



## LaNERR Site Development Committee

### Meeting #7

Monday, November 29, 2021 (1:00 – 3:00 pm)

#### Attendees

**SDC Members:** Chip McGimsey, CRT; Craig Colten, LSU; Justin Lemoine, CRT; Tracy Quirk, LSU; James Nelson, ULL; David Muth, NWF; Brian Roberts, LUMCON; Julie Whitbeck, NPS; Kacie Wright, USGS; Robert Moreau, SELU; Kristi Trail, PC; David Podgorski, UNO; Mark Tobler, Loyola; Cheston Hill, OSL; Devyani Kar, EDF; Martin O'Connell, UNO; Matthew Hiatt, LSU; Navid Jafari, LSU; Beth Stauffer, ULL; Erik Johnson, Audubon; Amy Dixon, USACE; Jill Trepanier, LSU; Kevin Ringelman, LSU; John Nyman, LSU; Robert Thomas, Loyola; Dinah Maygarden, UNO; Gary Lafleur, NSU; Liz Skilton, ULL; Illya Tietzel, UNO; Joey Breaux, LDAF; Corey Miller, CRCL; Gary Shaffer, SELU; *Not available: Carol Wilson, LSU; Donata Henry, Tulane; Heather Stone, ULL; Robert Mahon, UNO; Thomas Gresham, LDOE; Danielle Keller, formerly USACE; Michael Pasquier, LSU; Alex Kolker, LUMCON; Erin Cox, UNO; Maida Owens, CRT; Jonathan Foret, SLWDC; Malay Ghose Hajra, UNO; Patty Ferguson Bohnee, ASU; Natalie Snider, EDF; Giovanna McClenachan, NSU; Chuck Hunter, USFWS; Simone Maloz, RMRD; Andy Fischer, LDWF; Quenton Fontenot, NSU; Nathan Corley, LDOE; Claire Anderson, Ripple Effect; Dean Blanchard, BTNEP; Mark Davis, Tulane; Abigail Bockus, LUMCON; Kyle Piller, SELU; Jennifer Hill, LA Tech; Brian Gautreau, LSU AgCenter; Ken Krauss, USGS; Cindy Brown, LTL; Aimee Hollander, NSU; Andy Dolan, USFWS; Bryan Piazza, TNC; Emad Habib, ULL; Mark Kulp, UNO; Megan La Peyre, USGS; Mitchell Aleshire, CRT; Morgan Kelly, LSU; Shirell Parfait-Dardar, GCDBCC;*

**Screening Subcommittee (SDC Members):** Seth Blich, TNC; Alisha Renfro, NWF; Scott Hemmerling, WI; Ron Boustany, NRCS; Rebecca Triche, LWF; Mike Carlross, DU; Kenny Ribbeck, LDWF; Glenn Constant, USFWS; Sara Krupa, LDNR; Greg Steyer, USGS; Gina Campo, OCD; *Not available: Pat Arnould, GOIA*

**Screening Subcommittee (non-SDC Members):** Melissa Baustian, WI; Shirley Laska, UNO; *Not available: Jenneke Visser, ULL; Sam Bentley, LSU; Mead Allison, Tulane*

**Other Attendees:** Matt Chasse, NOAA; Caroline Byrne, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area; DeWitt Braud, LSU; Hampton Peele, LSU

**Designation Leadership Team:** Robert Twilley, LSU; Sandy Parfait, LSU; Julie Lively, LA Sea Grant; Kristin Ransom, NOAA; Everett Craddock, LSU

**Royal Engineers & Consultants (LA Sea Grant Support):** Alaina Grace, Mandy Green



## Summary

### Welcome

Robert Twilley opened the meeting and noted that the meeting is being recorded for anyone unable to attend. The last meeting of the LaNERR Site Development Committee (SDC) was in July 2021.

The key objectives of the meeting today are to review the revised LaNERR Workflow and Schedule (dated November 22, 2021) and assist proposal teams in preparing for the February 2022 Town Halls by having a 'Mock Town Hall' to gather SDC feedback.

### Revised LaNERR Workflow and Schedule

The timeline has been expanded by approximately four months to accommodate Hurricane Ida recovery efforts. See table below and refer to the revised Workflow and Schedule (November 22, 2021).

Town Halls	February 1-11, 2022
<i>Draft</i> Final Candidate Site Proposals due	March 11, 2022
Screening and scoring	Mid March – Early April 2022
Final Candidate Site Proposals due	April 22, 2022
DLT provide proposals to Executive Committee	April 29, 2022
Executive Committee nominates site to the Governor	Late May 2022

### Final Site Selection Criteria and Final Candidate Site Proposals

Final Site Selection Criteria were provided to the proposal teams and to the full SDC. Climate Change and Partnership categories were added per NOAA guidance. The Designation Leadership Team (DLT) will develop the Final Candidate Site Proposal template and send it to the screening subcommittee for review. Screening subcommittee feedback will be used to finalize the Final Candidate Site Proposal format, and it will be provided to proposal teams in late December 2021 or early January 2022. *Draft* Final Candidate Site Proposals will be screened and scored using a worksheet based on the Site Selection Criteria. The DLT will follow up with proposal teams in December to prepare for Town Halls (including engaging local support and requesting local support letters) and discuss developing Final Candidate Site Proposals (including mapping needs).

### Town Halls Guidance/Advertising

Town Halls will run from February 1 – 11, 2022. Each proposal team will host three Town Halls in a mix of in-person and virtual formats. Town Halls will occur from 12:00 – 2:00 pm and from 6:00 – 8:00 pm to maximize public participation. The DLT suggested a minimum of one in-person Town Hall per region at 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

### In-person Town Halls

Proposal teams are urged to use accessible options such as public libraries, public meeting areas, or accommodations that provide Sea Grant free access. Proposal teams are responsible for hand-out materials associated with their Town Halls and presentation logistics (computer, projector, screen, etc.).



The DLT will provide a summary of the NERR system and specifics of the LaNERR process. In-person Town Halls should have a sign-in table to document participants as well as hand-outs on the LaNERR Process (two-pager), LaNERR Questionnaire, and a copy of the Proposal Team Presentation (Summary). Proposal teams were asked to provide the locations of the in-person Town Hall meetings by Dec 3, 2021, so the DLT can finalize the guidance document and create a Press Release.

### **Virtual Town Halls**

Registration will be required for virtual Town Halls, and the link to an online Qualtrics questionnaire will be provided to all participants. Feedback will be compiled by the DLT and provided to proposal teams for documentation in their Final Candidate Site Proposals.

### **Advertising and Invitees**

Upon completion of the Press Release, advertisement will begin in December and continue through January. CPRA, GOCA, and La Sea Grant will distribute a Press Release of the Town Hall schedule. SDC members are encouraged to broadcast the Press Release to associated organizations and listservs. Proposal teams are urged to use local support networks as developed in their original promotion plan and keep a record of invitees and others they reach out to for documentation of community engagement in the Final Candidate Site Proposals.

The DLT will meet with the LaNERR Executive Committee in December 2021 to provide an update of the nomination process and will present this information to the CPRA Board in January 2022.

### **Mock Town Hall**

Presentations were given by Kristin Ransom (What is a NERR), Robert Twilley (LaNERR Process), and the proposal team leads/co-leads for each of the three estuarine zones. Proposal teams are asked to submit comments if there are additional topics that should be covered in Kristin or Robert's presentations. Recordings of these presentations will be provided to proposal teams for use in Town Halls. SDC members are encouraged to provide feedback directly to proposal team leads/co-leads or to Robert Twilley for dissemination to all teams.

### **Pontchartrain Estuarine Zone**

Kristi Trail of PC presented a draft of the Pontchartrain Town Hall presentation. She provided a physical description of the proposed site and showed maps of various site components, which are currently divided into five geographic areas. She described the benefits of each area and how they relate to Site Selection Criteria.

There were several SDC comments. First, it was suggested that this team consider including Pearl River WMA in Area #2. The team was reminded to consider not going too large with the geographic scale of their proposed site due to funding limitations and other management considerations. Another SDC member suggested the team speak on how each of the public lands are currently used as it might help people understand that additional regulations would not be applied if the area were to become a NERR.



## **Barataria Estuarine Zone**

Andy Nyman of LSU presented the draft Barataria Town Hall presentation. He showed the geographic areas of consideration and noted that they have downsized their areas of consideration due to funding limitations and management concerns. They also excluded areas with highest subsidence rates. He spoke to site characteristics that are complementary to the Site Selection Criteria, including monitoring and data that have already been collected in this estuarine zone. Andy indicated two potential locations that could serve as a headquarter (one located in Lafitte, and another located in Plaquemine Parish).

An SDC member suggested that the Town Hall presentations be geared for public consumption with only high-level discussion of the Site Selection Criteria.

## **Atchafalaya Estuarine Zone**

Brian Roberts of LUMCON presented the draft Atchafalaya Town Hall presentation. He highlighted the relevance of their candidate site with regard to meeting not only the mission of a NERR but also the delta component that is not yet included in any other NERR. He highlighted areas of interest for inclusion in their candidate site as well as the associated habitat and monitoring that has been conducted to date. He spoke to merits of their candidate site to meeting each of the Site Selection Criteria. Their team has had several offers from locations/facilities to serve as the headquarters.

Several SDC members noted several revisions needed for land area labeling on the maps.

## **Questionnaire**

A questionnaire was provided to SDC members via a Qualtrics link: [http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9uGKURaxmdmHx8W](http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9uGKURaxmdmHx8W). SDC members were asked to complete it after the meeting for one or all candidate sites. Feedback from the SDC will be provided to the proposal teams. SDC members are also encouraged to provide feedback on questions or wording that could help improve the questionnaire. This survey will be revised and provided to Town Hall participants. The intent is to provide it electronically and via print copy at in-person Town Halls.

## **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- The SDC Meeting #7 recording and summary will be provided following the meeting. Recording: [https://lsu.zoom.us/rec/share/PzMt5zz8H6tMFwchi4m4SrHouaB47apoHYdJ4rdwpY62X2\\_J4HZF8NC0H8ZM0i\\_5SKpj\\_BtXR0yjFfM](https://lsu.zoom.us/rec/share/PzMt5zz8H6tMFwchi4m4SrHouaB47apoHYdJ4rdwpY62X2_J4HZF8NC0H8ZM0i_5SKpj_BtXR0yjFfM)
- SDC members are asked to complete the Qualtrics questionnaire for one or all candidate sites and provide feedback on questions or wording. [http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9uGKURaxmdmHx8W](http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9uGKURaxmdmHx8W).
- Proposal teams should send in-person Town Hall locations by Dec 3 to [sandyparfait@lsu.edu](mailto:sandyparfait@lsu.edu)
- The DLT will schedule a follow up meeting with proposal teams in December.
- SDC is asked to broadcast the Town Hall Press Release to maximize community engagement.
- The full SDC will be reconvened in late February to receive a debrief from the Town Halls.