Louisiana Watershed Initiative Update

MARCH 19, 2019

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Resilience Planning Manager, OCD-DRU
Agenda

• Introduction/Recap
• Project Funding: Round 1
• Statewide Data & Modeling
• Outreach Activities
Intro to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative
It’s not a matter of if Louisiana will flood again, it’s when. **NOW** is the time to act.

WE’VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

IT’S TIME TO GET IT RIGHT.
Water Knows
No Boundary

It requires a new way of thinking

It requires a watershed approach
What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that all drains to a single point.
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Louisiana’s Watersheds

Our watersheds are not defined by our political boundaries.
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A Real-Time View: “Great Flood of August 2016”
Our Mission

Reduce flood risk and improve floodplain management across the state, including through maximizing the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain.
IMPORTANT FOR OUR FUTURE...

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW.
Past Legislative Efforts
Local & Regional Projects

Round 1

Funding Distribution
Goals and Objectives
Eligible Activities
Round 1 Funding Opportunity

$100 Million Total

Competitive Process

$40M Regions

$60M Statewide
Round 1 Funding Opportunity

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

• Reduce Flood Risk
• Transparency
• Encourage Cooperation
• Reward and Incentivize Resilient Land Use and Development
Round 1 Funding Opportunity

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Characterized generally as LOW RISK, HIGH REWARD PROJECTS in absence of statewide modeling, including:

- Floodplain Restoration and Preservation
- Regional Flood Storage
- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure Flood Mitigation
- Stormwater Management - Gray Infrastructure
- Stormwater Management - Green Infrastructure
- Non-structural mitigation (Residential/Commercial)
- Other innovative and/or replicable flood control activities
Statewide Data & Modeling

Overall Approach
Progress
Overall Approach

STATEWIDE DATA & MODELING

Phase 1: Pre-Programming
Design statewide monitoring network, a modeling approach and standards.

Phase 2: Program Implementation
QA/QC, ongoing assessment of mitigation project outcomes and impacts, and development of a long-term maintenance and access plan for monitoring and modeling products.
Statewide Modeling Framework

PROGRESS

• DOTD will facilitate procurement
• Projected advertisement posted to DOTD website
• Regional stakeholders & agencies provided an opportunity for input in accordance with DOTD’s procurement process
• Models sequenced in accordance with data availability and around watershed boundaries
Outreach Activities

2018 Listening Tour
2019 Engagement Plan
Best Practices Summit
Parish Meetings
March 28, 2019 Council Meeting
Interstate Summit
Statewide Listening Tour
WHERE WE’VE BEEN

555 engineers, planners, floodplain managers, public works staff, emergency responders, code enforcement staff, elected officials, and more
Statewide Listening Tour

KEY STATEWIDE THEMES

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<tr>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
<th>Sharing of Data</th>
<th>Projects Selection</th>
<th>Policy Right size solutions</th>
<th>Data Technical Expertise</th>
<th>Operational Framework</th>
<th>Utilization of Local Expertise</th>
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- “2018 Statewide Listening Tour Key Findings Summary Report”
- Webinar hosted on January 25, 2019
- Available online at [watershed.la.gov](http://watershed.la.gov)
2019 Outreach & Engagement Plan

COMMENT ONLINE AT WATERSHED.LA.GOV
Best Practices Interstate Summit

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Building the Foundation: Sharing Lessons Learned & Collaborating on Challenges Specific to Louisiana

Lafayette, LA
Regional/Parish Meetings

SPRING 2019

- Watershed approach
- Modeling and procurement strategy
- Project funding opportunities
- Support for local cooperative efforts
- “Best Fit” watershed boundary delineation
Watershed Council Meeting
MARCH 28, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA

Neighboring State Summit
LATE SUMMER 2019
Regional Partnership Building:
Shared Challenges Across State Lines
New Orleans, LA
Questions?

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Thank You

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