LAFOURCHE PARISH MEETINGS 4 & 5 SUMMARY
MEETING 4 OVERVIEW

In October, LA SAFE conducted two types of meetings in Lafourche Parish: round table discussions with parish officials and community open houses.

The LA SAFE team met with leaders and potential partners at the city and parish level in order to learn how the proposed projects could align with existing related efforts. This also helped the team identify potential hurdles in implementing certain projects, so they could plan with those obstacles in mind.

The Lafourche parish meeting began with a stakeholders round table, after which the LA SAFE team opened the doors to the community for a larger open house. Meetings in Round 4 helped hone the ideas residents generated in the previous three rounds of meetings into final proposals to be evaluated during Round 5.

Round 4 Meeting Events in Lafourche

- Stakeholders Round Table & Community Open House
  Tuesday 11.07.17
MEETING 5 OVERVIEW

In the fifth and final round of meetings, residents reviewed six potential demonstration proposals for their parish, and voted for their preferred projects at a polling station. The meeting was a gallery-style exhibit with boards set up around the room, so that the residents could understand the LA SAFE process. The boards included a summary of previous meetings; future flood risk, land loss and subsidence maps; a 50-year vision map for the parish; and a policy proposal board that covered a range of issues expressed by residents in earlier meetings.

Demonstration proposal boards (shown in the Appendix) illustrated six different projects and programs that LA SAFE could fund. The boards included detailed descriptions, concept drawings and example images along with information on cost, location, area, and potential partners to give residents an idea of each project. Each proposal highlighted multiple community benefits, using the five categories that emerged in the previous meetings: Culture & Recreation, Stormwater Management, Housing & Development, Transportation, and Education, Economy & Jobs. This provided residents with a complete understanding of each project, in order to help them decide on their preferred proposals.
Below are summary descriptions of each of the 6 demonstration proposals that residents evaluated at the meeting. The full description of all these proposals can be found in the appendix.

**A. EMERGING INDUSTRY BUSINESS INCUBATOR**
This business accelerator will help diversify the economy by supporting new small businesses in alternative energy, hospitality, coastal restoration, and eco-tourism. The building will house shared working space and the accelerator program will partner entrepreneurs with mentors in their field to help them start and grow their business.

**B. GALLIANO GREEN STREETS**
This project will provide street improvements near Galliano Elementary School that will incorporate green infrastructure to capture and store water, alleviating flooding in lower-lying areas downstream. The project will also add shared-use paths and street lights to increase safety for pedestrians and bikers.

**C. RESILIENT HOUSING PROTOTYPE**
This elevated medium-density housing prototype incorporates building techniques that resist flood and wind damage, supplements electrical generation with renewable energy, and manages stormwater in a shared green space and by using permeable materials. The development will serve as a model for resilient and affordable housing in moderate risk areas.

**D. GOLDEN MEADOW WETLAND PARK & OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**
This project will create a 20-acre park near Golden Meadow Upper Elementary School, combining recreational trails and educational opportunities with best stormwater management practices. The park will capture and store water during rain events, reducing nearby flooding and slowing subsidence by allowing water to enter back into the ground.

**E. OAK RIDGE SEAFOOD MARKET**
This project will create a seafood market in Golden Meadow's Oak Ridge Park, adjacent to an existing boat launch. The market will help promote the local seafood industry by providing a centralized location for direct sales of locally caught seafood.

**F. BAYOU LAFOURCHE HARBOR OF REFUGE**
Storm damage to commercial fishing vessels can significantly impact fishermen’s ability to recover after a hurricane. This project will create a harbor of refuge in Golden Meadow to provide a low-cost option for commercial fishermen to shelter their vessels during disaster events.
Residents left comments and feedback on the boards describing what they liked and disliked about each proposal. A summary of their feedback is below. All of the comments gathered are in the appendix.

A: EMERGING INDUSTRY BUSINESS INCUBATOR
Stakeholders commented that this proposal would help small businesses to start up. It would create new jobs and grow industries, while also providing opportunities to host community events. There was concern that the proposal might not serve the whole community, and suggestions that the incubator provide computer training.

B: GALLIANO GREEN STREETS
Residents commented that they liked the idea of improved stormwater management practices, and liked the proposal location. The main concern was the high cost and the small project area.

C: RESILIENT HOUSING PROTOTYPE
Residents commented that this proposal would be great for any location within Lafourche Parish. They believed that the green infrastructure, elevated housing, and solar arrays could bring in more commerce to the area, and enjoyed the lowered cost of flood insurance. The residents pointed out that the parking was still vulnerable to flooding, and the solar panels would be damaged or destroyed in a storm event.

D: GOLDEN MEADOW WETLAND PARK & OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
Stakeholders enjoyed the large scale of this proposal. They commented that it provides hands-on educational opportunities for students, while managing stormwater. Some residents were concerned with the cost, as well as the proximity to the nearby school.

E: OAK RIDGE SEAFOOD MARKET
Residents commented that they would like to have a place to buy local seafood. They also appreciated that the proposal would provide opportunities for fishermen to sell their catch, and contribute to the local economy. The only negative comment was about the location of the market.

F: BAYOU LAFOURCHE HARBOR OF REFUGE
Stakeholders thought that the proposal was a good idea that would help commercial fishermen maintain their livelihoods, because it allowed them to dock their vessels during an extreme weather event. There was concern regarding the location of the harbor – that it may be too far south to be effective.

“Wonderful education possibilities. An idea of the way we should build in the future.”- Lafourche Parish Resident
After reviewing all of the 6 proposals, residents visited the polling station and reviewed the proposal selection criteria, which includes public preference as one of the six components. Residents were given tokens to mark their preference for each of the six proposals. They used their two gold tokens to select their favorite two proposals; green tokens for their 3rd and 4th favorite proposals, and blue tokens for their least favorite proposals. Gold tokens were worth two points, green tokens were worth 1 point and blue tokens were worth 0 points.

At the end of the evening, the results of the polling were revealed, giving the participants a general idea of the outcome. In order to make the polling accessible to residents throughout the parish, and to minimize geographic bias, residents not at the meeting could access an online poll for 3 weeks following the meeting.

The Lafourche Parish meeting was held on Monday, December 18th at the Mathews Government Complex. Twenty eight residents and stakeholders signed in and participated. An additional meeting for Vietnamese and Khmer-speaking (Cambodian) residents was held on December 20th. This meeting was open to residents of Plaquemines, Terrebonne, Jefferson, and Lafourche Parishes. Following these meetings, an online poll collected preference input from 46 additional residents. The graph on the right shows the results of the preference polling.
PROPOSAL SELECTION

Both the public preference results from Round 5 and the online poll will inform the proposal selection. Public preference is one of the six scoring criteria that the project team will use to select proposals for funding. The LA SAFE team will announce the proposal selection in the first quarter of 2018, when the LA SAFE planning document is released.

1. Public Preference - The result of the meeting preference polling and an online poll.

2. Leverage Funds - The level of matching funds from other sources.

3. LMI Benefit - Points awarded to projects that benefit low-to-moderate income populations.

4. Public Benefit (Quantitative) - The level of benefit to the public that can be measured. For example, the number of units created in a housing proposal, or the amount of water stored in a stormwater management proposal.

5. Public Benefit (Qualitative) - The degree to which the project addresses future flood risk in a unique way and/or improves quality of life for residents.

6. CRS Score - Awarded to projects that gain points in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS), which utilizes floodplain management planning to lower flood insurance rates.

APPENDIX

The following pages contain additional materials produced for the meetings, as well as comments gathered at the meetings.
LAFOURCHE POTENTIAL PILOT PROJECTS

The project ideas shown here incorporate many of the top suggestions that we heard from residents over the course of the planning process. Which do you think make the most sense? What’s missing? Leave us notes and comments!

**LAFOURCHE BUSINESS INCUBATOR**
Design and construction of a business incubator facility on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux aimed at assisting Lafourche residents and businesses develop new or expand existing businesses in an effort to provide a more diverse local economy not as vulnerable to the fluctuations of the petroleum industry.

**RUIN TO RETENTION PROGRAM**
Purchase and clearing of abandoned properties to return areas to natural state, providing areas within neighborhoods where stormwater can be temporarily collected during rain events until DEPHEHHIQWDFKURXJKDUHO\

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PARK**
Building in stormwater management features to a new or existing park would serve multiple benefits. Retention areas would keep other parts of the park dry and serve as an educational resource to learn about wetland ecosystems. Trails and boardwalks could provide access through wooded wet areas and connections to other nearby assets.

**COMPLETE & GREEN STREETS PILOT PROJECT**
This would include sidewalks, street trees, stormwater retention features like bioswales and rain gardens. This would be a model for future street design that reduces flooding and promotes safe walking and biking.

**SEAFOOD MARKET & SAFE HARBOR**
A safe harbor that can be used full-time by fishermen, with a public market area that also support direct sales and community events.

**MIXED INCOME HIGH DENSITY HOUSING PROTOTYPE**
This potential project would be a precedent for resilient housing design in low to medium risk areas. This proposal would include roughly 30 units that are affordable for multiple income levels. This will include elevated units, on-site stormwater retention, and innovative construction techniques to serve as a model for future development.

**RUN TO RETENTION PROGRAM**
Purchase and clearing of abandoned properties to return areas to natural state, providing areas within neighborhoods where stormwater can be temporarily collected during rain events until able to be efficiently pumped through a traditional system.
A EMERGING INDUSTRY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

This proposed project is modeled after Propeller, a business incubator in New Orleans that offers a training program for starting new businesses, as well as office space and amenities for small-business owners. The Lafourche incubator would support businesses that address: alternative energy, coastal restoration, hospitality, and eco-tourism.

- A Accelerator program to help grow new businesses
- B Collaborative work stations
- C Private meeting rooms
- D Communal work area
- E Technology center & fabrication space
- F One-on-one mentoring & career counseling

Coastal Restoration

Alternative Energy
Wind and Solar

Hospitality

Eco-Tourism

Lost Lands Tours; photo credit: Rush Jagoe
PROPOSAL

Economic resilience is a cornerstone of LA SAFE. A business incubator will help launch new businesses, diversifying the economy with industries that will strengthen the region in the future. As part of the accelerator program, entrepreneurs will have access to a mentor in their field to help guide them through the program as they start their business. The incubator provides a co-working space with access to shared office equipment and a communal kitchen.

Key Info

- **LA SAFE Investment**: Up to $4 million
- **Estimated Project Cost**: $2 million for accelerator program development; $2 million for facility construction or renovation
- **Location**: Lockport
- **Potential Partners**: Propeller, Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, Lafourche Chamber of Commerce, South Louisiana Economic Council, Nicholls State University, Fletcher Community College, Lafourche Parish Government

Community Benefits

- Incentivizes the development of new firms and emergent technologies in coastal restoration.
- The development of this incubator will use smart building strategies that respond to the environment and mitigate stormwater on site.
- The accelerator promotes small business development and economic diversity, creating jobs in growing industrial sectors.
- Eco-tourism and the growth of small local businesses provide the opportunity to share and strengthen local culture.

What do you like about this proposal?
- Will grow businesses and create new jobs.
- Opportunities for community events (like the library!).
- Great to help small business starting up.

What do you not like about this proposal?
- May not serve everyone.
- Would need to provide computers and computer training!
- May hurt existing solar business in Lockport.
Plan View

1. Streetside bioretention cell and shaded multi-use path

2. Boardwalk with overlooks and seating areas

3. Water Storage

4. Enhanced canal with landscape improvements

5. Permeable parking

Perspective View
PROPOSAL

Within existing and planned structural risk reduction systems, like the one protecting portions of Lafourche Parish, it is important to incorporate best stormwater management practices that mitigate local flooding conditions and subsidence rates. Employing established green street concepts helps local neighborhoods achieve this goal, while providing residents a safer and enhanced transportation experience. This project proposes approximately 2,500 linear feet of street improvements near Galliano Elementary School. Increasing stormwater capacity on high ground along the bayou alleviates flooding in lower-lying areas downstream. The proposed project includes green infrastructure components like detention ponds, an improved canal, bioswales with native plantings and permeable parking, as well as shared-use paths, shade trees and street lights.

Key Info

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<th>Project Area</th>
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Community Benefits

- Reduces potential for neighborhood and street flooding by expanding detention capacity through pervious paving, bioswales and rain gardens.
- Creates opportunity for development and reinvestment in older, higher ground areas of the parish.
- Provides separated bicycle and pedestrian paths, giving transportation choices to everyone, including low-income, diverse, and elderly populations.
- Creates a community asset and educational tool for nearby schools to highlight the benefits of stormwater management projects.
- Enhances neighborhood and community beautification in a high-traffic area for vehicles, bikers and walkers.

COMMENTS

What do you like about this proposal?
- The Idea.
- Great Idea for the area.
- Location.

What do you not like about this proposal?
- Who is responsible for accidents or injuries on the “dock” like structure along the bayou?
- Very expensive for small area.
- Just for a small area but large cost.
RESILIENT HOUSING PROTOTYPE

Moderate Risk Example near Lockport
Existing Housing Density: 2.1 units per acre | Proposed Density: 8 units per acre

Low Risk Example Model based on another parish.

Mixed-Use Buildings in low-risk areas attract local businesses like coffee shops, restaurants and retail stores to neighborhoods. Multistory buildings accommodate more people while preserving green space for recreation and stormwater management. In turn, more residents are likely to patronize businesses within walking distance.

Elevated Housing with space below for parking and gathering
Pier and Beam Foundations
Wind Resistant Design
Solar Power
Community Pavilion
Permeable Paving
Stormwater Park
Complete Streets with Bump-outs, Bioswales & Trees

A mature bald cypress can absorb 8,000 gallons per year!

Stormwater is absorbed into the ground and vegetation.

Pier and beam foundations raised above Base Flood Elevation reduces flood risk and insurance costs. Elevated homes allow for parking and patio space beneath.

Wind mitigation protects from hurricanes and reduces insurance costs.
PROPOSAL

As populations migrate northward from south and central Lafourche Parish, medium-density, affordable residential developments should be prioritized in these receiver communities. This housing prototype builds density on a reduced footprint and will be resilient to flooding and wind damage. It will incorporate clean energy practices and conservation-minded components. Landscaping and shared green space will manage stormwater while adding beauty to the surrounding neighborhood. Roughly half the units will be market rate and the rest will be affordable to residents earning 20%, 30% and 50% of area median income. This project will serve as a model for resilient construction practices as Lafourche adapts to its changing future.

Key Info

LA SAFE Investment $4-6 million
Estimated Project Cost $7-10 million
Partners Private Developer, Louisiana Housing Corporation
Location East of Bayou Lafourche, near Lockport

What do you like about this proposal?
• Having stormwater park, elevation, solar power bringing businesses to the area.
• Great place anywhere in Lafourche Parish.
• Sound idea to eliminate need for very high flood insurance. Entire neighborhood elevated, so all residents can interact together.

What do you not like about this proposal?
• U Parking, cars can flood in case of hurricanes, storms.
• Insurance companies discourse parking and fires under homes.
• Solar panels on roof can be damaged during storms. Maybe a solar space.
• Solar panels will come off during hurricane.
• High Cost.
GOLDEN MEADOW WETLAND PARK & OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Plan View
1. Weir to divert water from existing drainage canal
2. Water Storage
3. Pathway Network with Educational Signage in Forested Wetland
4. Educational Pavilion
5. Permeable Parking and Bioswales

Precedent images of stormwater management landscape at an entrance of a school
Precedent images of pathways and seating areas in a wetland park
Precedent images of permeable parking and bioswales
Precedent image of water storage area that doubles as terraced gathering space
PROPOSAL

Providing coastal residents with educational opportunities to learn more about environmental changes and holistic stormwater solutions is critical to planning for a sustainable future along our coast. The Wetland Park & Outdoor Classroom at Golden Meadow Upper Elementary School incorporates best stormwater management practices, reducing flooding in surrounding areas, while providing recreational and educational opportunities to local students and residents. Detaining water within natural landscapes as long as possible, before it gets pumped out of leveed areas, both reduces flood risk and helps manage subsidence in a location that has already subsided up to five feet below sea level.

Key Info

- Project Area: 20 acres
- LA SAFE Investment: Up to $4.8M
- Estimated Project Cost: $4.8M
- Partners: Lafourche Parish
- Location: Golden Meadow

Community Benefits

- Onsite retention capacity and stormwater management interventions slow water flow before it reaches the drainage canal.
- Creates a park and natural walking amenities to adjacent neighborhoods and nearby educational facilities.
- Reduces potential for street flooding and danger to motorists by detaining stormwater runoff; increases neighborhood connectivity to nature.
- Potential for outdoor nature learning center, parks and recreational areas to make area attractive for neighborhood and business reinvestment.
- Provides walking and recreational amenities and the opportunity to learn about the natural systems that have helped shape the parish’s culture.

What do you like about this proposal?

- It’s about time we do something physically for educating our youth and at the same time stopping flood water to 3235.
- Wonderful education possibilities. An idea of the way we should build in the future.
- Large 20 acre development to hold water.

What do you not like about this proposal?

- Too close to the school.
DEMONSTRATION PROPOSAL BOARDS

OAK RIDGE
SEAFOOD MARKET

Perspective View

1. Seafood Market Stalls and Fishing Dock
2. Permeable Parking and Bioswales
3. Picnic Pavilion with Restrooms and Storage
4. Existing Oak Ridge Boat Launch
5. Existing Pump Station - Future upgrades can include windows & signage retrofits for educational purposes
6. Future opportunities for water storage

Plan View

Precedent image of bioswales
Precedent image of permeable parking
Precedent image of seafood market stalls
Precedent images of seafood market
PROPOSAL

Lafourche Parish is a Sportsman’s Paradise with some of the world’s best commercial and recreational fishing areas. The seafood industry is one of the leading employers in Louisiana, producing millions of pounds of shrimp, oysters, crabs and fish annually. However, as flood risk increases and land loss continues to occur, this industry faces significant threats to its viability. Located in Golden Meadow’s Oak Ridge Park, adjacent to an existing boat launch and pump house, the South Lafourche Seafood Market provides a centralized location for buying and selling locally caught seafood, promoting the long-term sustainability of the fishing industry. The project includes market stalls, a covered open-air pavilion, and restroom facilities.

Key Info

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Community Benefits

Reduces potential for neighborhood and street flooding by expanding detention capacity through pervious paving, bioswales, rain gardens.

Supports residents and businesses by providing access to needed goods and services.

Grows the direct seafood to consumer market and provides fishermen and farmers with a permanent location to sell and market goods.

Enhances community recreational opportunities through access to water and trails; creates new event spaces and a cultural hub.

What do you like about this proposal?

- Place to sell seafood.
- The best proposal of the evening. I have personally driven down the bayou, only to find no one selling shrimp. This would help shrimpers get more for their catch.

What do you not like about this proposal?

- Location.
F

BAYOU LAFOURCHE
HARBOR OF REFUGE

Plan View

Perspective View

1. Harbor of Refuge and Boat Docks
2. Pathway
3. Boat Dock
4. Permeable Parking and Bioswales
5. Picnic Pavilion / Seafood Market (Optional)
6. Raised Convenience Store and Restrooms (Optional)

Precendent images of harbor of refuge
Dekorte, LA
PROPOSAL

Lafourche Parish is a Sportsman’s Paradise with some of the world’s best commercial and recreational fishing areas. The seafood industry is one of the leading employers in Louisiana, and produces millions of pounds of shrimp, oysters, crabs and fish annually. However, as flood risk increases and land loss continues to occur, this industry faces significant threats to its viability — specifically to vital equipment and infrastructure. This proposal would create a harbor of refuge for vessels to shelter in place during disaster events. The parish-operated harbor would be a low-cost option for those commercial fishermen who do not own bayouside property, making docking safe and convenient.

Key Info

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Community Benefits

- Reduces potential flooding in surrounding areas by expanding detention capacity on site through pervious paving, bioswales and rain gardens.
- Enhances quality of life in surrounding area, providing facility for local markets and venue for local vendors.
- Provides safe harboring and storage capacity for vessels operating in local waterways; protects seafood industry supply chain.
- Grows the direct seafood to consumer market and provides fishermen and farmers with a permanent location to sell and market goods.
- Enhances arts and festival opportunities in the parish and creates eco-tourism opportunity.

What do you like about this proposal?
- Good idea to help commercial fisherman.
- Great for shrimpers docking.

What do you not like about this proposal?
- Golden Meadow seems too far south to be effective.
- Location end of 308.
LAFOURCHE PARISH 50-YEAR RESILIENCE VISION

Emerging Industry Business Incubator

Galliano Green Streets

Golden Meadow Wetlands Park & Outdoor Classroom

Oak Ridge Seafood Market

Bayou Lafourche Commercial Fishing Harbor

Galliano Loop

Cut Off

Larose

Lake Salvador

Intracoastal Waterway

Morganza to the Gulf Levee

Pointe aux Chenes

Lockport

Mathews

Lake Fields

Lake Boeuf

Lac des Allemands

Raceland

Gheens

Thibodaux

Chackbay

Choctaw

Kraemer

US-90

LA-182

LA-24

Us-90

Golden Meadow

Leeville

Port Fourchon

ADDITIONAL MEETING 5 MATERIALS

LAFOURCHE PARISH MEETING 4 & 5 APPENDIX
FLOODING & SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT

Flood Risk*

- Thibodaux
- High Organic
- High Subsidence Potential
- Moderately Organic
- Moderate Subsidence Potential
- High Plasticity Silt and Clay
- Shrink and Swell Potential
- Low Plasticity Silt and Clay, Sand
- Stable Elevation Soils

*According to CPRA modeling for a 100 yr storm in 2007 under a moderate sea level rise scenario

Pipe Pump

Proposed System

Delay
- Hold water upslope to minimize flooding in low lying areas.

Store
- Increase water storage downslope to mitigate flooding and subsidence

Drain When Necessary
- Alleviating flood control pumping stations which reduces energy use and cost.