



A DESCRIPTION OF LOUISIANA'S NEW VISION PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

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Prioritization Steps



- *Thoughtful consideration* - to a large extent, experience and ongoing coordination with our Water Permitting, Nonpoint Source Pollution program, and our Surveillance staff informed us of the areas we needed to focus on.
- Started with the 2014/2016 Integrated Reports
- Removed waterbody/impairment combinations (WICs) related to:
 - Main stems of big rivers like the Mississippi River, Red River, Ouachita River, Sabine River, Pearl River, and the Atchafalaya River;
 - Interstate waters;
 - Coastal waters;
 - WICs where the criteria was in question or under review; and
 - WICs with an existing TMDL.



Prioritization Steps - Continued

- We evaluated water quality trends for various parameters including but not limited to:

Nutrients	Dissolved oxygen
Fecal coliform	Metals
Turbidity	Total suspended solids
Chlorides	Sulfates
Total dissolved solids	

- Trends categorized as:
 - Decreasing steady increasing



Prioritization Steps - Continued

- Accounted for number of known point source dischargers and on-site disposal systems (OSDSs, individual home units permitted by the Louisiana Department of Health).
- Considered:
 - input from LDEQ's Surveillance staff regarding potential for unpermitted point source dischargers;
 - information showing where there were facilities having problems consistently meeting their permit limits;
 - input from our Water Permits staff;
 - spatial logistics;
 - possible participation by local watershed organizations (Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Bayou Vermilion District); and
 - potential participation by local governments.



Prioritization Steps - Continued

- Sought input from stakeholders and the public:
 - Met with several other state resource agencies to get their input:
 - Louisiana Department of Health, and
 - Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 - Public noticed our prioritization framework and sought input
 - Included the framework with our Integrated Reports.
 - Set up a new web page that explains our “Vision” and includes our prioritization framework and list of priority waterbodies.
 - Did not get much input on priority water bodies to consider
 - We did get a request to not consider a few man-made waterbodies as not being candidates for TMDLs.
 - Since the initial set up, we have added links to several YouTube videos created for our “Vision”.
 - We have also added links to our citizen advisor groups that have become a part of OWL (Our Waterways of Louisiana).



Prioritization Steps - Continued

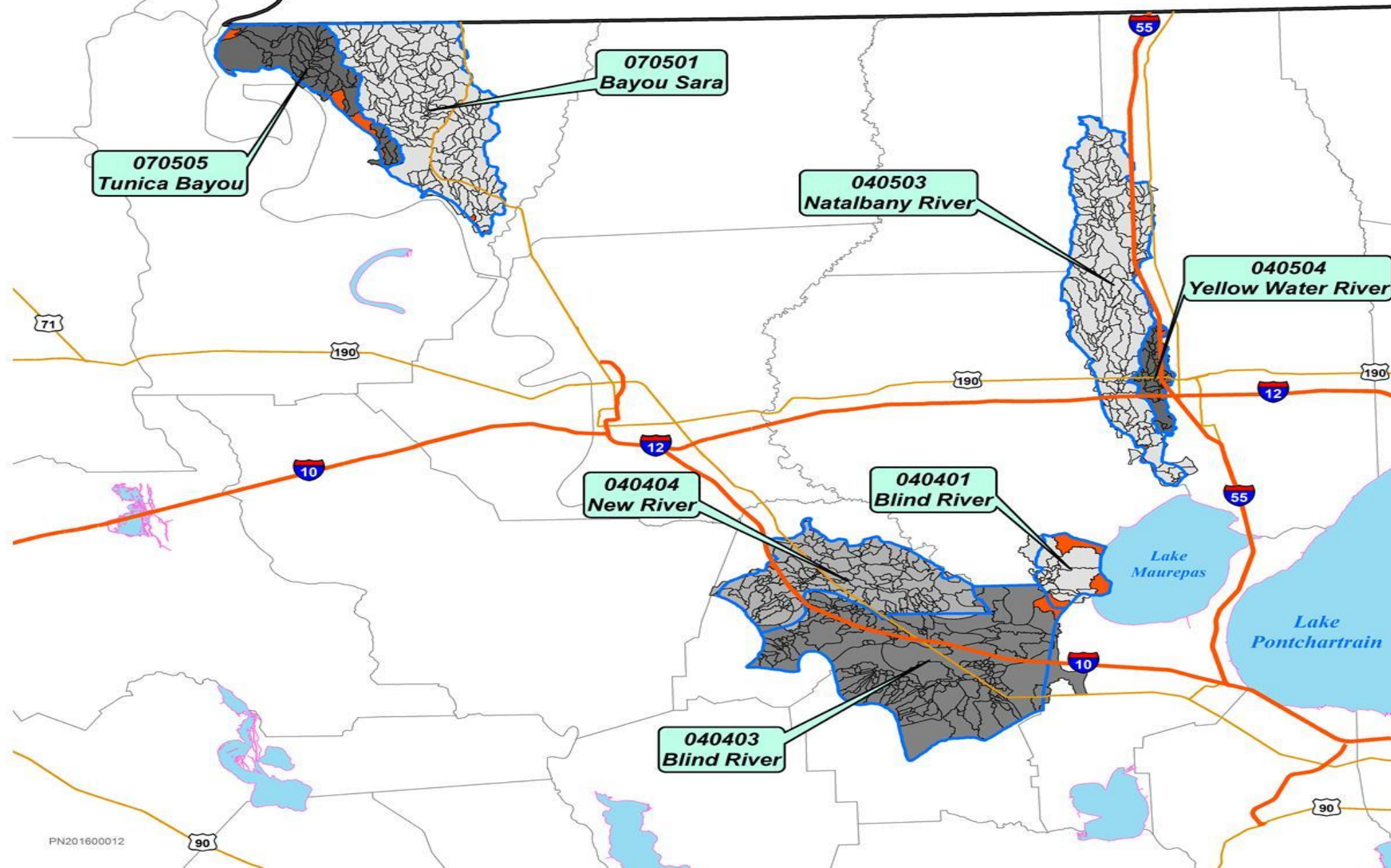
- Utilized the EPA's Recovery Potential Screening Tool (RPST):
 - Used the tool to evaluate & confirm the waterbodies we were considering for a spot on our priority list.
 - Never relied on the tool to tell us where to work.
 - Evaluated the stressor, social, and ecological indicator scores for the individual waterbodies we were considering.



Louisiana's Priority Waterbodies

Projected Completion Year	Subsegment	Waterbody Name	Primary Parameters Being Addressed
2018	070505	Tunica Bayou – from headwaters to Mississippi River	Fecal Coliform
2019	040504	Yellow Water River – from headwaters to Ponchatoula Creek	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform
2020	040503; 040507	Natalbany River – from headwaters to LA Hwy 22; Natalbany River – from LA Hwy 22 to Tickfaw River	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform
2020	070501	Bayou Sara – from Mississippi state line to Mississippi River	Fecal Coliform
2021	040403; 040401	Blind River - from headwaters to Amite River Diversion Canal; Blind River – from Amite River Diversion Canal to mouth at Lake Maurepas	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform
2022	040404	New River – from headwaters to New River Canal	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform

Southern Priority LDEQ Subsegments and Catchments





Going Forward - New Vision 1.0

Lessons Learned

- *Thoughtful consideration - adaptive*
- COVID - 19
- TMDL Alternatives were much more resource intensive than traditional TMDLs
- Engagement\ Coordinating with local governments
- Coordinating with our Watershed Survey Staff & Nonpoint Source Pollution Program
- Progressing while taking on new activities:
 - Water Permits Program Support
 - Louisiana Watershed Initiative



Going Forward – New Vision 2.0

- *Thoughtful consideration – always learning*
- Utilizing most of the steps as in New Vision 1.0 – with a focus on coordination with our Nonpoint Source Program and Water Permits Division
- Planning for 2023 – 2032
 - Part 1 – years 1-3
 - Part 2 – years 4-6
 - Part 3 – years 7-10
- Including a mix of new TMDLs, TMDL revisions, and TMDL alternatives
- Considering new types of alternative restoration projects

Remember



- “Your job is to help the river be whatever it wants to be”
~Dave Rosgen Ph.D.
- “Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.” – Luna Leopold
- “The fairest thing in nature, a flower, still has its roots in earth and manure.” – D.H. Lawrence
- “Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.” – Winston Churchill
- “Success is the progressive realization of a worth ideal.” – Earl Nightingale



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Tips to Maintain Home Sewage
Systems (video)

<https://youtu.be/1v3JMnlevuo>

New Vision Program (video)

<https://youtu.be/YIJOBszsiA8>

Questions?

