

LOUISIANA WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION FALL WORKSHOP

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013

1

Next Steps in Management: An Initial Planning Proposal

Matthew Reonas, Office of Conservation

Two Key Documents

2

- ❑ ***Managing Louisiana's Groundwater Resources: Interim Report to the Legislature*** (March 2012)
 - ❑ Articulated the Commission's ultimate goal of seeing a "comprehensive water resources management plan" developed to meet the needs of the State and its people for the future

- ❑ ***Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*** (May 2012)
 - ❑ Stressed importance of "fresh water and sediment to help rebuild the coast" and supported the development of a surface and groundwater management plan "to ensure that the state secures the sustainable use of these valuable resources into the future"

June 5, 2013, Regular Meeting of the La. Water Resources Commission

3

- ❑ Presentation by Office of Conservation staff regarding intention to hold a conference, per the recommendation in the 2012 *Interim Report*, “to seek best management practices for the sustainability and protection of our water resources”
- ❑ “Our goal – and this may be ambitious – is to do no less than secure a framework, a process or outline for creating and implementing a statewide comprehensive water resource management plan for resource protection and sustainability”
- ❑ Not a final report, but a “framework for the development of such a plan as our end result,” “a roadmap, a process forward for getting towards that statewide plan”

Resolution Requesting Resources Towards the Development of a Master Plan

4

- ❑ Approved unanimously by Commission
- ❑ Cited impact of recent developments on thinking about water resources, the increased understanding of the value of water for a “healthy and economically viable society,” the needs of coastal restoration for a comprehensive water plan, and the examples of the State’s previous and ongoing investments in infrastructure and planning
- ❑ Requested funding from the RESTORE Act or other sources to develop a plan that would “provide a sound basis for supplying Louisiana’s future water needs”

Proposed Scope of Services for a Design Strategy/Planning Framework for a Master Plan

5

- ❑ Phase I – Assessment of Louisiana’s Water Budget
 - ❑ Establish a firm understanding of the current and projected water demands in the state for all uses, including coastal restoration
 - ❑ Assess the sustainability of current and projected water usage in La. by region and watershed

Proposed Scope of Services for a Design Strategy/Planning Framework for a Master Plan

6

□ Phase II – Planning and Allocation

- Provide recommendations on developing a strategic interface between usage priorities
- Identify and assess tools and/or processes for water allocation and infrastructure development policy-making, and provide recommendations for improvements
- Provide recommendations and cost expectations for long-term predictive models
- Provide recommendations for a feasible capital improvement infrastructure program that addresses major priorities

Questionnaire Results

7

- ❑ Almost unanimous support for development of a planning framework before a Master Plan can truly be created
- ❑ Considerable interest in securing a water resource inventory/water budget study
- ❑ Need for transparency and inclusivity
- ❑ How is this plan different from previous studies?
- ❑ Questions about state water law and impact on long-term planning

Today's Program

8

- ❑ To review where we are at in terms of water resource management
- ❑ To contemplate the pressing issues that face the State in the future with regards to water management
- ❑ To evaluate the path forward