CURRENT Authority Update

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Austin Vaughn, Executive Director

Status Update Since Last Board Meeting

- **August 21:** CURRENT presentation and update during the Mississippi River Commission Low Water hearing
- **September 10:** Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) Annual Training Symposium presentation and update
- **September 28:** Federal and congressional representative engagement in Washington, D.C.
- **October 12:** DOTD publication of the short list for the CURRENT Authority Master Plan development contractor
- **October 19:** Louisiana COPRI Fall Seminar presentation
- **October 26:** Dewberry Engineers Inc. selected for CURRENT Authority Master Plan Development

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CURRENT Master Plan Development

Awarded Consultant

Dewberry®

Subconsultants

moffatt & nichol

VOLKERT

LA TERRE ENGINEERING, LLC

BONTON ASSOCIATES

BURNS COOLEY DENNIS, INC.
GEOTECHNICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

LSU

Priority Actions

01 / Develop Initial Master Plan

02 / Assess & Prioritize Resources

03 / Coordinate Stakeholders & Agencies

04 / Launch Public Engagement

05 / Set Strategic Direction

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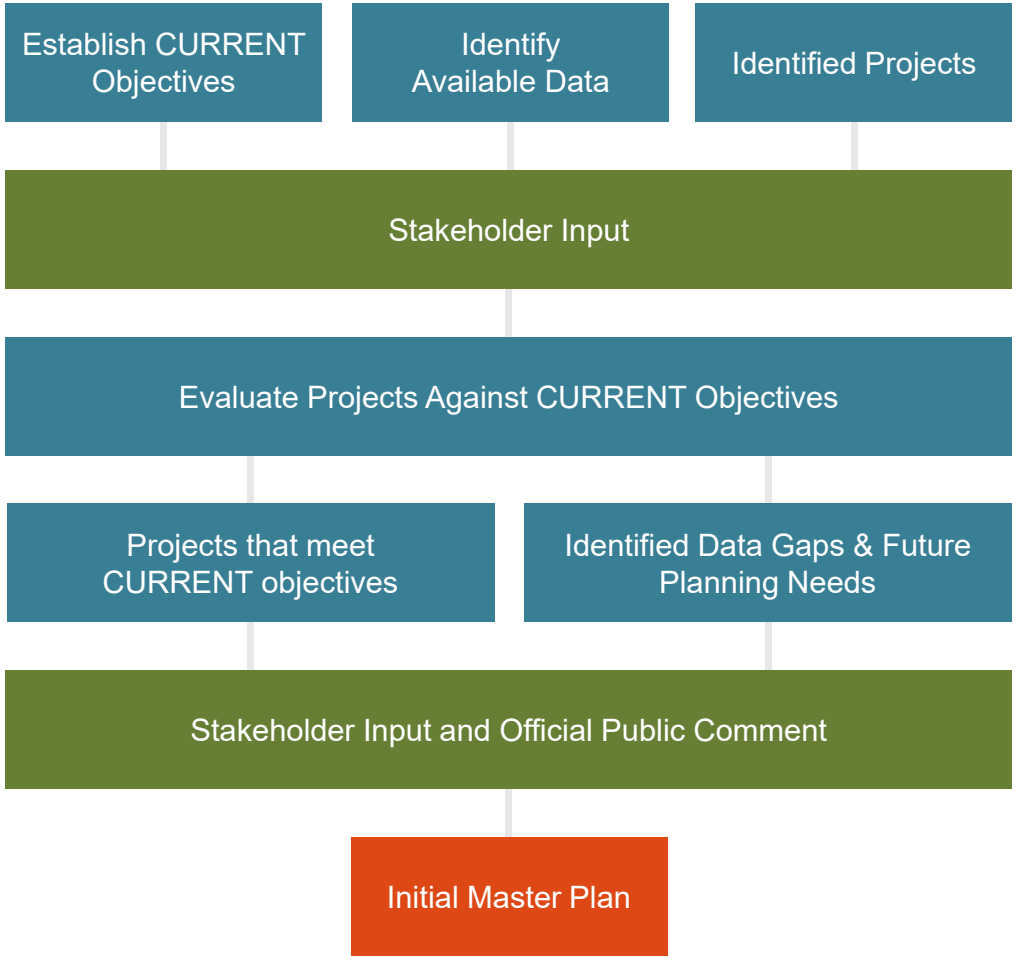
Develop Initial Master Plan

Develop Initial Master Plan

Dewberry Engineers Inc. Selected for Initial Master Plan Development on October 26, 2026

- Build a long-term roadmap for future investment
- Build from existing studies, plans, and available data
- Establish a transparent, data-driven project evaluation process
- Identify projects that fit within CURRENT goals and objectives
- Identify data gaps and future planning needs



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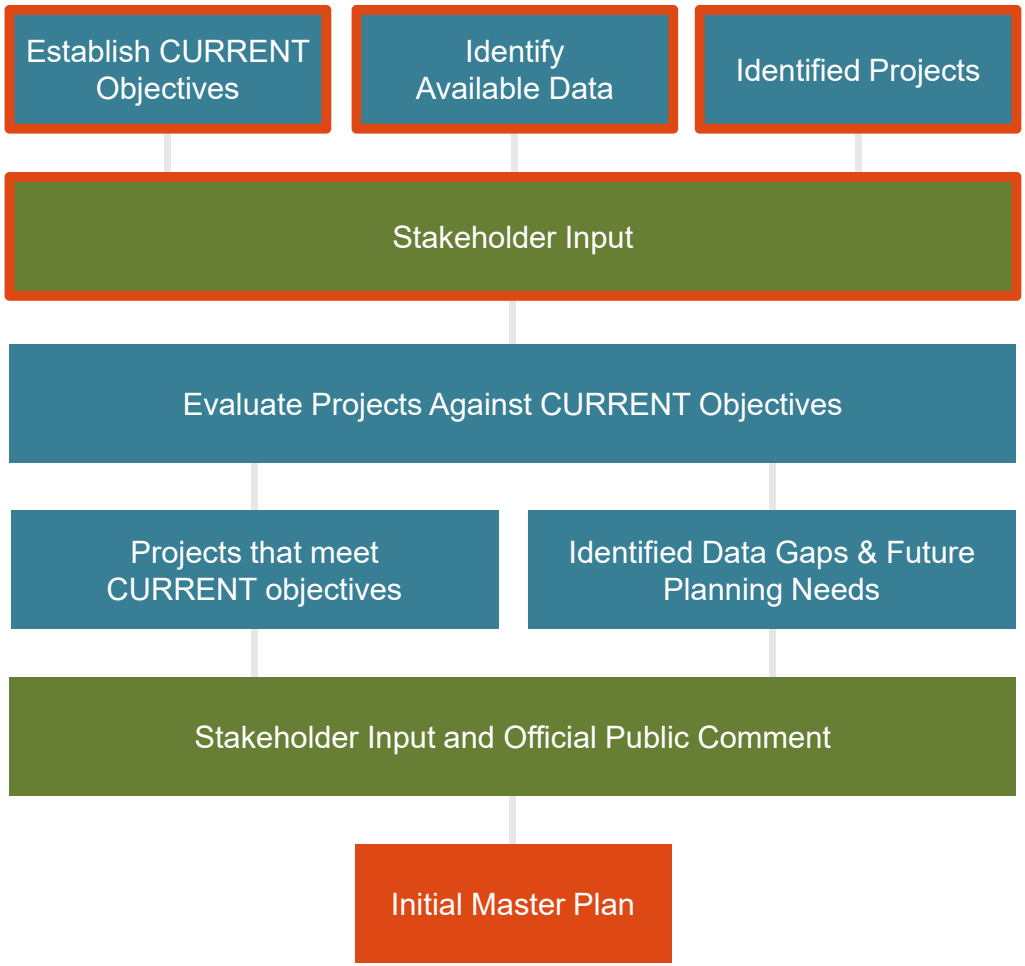

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Assess & Prioritize Resources

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Informed Through Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- What data, studies, reports, plans, or scientific modeling should CURRENT utilize to inform an Initial Master Plan?
- What metrics should CURRENT consider when aligning projects with its mission and goals?
- Where do data or information gaps exist that CURRENT could address?

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Coordinate Stakeholders & Agencies

Stakeholder Outreach by the Numbers

August – October 2026

35+

Engagement Activities

Meetings, stakeholder discussions, presentations, and regional events

20+

Organizations & Entities

Local, regional, state, and federal partners

Engagement spanning local governments, levee districts, state and federal agencies, universities, ports, and regional organizations.

Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement Focus Since August 2026

Local & Regional Partners

- Local governments and levee districts
- Ports and regional planning organizations
- Economic development organizations

State & Federal Agencies

- Governor's Office and state agencies
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Mississippi River Commission

Technical & Research Partners

- Louisiana Watershed Initiative
- National Weather Service
- Universities and research organizations

Legislative & Community Leaders

- State legislators and local elected officials
- Congressional representatives
- Regional leadership organizations

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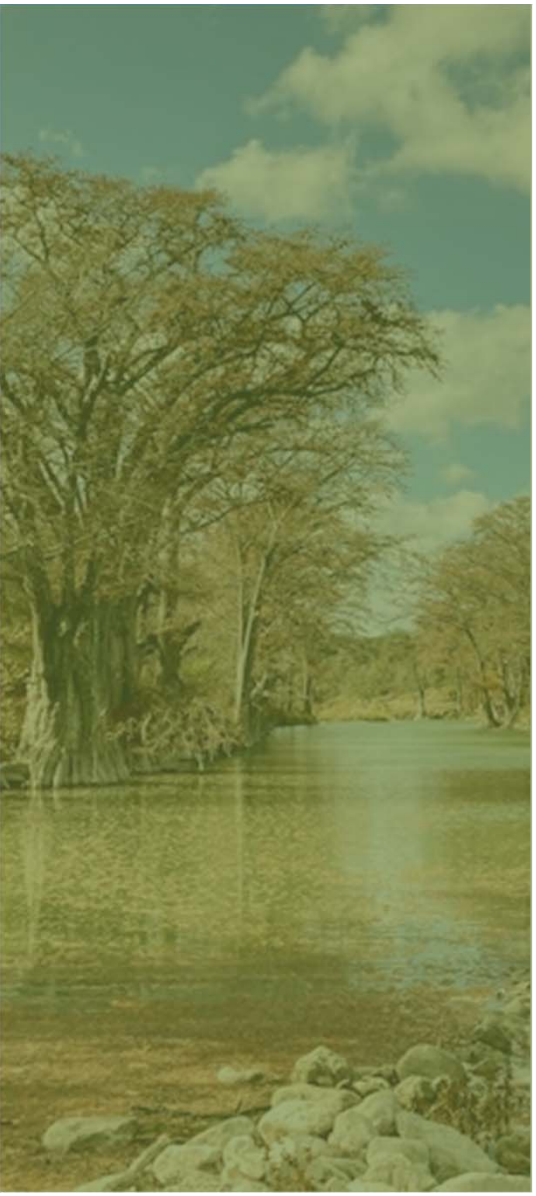

Key Takeaways

Build on Existing Efforts

- Incorporate established studies, projects, and regional watershed plans into CURRENT's planning process

Recognize Regional Priorities

- Account for local flood protection, watershed management, navigation, and infrastructure needs

Strengthen Coordination

- Identify opportunities to connect local, regional, state, and federal initiatives

Leverage Technical Resources

- Use existing watershed models, research, monitoring data, and agency expertise to inform the Initial Master Plan

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Launch Public Engagement



Launch Public Engagement

Comprehensive public engagement will align with the development of the Initial Master Plan

Ongoing Efforts to Build Awareness

- Social media engagement
- Public presentation opportunities
- Enhanced web resources
- Quarterly board meetings

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Set Strategic Direction



CURRENT's Mission

INFORMED BY LEGISLATION AND BOARD MEMBERS

To strengthen Louisiana's noncoastal communities and economy through the development of a comprehensive master plan and annual plans that identify regional needs, prioritize projects, coordinate funding and resources, and advance initiatives that reduce flood risk, improve watershed and floodplain management, support navigation and commerce, conserve natural resources, and expand recreational opportunities.

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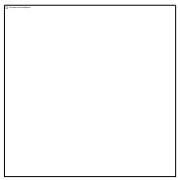
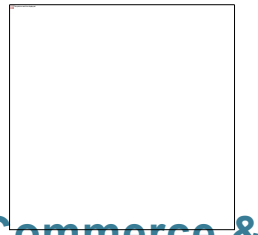
CURRENT's Goals



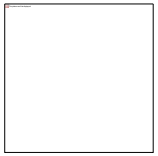
Flood Protection



Commerce & Connectivity



Community Benefit



Water Resource Management

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CURRENT's Goals

Flood Protection: Reduce flood risk and protect communities, watersheds, agricultural lands, industrial areas, and critical infrastructure through proactive structural and nature-based solutions.

Water Resource Management: Provide long-term water use sustainability and promote ecological health throughout the inland region through comprehensive water resource planning and stewardship.

Commerce & Connectivity: Strengthen the economy across Louisiana's interior region by enhancing inland waterway navigation to support commerce through reliable maritime transportation to increase freight mobility.

Community Benefit: Support community resilience, regional tradition, tourism opportunities, and quality of life across the inland region by enhancing public access to water-based recreation.

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Announcements & Next Steps

FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Funding Opportunity

$400 Million Available Nationwide

Funding Priorities:

- Reduce repetitive flood damage to NFIP-insured buildings and structures
- Support eligible projects, including property acquisitions, elevations, and qualifying community-wide flood mitigation improvements
- Provide funding opportunities for eligible local governments and other sponsors through the state application process

Application Deadline: February 26, 2027



Next Steps

- Adopt Mission and Goals
- Kick Off Initial Master Plan Development
- Continue Stakeholder Engagement

February 3, 2027: CURRENT Board Meeting – Minden, LA

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Thank you