

MINUTES  
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at the Courthouse Annex Building in New Roads, Louisiana.

Mr. Thomas Van Biersel called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Jeanne Hendrix to call the roll:

Present: Brad Spicer, Arthur Ewing, Cy D'Aquila, Jerry Hix, Jimmy Chustz, Steve Chustz, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau, Bijan Sharafkhani, Thomas Van Biersel, Jacob Haffner

Absent: Major Thibaut, Rick Ward, Mark Ward, Ricky Moses

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Ewing.

Resolved, That the agenda of the meeting of February 21, 2018 be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting by Mr. Sharafkhani and second by Mr. Ewing.

Resolved, That the minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting are accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE II

Mr. Gerald Babin informed the council that the agreement has been signed by the landowner and is on the agenda for the next police jury meeting. The parish attorney has reviewed the agreement as well. They are still working on access and alternative access routes. Dredging plan is being worked on. The prices for de-watering came back higher than anticipated and the type of soil in the river may not be suitable for de-watering. There are other processes they are exploring including dredging and allowing it to be loaded onto a barge then to a truck then offloaded at disposal site. Mr. Van Biersel asked about using some materials to add to the south island. Mr. Babin said that it may be expensive. The barge option would open up access to the disposal site.

The have identified hard bottom areas and have removed those areas from dredging plan because they are ideal habitat areas. Mr. Ewing asked about the time line for a finalized plan and having continued setbacks in the project. Mr. Babin says the plan is to have permitting done before session. Mr. Ewing asked for a score card to see progress. There was continued discussion on de-watering and the costs involved.

Mr. Van Biersel stated that he would like another 8 feet in material for island in south side. Additionally he asked about using the hard bottom areas as loading site. WLF stated if there is a heavy rain then equipment could get stuck so it is not best option.

#### UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT:

They are getting estimates on rebuilding weir #5 after it was damaged in October 2017 rain event. It should be around \$10,500 to replace the 32 cubic yards of material. There is \$380,000 left in the project. NRG has asked to close the project. They are hoping EPA will allow the remaining funds to remain in escrow for maintenance. The report to the EPA will show a maintenance schedule and repair schedule. NRG seems receptive of this plan. Mr. Van Biersel offered to have a look at the report. Mr. Ewing asked about the rate of return of funds with Baton Rouge Area Foundation. It is unknown at this time. It is estimated that they will budget \$60-80,000 for maintenance. Mr. Ewing asked for an email copy of the report.

Motion to present the project over to the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury for maintenance purposes by Mr. Ewing. Second by Mr. S. Chustz.

Unanimously carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

None.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Mr. Olinde advised the council that he has been making drums for the buoy placement and has 31 ready for the south end. They are working on the ones for the north end.

Mr. Van Biersel has submitted the report to the legislature and it is available on the website.

Mr. Ewing is presenting revised ordinance to the police jury for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

Next meeting will be either March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. or March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. S. Chustz and second by Mr. Hix.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.