

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 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: Major Thibaut, Arthur Ewing, Steve Chustz, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau, Jacob Haffner, Bijan Sharafkhani, Thomas Van Biersel

Absent: Mark Ward, Rick Ward, Ricky Moses, Brad Spicer, Cy D'Aquila, Jimmy Chustz, Jerry Hix

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Resolved, That the agenda of the meeting of March 23, 2018 be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting by Mr. Ewing and second by Mr. Olinde.

Resolved, That the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting are accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE II

Mr. Gerald Babin gave a background of the project and had a meeting with the subcommittee. The search has been going on for about two years for suitable property to dispose the solids out from the water from dredging. There are no large landowners willing to allow use of their land. The de-watering price is \$20-25 per cubic yard to process the materials. The cheapest would be to dispose in the deeper parts of lake but that is not best option. They are looking at geo-tube option to allow water to filter out and sediment materials remain in the bags. This costs less but still requires land. Eight acres if laid out and less if stacked. Jim Major has expressed his willingness to allow his lake front land to be used. The land is not big but could work for some aspect of the work. There would also be wetland mitigation involved in the process. Some landowners have expressed concern over what to do with materials once dried.

There is still no access to Mr. Guy Jarreau's property from the river.

Mr. Van Biersel asked about building an island and what would make it acceptable to the public. Mr. Ewing and Mr. Thibaut said the public does not want an island in that area of the river regardless of what it looks like or how accessible it is.

Mr. Olinde expressed his frustration over the land issue stating that he told Mr. Babin back in 2015 that the Jim Major land was the best option. He stated that Mr. Babin stated back then that permitting would be a time issue but two plus years have passed and we are back at this option. Mr. Olinde stated \$73,000 has been spent on Phase II and it has not even started yet.

Mr. Pourciau asked about the landowner near the Jarreau property and asked if they had been able to reach them regarding a right-of-way.

Mr. Ewing asked about the cost difference between an island and de-watering. He again stated that the public is not going to agree to it. Mr. Van Biersel stated that jury would have to maintain it. He also stated that it cannot be put along shoreline because of mitigation costs. Mr. Thibaut expressed that there is a mitigation company that maybe willing to donate or greatly reduce the cost of mitigation. Dumping in pits is not an option either because it would never dry out.

There was discussion regarding impact on shell beds and hard bottom and not destroying this area. Mr. Thibaut asked about another landowner that is near the Jarreau property but feels that it is too narrow to work with. Mr. Van Biersel asked if an island option should be looked at again. Mr. Ewing said he feels it is a dead on arrival option, and should explore the wetlands issue more. Mr. Babin said the permitting with the bags would be only issue with that type of project. Mr. Ewing asked him to do homework on the project so that all factors are known.

Mr. Sharafkhani asked how long it takes to have bags de-water. Mr. Babin indicated about five weeks. It was just used in a canal project in Kenner. Stacking will slow the process down versus them being laid out. It would take six months of dredging to remove the material from the lake. The project could be spread out over a year to allow materials to be moved and smaller equipment.

Mr. Van Biersel asked about submerging the bags in the deeper areas of the lake. Mr. Babin stated that WLF is against deep water disposal, but he will bring the option up with the manufacturer to see if it is an option. It would mean using 9100 feet of bags that are 75 feet in circumference, so it would probably make deep water disposal not an option. Bags run about \$15 cubic yard to process and cost of bags.

The bag is not reusable. Mr. Olinde asked how long will the bag last and would disposing them in the river cause an issue later once it decomposes.

Mr. Thibaut asked if there was some type of material that is more bio-friendly. Mr. Babin said that in addition to concern over what to do with the bags there is a big concern by property

owners of what to do with 2500 loads of material off of the property.

Mr. Sharafkhani asked if the bags could be used to shore up the other island. Mr. Van Biersel said that island has shore-links so it would not need bags.

Mr. Olinde asked about a fall drawdown. WLF stated they would if there was no dredging going on.

There maybe a property that can be looked at but a driveway is involved.

Mr. Thibaut asked Mr. Babin to contact Mr. Jarreau about tubes, access needs to be found to the property, and then if that does not work out, Mr. Major's property needs to be strongly looked at for the tube option.

Mr. Chustz asked if the property owner was offered a buy out. It may be cheaper and quicker option.

UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT:

The project is complete and there was discussion on the consent decree and NRG. Lighthouse Canal will be allowed to be funded with the leftover funds. Maintenance plan is still being worked on with costs. Mr. Van Biersel said he is actually looking at a scheduling plan and estimate of possible repairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Ewing stated revised bulk-head ordinance has been approved and advertised. DNR has also received a copy of the revisions.

Mr. Thibaut stated that the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee will be hearing a bill to make adjustments to lake map just to clear up some small issues.

Kiwanis buoys have been replace in city limits. Mr. Thibaut stated that the local National Guard Unit is looking for a community project, and he will approach them about taking over the labor for this project.

Mr. Van Biersel stated that the legislative report is on DNR website.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Mr. Ewing would like to start looking into erosion with construction along river and enforcement. Mr. Thibaut also stated that there has been questions about a pier ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

Next meeting will be April 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.