

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
May 21, 2014

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at the Courthouse Annex in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Mike Wood called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Dinah Bourgeois to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Owen Bello, Jake Causey, Jimmy Chustz, Stephen Chustz, Jimmy Lyles, Cy D'Aquila, Jr., Jerry Hix, Kyle Olinde, Major Thibaut, Ms. Linda Hardy and Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Messrs. Alex Appeaning, Rick Ward, Ron Pourciau and Dr. Carrie Castille.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The council unanimously approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of April 2, 2014.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS – PRESENTATION OF FINAL PLAN AND BUDGET RELATED TO SOUTH FLAT ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

PEC Engineer Gerald Babin informed the council the False River restoration project is moving along well. The council discussed probable construction costs. A USAGE permit has been obtained. The council discussed access needed through vacant land. They also discussed dredging areas (196,000 cubic yards) and bid costs. They discussed armoring of containment dike and growing grass and cypress trees.

The council discussed project funding in the amount of \$1.92 million.

The council discussed the project timeline for Facility Planning and advertising and awarding bids, thereafter, construction will start at a target date of September 22, 2014. Mr. Babin informed the council work days will be approximately 210 calendar days.

The council discussed planting in springtime.

Mr. Thibaut discussed the language of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

The council discussed the final plan for the False River project being presented to the Police Jury for approval.

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Motion by Mr. Thibaut and seconded by Mr. S. Chustz:

RESOLVED, That the final plan for the False River project be presented to the Pointe Coupee Police Jury for approval.

Unanimously carried.

PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Mr. Thomas Van Biersel discussed public outreach. He spoke about using items such as flyers, bookmarks and posters. The Tourism office sent e-mails to aid in public outreach; they also provided stakeholders who may assist on the clean-up day as part of the False River project. The council discussed bags to be available for the clean-up day. Mr. Bello discussed Kiwanis Club to sponsor clean-up project.

The council discussed setting up a booth at the Harvest Festival as part of public outreach. They also discussed short news updates regarding False River Restoration on the Police Jury website. Coca-Cola Company was considered for providing a False River Restoration banner. Information will be provided on the Pointe Coupee utility bills as notification.

2014 LAKE LEVEL DRAWDOWN

The council discussed the 2014 lake level drawdown. A target level of 13.5 feet at the lighthouse gauge was suggested. It was stated that 2.2 ft. is an achievable goal for the drawdown. The council discussed the benefits of the drawdown. Chairman Wood suggested opening the gate at 1.5inches per day.

Motion by Mr. Thibaut and seconded by Mr. Olinde:

RESOLVED, That a request is made of the Pointe Coupee Police Jury for a gate opening on September 2, 2014 to lower the lake level of False River at a target rate of 1.5 inches per day to a target level of 13.5 feet at the lighthouse gauge, being that the gate closes no later than March 1, 2015.

Unanimously carried.

FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Thibaut discussed funding to be used for the False River project which is in Priority 1. He informed the council there will be leftover funds. He stated more funds are needed to finish the north end. Estimates are needed to present to the Police Jury. A request for funding was made to Capital Outlay. He informed the council he received an update from BRAF regarding funding.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Chairman Wood discussed stocking of Florida bass. He stated the bass that are being stocked and larger for increased survival.

The council discussed compilation for the project that was created by Mr. Thomas Van Biersel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

Motion by Mr. Thibaut and seconded by Mr. Bello, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN