Consistent regulation and development standards.
- Development standards are enforced consistently.
- Build in resilience practices, planning and regulatory capacity at all levels of our local, parish, and regional offices.
- Update and develop preservation ordinances for the purpose of keeping floodplains and adjacent undeveloped land for flood storage capacity.
- Strategic placement of development across the region based on best available data and planning practices.
- Development of decision-making and support tools that support local government decision-making.
- Integrate flood risk information, data, and planning efforts with updates to codes, regulations, and ordinances.
- Provide examples and tools to update codes, regulations, and ordinances.
- Improve quality of decision-making.
- Key areas that provide significant flood storage, ecosystem, and other benefits are identified, and preserved.



Support for Projects

- Review and/or provide technical assistance on major projects as deemed appropriate by the future bylaws of the Region 7 Watershed Body.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Equitable buyout and elevation projects/programs. Find opportunities to provide matching funds.
- Retrofit already developed areas utilizing innovation and learning from best practices.
- Projects that reduce negative impacts downstream
- Projects that improve the natural function of the floodplain.
- Projects have multiple uses and co-benefits (ex: open space reserves that also serve as public recreation space).

Data and Modeling

- Models should initially be housed at the state-level and over time with support, capacity should be built at the regional level.

Goals within this context, as identified in the Region 7 Guiding Principles Framework² are:

- Use data (such as rain and river gauge network data and relative sea level rise and subsidence data) and develop models to give us visual representations of flood risk.
- Over time, data and models will be used for the purpose of project evaluation, scenario planning, and plan updates at the appropriate decision-making level.
- Collect and house data for model, project use, and more informed decision-making.
- Collect and consider traditional ecological and community data and information for planning efforts and decision-making.

Outreach and Engagement

- Provide opportunities for watershed-related outreach and education.
- Long-term capacity building from the region to public entities and citizens.



Recommended Authorities for the Region 7 Watershed Body

- Authority to review and/or provide technical assistance for regional projects.
- Authority to cooperate or contract with other governmental agencies.
- Authority to oversee regional planning processes.
- Authority to provide support for technical assistance related to outreach and education efforts and train the trainer programs.
- Authority to receive, manage, and distribute funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policy on how funds will be distributed.

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

Who staffs future efforts?

Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) shall facilitate all meetings of the Region 7 Watershed Body and shall perform administrative functions related to the work of the Region 7 Watershed Body.

How will the future Region 7 Watershed Body be chartered?

Legislatively via a state commission, board, or agency.

How consistent are charters among regions?

All of the watershed bodies in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual Region 7 Watershed Body bylaws/regional charters.

Who should be represented?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should be composed of a mix of technical experts, elected officials (or their appointees), and citizens/organizations outside of government entities who represent citizens.

What is the State's role?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should have oversight by a State agency which provides consistency and state-level management.

How are regional boundaries defined?

The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a State agency, board, or program.



What options are available to the Region 7 Watershed Body for funding?

The Region 7 Watershed Body should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding.

What is the Region, and State's, role in drafting legal elements that reflect these recommendations?

The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.

GLOSSARY

Throughout RSC meetings various names have been used to describe what the future watershed body might be. It has become clear that doing this may create confusion. Below are some definitions of examples of definitions for a coalition, commission, committee, and council that are meant as starting points for how we might define the Region 7 Watershed Body moving forward. Please note that there are no explicit broad definitions of these items and that usually the entity defines the term for itself through documentation.

Coalition → A coalition is a group of individuals and/or organizations with a common interest who agree to work together toward a common goal. Coalitions may be composed of a wide range of actors and may be comprised of elected officials, and non-elected officials.³

Commission → Generally created by legislature or executive branch with a specific mandate. In other words, there is a formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties.⁴ Commissions are appointed by a government body and may be comprised of both elected and non-elected officials.

Committee → A body of persons delegated to consider, investigate, take action on, or report on some matter. ⁵ Committees are a decision-making body within a larger organization and report back.

Council → Group elected or appointed as an advisory or legislative body. This may also be an assembly or meeting for consultation, advice, or discussion.⁶

³ <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/promotion-strategies/start-a-coalition/main>

⁴ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/commission>

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/committee>

⁶ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/council>

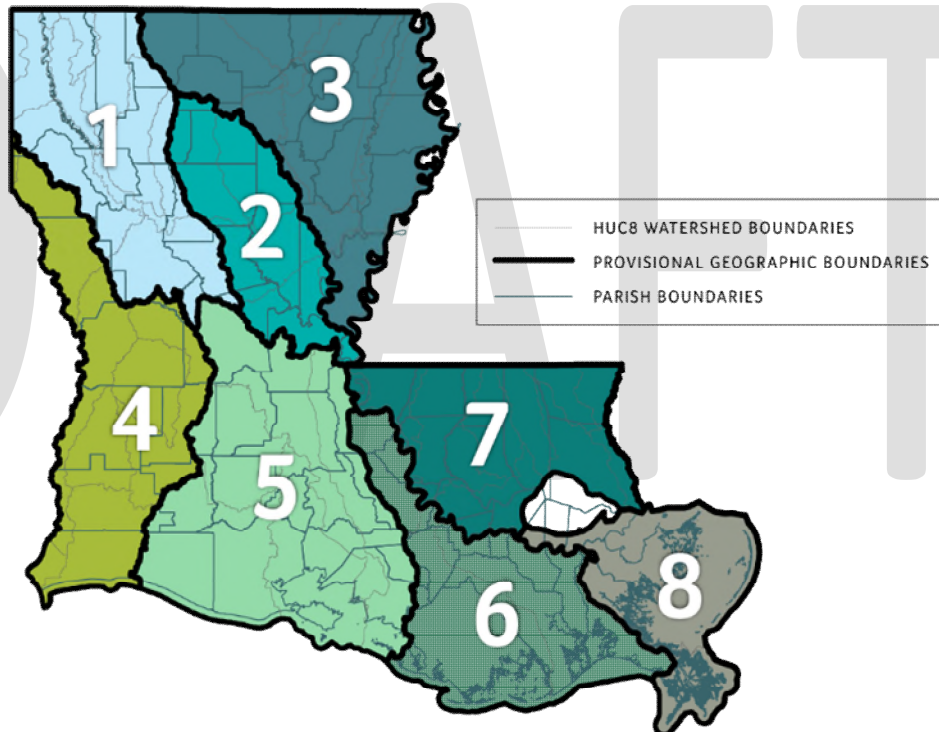
REGION 8

PROVISIONAL GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The Region 8 Steering Committee hereby offers the provisional recommendation that a long-term Watershed Coalition be formed within the current boundaries of Region 8 as shown in Figure 1 below. The following details constitute a provisional recommendation, subject to final review of the Region 8 Steering Committee and the Council on Watershed Management.

Figure 1. LWI Provisional Watershed





Recommendation Date & Vote

Approved by Region 8 Steering Committee on Thursday, January 21, 2021. The vote was as follows:

Aye: 8 (Tyler Antrup, Stephanie Bruning, Jessica Dandridge, Matt Falati, Danielle Honor, Albertine Kimble, Maggie Talley, Meagan Williams)

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 3 (Derek Boese, Ken Dugas, Blaise Pezold)

REGIONAL SUMMARY

The Regional Watershed Coalition or Coalition should conduct regional watershed management and assist local entities with watershed planning, policy, project prioritization, and data/modeling in the following ways:

Planning

- The coalition should develop regionwide and sub-area watershed plans that define needs, specify goals, and recommend solutions. The plans developed by the coalition should:
 - ✓ Be created using processes that can be replicated by other entities at various scales.
 - ✓ Include recommendations that are transferable to other agencies and jurisdictions.
 - ✓ Include regional goals and standards for watershed management.
 - ✓ Identify and evaluate innovative practices and projects.
 - ✓ Identify methods to reduce ongoing operations and maintenance costs.
 - ✓ Recognize the threat of climate change, and address its causes and potential impacts.
 - ✓ Emphasize the use of natural processes to address flood risk and other watershed-related hazards.
 - ✓ Identify opportunities for multi-jurisdictional cooperation, particularly in locations where flooding crosses jurisdictional boundaries or where upstream or downstream impacts are likely.
 - ✓ Recognize the importance of land use regulation and development standards to overall community resilience and recommend ways to ensure future development does not increase risk in the watershed.
 - ✓ Evaluate the impacts of current and proposed watershed-related systems to traditionally disadvantaged or underserved populations.
 - ✓ Identify practices, policies, and projects that ensure traditionally disadvantaged or underserved populations are not disproportionately, negatively impacted by watershed-related hazards or by the actions taken to mitigate those hazards.



- ✓ Address the unique challenges presented by the region's watersheds, which include highly engineered, discreet systems as well as locations such as the coast where natural systems provide substantial protection.
- The coalition should provide guidance and technical assistance to local stakeholders regarding best practices in watershed management.
- The coalition should serve as a forum for sharing resources and best practices among stakeholders.

Project Implementation

- The coalition should support local entities in project planning and development and provide resources to assist implementation. In this role the coalition should engage all public, private, or non-profit implementing agencies. The coalition should not directly implement, operate, or maintain projects.
- The coalition should facilitate cross-jurisdictional coordination by identifying related projects and/or projects that will have multi-jurisdictional benefits.
- The coalition should review proposed projects for upstream and downstream impacts.
- The coalition should identify methods for prioritizing projects with multi-jurisdictional impacts.
- The coalition should serve as a conduit for project implementation funding. In this capacity it should:
 - ✓ Have the legal authority to receive and manage outside funding, including funds from existing or new federal, state, or private sources,
 - ✓ Allocate funding to local entities for project development, implementation, operations and maintenance, pursuant to and limited by state/ federal guidelines and regulations.
 - ✓ Program projects based on available funding, benefits, needs, and other regionally agreed upon criteria.
 - ✓ Incentivize local adherence to regional standards and goals by requiring compliance as a condition of funding.
 - ✓ Identify funding sources for new projects as well as ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Data and Modeling

- The coalition should be tasked with housing and operating the LWI watershed model for Region 8.
- The coalition should use the model and other data to evaluate projects, policies, and programs for upstream and downstream impacts.
- The coalition should enhance local capacity to run and use models and other related data through training programs and resource sharing.
- The coalition should serve as hub or clearinghouse for other entities to submit and use collected data and modeling.
- The coalition should use data responsibly to explain threats and potential project benefits to the public and other stakeholders.

Outreach and Engagement

- The coalition should conduct outreach and education activities to inform both the general public and public officials about the importance of watershed management and its associated strategies.
- The coalition should work with property developers, real estate professionals, and related sectors to enhance awareness about the impact of land use to community resilience, and to develop mutually beneficial strategies that mitigate future impacts.



- The coalition should ensure that local and regional activities are coordinated with state and federal partners. This should include improved communication between entities so that local stakeholders are aware of opportunities and requirements at the state and federal levels.
- The coalition should engage state and federal elected officials to inform them about regional needs and to encourage policy change as appropriate.
- The coalition should maintain open lines of communication with other regions to discuss programs or projects that impact multiple regions, and to share best practices and resources.

Recommended Authorities for the Coalition

Full implementation of the activities described above will require local, state, and/or federal regulators to grant the coalition the authority to:

- Cooperate or contract with governmental, private, or non-profit entities.
- Conduct watershed-related planning activities in conjunction with and on behalf of local governments.
- Receive, manage, and allocate funds from governmental, private, or non-profit sources, including the authority to set policy on how funds will be distributed.
- Hire staff, pay administrative, overhead, and other direct and indirect costs using funds collected from various sources.
- Fund and manage other governmental, private, or non-profit entities to complete coalition tasks, including contracting or subgrants.
- House and manage watershed-related data, including hydrologic models.
- Conduct outreach and education activities.
- Engage governmental, private, or non-profit entities on behalf of coalition members.
- Engage state and federal elected officials on behalf of coalition members.

ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION

In order to successfully implement the recommendation above, the RSC recommends the following implementation steps:

Authority

- The coalition should be enabled by legislation under state charter.
- All of the watershed coalitions in the state should be authorized by a single charter that includes a list of standards and authorities identified by all regions, wherein each region is able to choose which standard or authority to implement and at what degree within individual coalition bylaws/regional charters. Enabling legislation should explicitly allow for coalitions to be led by partnerships between public, private, and/or non-profit entities. The legislation should also allow for regional discretion in coalition structure, membership, and leadership.
- In addition to state enabling legislation, coalitions must be granted the same authorities by all relevant local, state, and federal governments and agencies.
- The regional watershed boundaries should be recognized or approved by a state agency, board or program.



Structure & Membership

- The various functions of the coalition should be performed by public, private and non-profit entities acting in a partnership. A single entity will be required to perform fiscal and administrative tasks, while other functions may be performed by separate entities based on their expertise and resources. The entities that are able to participate in the partnership will greatly depend on the level of authorization and funding granted to the coalition. Potential partners may include existing government agencies, non-profits, universities, industry groups, or private entities. Multiple precedents for such arrangements exist locally and nationwide, and these should be used as guides.
- The coalition should be composed of a mix of public, private, and non-profit representatives to ensure a wide range of experience and expertise.

Long-Term Stability

- The coalition must have a stable, consistent funding source that adequately covers the staffing and administrative costs of running the coalition in addition to project and program funding. The coalition will not achieve long-term success without dependable funding.
- The coalition should have oversight by a state agency which provides consistency and state-level management that would serve as the pass-through entity for federal funds as defined in 2 CFR 200.74 and consistent with said regulation or successor legislation thereto.
- The coalition should have the ability to obtain external funding and maintain stable local funding.
- If the appropriate authorities and funding cannot be obtained to establish a coalition as described above there should be alternate plans for maintaining a long-term entity that will accomplish as many of these activities as possible. Over the remaining course of the existing Regional Capacity Building Grant the RPC will work with the RSC and LWI to develop alternative strategies based on the authorities and funding that are likely to exist when the current grant ends.

State Agency Role

- The state should lead the effort in drafting the legal elements that reflect these recommendations while the regions collect feedback on provisional recommendations and the regions should be kept aware of continued progress.
- Region 8 offers the following recommendations to OCD and other state agencies that are leading the effort to secure the appropriate authorities, funding, and policies that would allow the coalitions to function successfully:
 - Strategy:
 - ✓ As soon as possible, develop a coordinated strategy for achieving the regions' recommendations, and seek feedback from the regions on the strategy.
 - ✓ The strategy to acquire authorizations and funding must acknowledge existing fiscal and political realities. There are limited available resources at all levels of government, and it is difficult to create new sources of revenue. There may also be challenges to seeking authorizations that are perceived to conflict with or override existing entities.



Finally, the cooperation and approval of local governments will be equally as important as state and federal authorizations.

- ✓ Anticipate and plan for the possibility that the state and regions may not be able to acquire the authorities and funding required to fully implement the coalitions as envisioned by the steering committees. Create alternative/contingency plans that will allow LWT's work to continue without the ideal level of authorizations and/or funding.
- ✓ As soon as possible, seek legislative champions, partner agencies, and other allies that will be essential to securing the required authorizations and funding.
- ✓ Conduct outreach to elected officials and the public to inform them about the ongoing efforts to establish coalitions, solicit feedback, and seek their support.

- Structure:

- ✓ The authorizations and funding should allow a variety of entities to participate in and/or lead the coalitions, including those from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- ✓ Any new coalition structures that are created must be accompanied by sufficient funding. The funding must include the staffing and administrative costs of running a coalition as well as project/program funding.
- ✓ The distribution of funding across regions must be equitable and include all parishes.
- ✓ Future Regional Capacity Building Grant rounds should be flexible enough to allow regions to prioritize their own activities based on regional needs. It should also allow for multiple types of fund recipients based on the regions' recommendations, including partnerships between public, private, and non-profit entities.

- Coordination:

- ✓ State agencies should be coordinated to ensure that work is not duplicated or conflicting, and to most effectively use existing resources.
- ✓ Encourage and facilitate communication between regions to share best practices and resources, and to evaluate projects or programs that may impact multiple regions.