

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
September 20, 2017

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 3:00 p.m. on September 20, 2017 at the Courthouse Annex Building in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Ricky Moses called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Jeanne Hendrix to call the roll:

Present: Messrs. Major Thibaut, Arthur Ewing, Jerry Hix, Kyle Olinde, Mark Ward, Thomas Van Biersel, Ricky Moses, Byron Nagl

Absent: Messrs. Brad Spicer, Cy D'Aquila, Rick Ward, Steve Chustz, Jimmy Chustz, Ron Pourciau, Bijan Sharafkhani

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Olinde. Second by Mr. Ewing.
No opposition.

Resolved, That the agenda of the meeting of September 20, 2017 is accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Ewing to approve and second by Mr. Thibaut.

Resolved, That the minutes of the August 23, 2017 are accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE II

Gerald Babin gave an update on project. They are still looking for land to dispose sediment. Four pieces look at and where ranked based on location, drainage, and access. They have meet with first choice property owner. Started drafting agreement with owner. Hope to have agreement in place in 10 days.

Mr. Ewing noted that de-watering opened up more properties. Ideal spot would be presented with 30 day sign period. If not first property then they will move on to second choice. Permitting will begin after getting agreement signed.

Mr. Thibaut stated that by March 2018 the project should be permitted and will put project in a better position for funding.

UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT:

Kevin Gravois stated that work on the M1 and M2 is moving along with the M1 completed. 3 weirs on NRG property are installed. Final access agreement signed and has begun on weir. Langlois property has access issues. They will also be doing some slope work on Jumonville property. Project should be done by end of month. If contractor can not get to Langlois property then they will move placement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry Hix stated that a homeowner contracted him regarding the locks. There was a question if electronic gates could be installed. Mr. Van Biersel stated if need is shown then it could be replaced.

Mr. Olinde and Mr. Moses stated that gates can't be lower river fast enough to stop flooding during rainfalls like August 2016.

Mr. Thibaut had a conference call with Mr. M. Ward and Mr. Olinde regarding Iberville Parish asking to stall the drawdown due to flooding in their area. Currently looking into getting a system in place to monitor gages downstream. Mr. Thibaut will reach out to DOTD regarding upgrading the current gates. Addressing surrounding water channels would be next step of project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Van Biersel reminded committee to meet in their subcommittees. Report deadline is the end of February. Would like to have something by January meeting.

WLF enforcement spoke about wake zones and enforcement on False River.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Buster Roy representing local fishermen asked about access to boat ramps during drawdown.

The next meeting was set for November 15th at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Van Biersel and second by Mr. Thibaut.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.