

**New Orleans/Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Location
Partnership Meeting Notes
December 17, 2013
1:30 to 4:00 CST**

Workplan Activities/Project Updates

The group discussed status of the activities identified for Year 3 in the workplan and potential opportunities and/or challenges. Following are highlights from the discussions:

East End Area (Danny Wiegand)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was able to confirm with their Real Estate Office that the proposed project location of the East End Area is within the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge's property limits.
- ▶ The City and USFWS continue discussions to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding for construction of the project on USFWS property.
- ▶ The City continues to complete the application package for the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Lands Access Program announcement. The deadline was pushed back to January 24, 2014.

CERF (Dinah Maygarden)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Dinah met with Ioannis Georgiou (Director of Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences) to brief him on Coastal Education and Research Facility's (CERF's) involvement in the Urban Waters efforts.
- ▶ National Park Service should be reaching out to Dinah/CERF soon to reinitiate discussions on the Visioning Plan. This might be a good opportunity to engage Ioannis and get his input on the Visioning Plan.
- ▶ CERF met with Land Trust for Louisiana to discuss potential partnership opportunities.
- ▶ Dinah will provide a list of names and addresses for sending a letter of support from EPA Region 6.

West End Area (Miguel Viteri)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ City met with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to discuss Hazard Mitigation proposal for the Municipal Yacht Harbor.

- ▶ City will submit updated construction drawings to FEMA for consideration due to misunderstanding based on documents submitted to date.

[New Canal Lighthouse \(John Lopez\)](#)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Lighthouse has had 3000 visitors since opening in May 2013.
- ▶ The front lawn and fence work is nearly complete.
- ▶ Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) has submitted a claim for Hurricane Isaac damage.
- ▶ Danny contacted the local office for the Small Business Administration, and they are interested in engaging with the Urban Waters efforts.

[Pontchartrain Beach \(John Lopez\)](#)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Orleans Levee District (OLD) signed the most recent Project Worksheet from FEMA.
- ▶ LPBF is still working with their Board on leasing the property from SLFPA-E/OLD. They are close to a final draft.
- ▶ Danny will engage FEMA to consider additional data available for consideration.

[Lafitte Greenway \(Danny Wiegand\)](#)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ City received bids the 2nd week of December for construction of the Greenway.
- ▶ Scheduled to begin construction in the February 2014 timeframe with a 1-year schedule for completion.
- ▶ A question was raised about the zoning of the Greenway and if there is a long-term protection easement. The City will research the answer to this question, but it is believed the Greenway is protected under its current zoning as a Greenway.

[Draft Urban Waters Measures \(Danny Wiegand\)](#)

- ▶ The group briefly discussed the draft measures sent out by EPA Headquarters and the Federal partners on the Measures Workgroup.
- ▶ The draft presents a “menu” of potential measures that each of the Urban Waters Locations would pick from to track progress at their location. The workgroup is looking for feedback on the measures as well as the process for finalizing and implementing the measures.
- ▶ Comments are due to HQ by the end of January 2014.

[Events Tracking on Webpage \(White House request – Danny Wiegand\)](#)

- ▶ Looking for upcoming events on 3 to 6 month horizon to be on website. This would ease requests from White House, etc. on UW activities.

- ▶ Danny proposed e-mailing him to have it posted on the Urban Waters webpage – provide name of event, date(s), who hosting, any details, and webpage.
- ▶ The announcements on the webpage would serve as a “portal” to the lead organization’s site (if applicable) where all details would be housed. If needed, the New Orleans Urban Waters page could be the main site for posting the information.

WEF Service Project Proposal (Ann Wilson)

- ▶ Ann reviewed the proposal for the September WEFTEC Service Project.
- ▶ Organizers are looking for candidate projects by December 31, 2013. Danny will send out a formal request for nominating projects.

Other Items/Updates

Green Mapping (Katie Brasted)

- ▶ Katie inquired on any efforts to map green space across the City. Tulane had a program at one point as well as others, but there doesn’t appear to be an aggregation of all of this available information.
- ▶ Other efforts mentioned included Global Green’s work, WHODATA.org, Trust for Public Land, and Sierra Club.
- ▶ It was suggested a one-stop-shop was needed to aggregate all these efforts.
- ▶ Danny suggested the Urban Waters map on the website could be tapped as a portal to the other mapping efforts and house the metadata layers. This can be a topic at future meetings where we engage USGS.

Howard University Alternative Spring Break (Danny Wiegand)

Discussion Summary

- ▶ Howard and EPA have an MOA for alternative spring break opportunities. Howard will be in New Orleans from March 7th to March 16th.
- ▶ EPA HQ is handling this effort. More information will be shared as received.

Closing