

MINUTES  
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL  
August 7, 2019

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at the Pointe Coupee Parish Council Room in New Roads, Louisiana.

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

Present: Major Thibaut, Arthur Ewing, Cy D'Aquila, Jerry Hix, Jimmy Chustz, Ron Pourciau, Mark Ward, , Thomas Van Biersel, Ricky Moses

Absent: Rick Ward, Brad Spicer, Steve Chustz, Jacob Haffner, Bijan Sharafkhani, Jeremy LaCombe

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. J. Chustz.

Resolved, that the agenda for the meeting of August 7, 2019 be accepted.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 26, 2019 MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2019 meeting by Mr. Ewing and second by Mr. J. Chustz.

Resolved, that the June 26, 2019 minutes are approved.

UPDATE ON FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT – PHASE II:

Mr. Gerald Babin gave a report regarding the dredging project. The project is currently at day 192. Contract ends on August 25, 2019 but will continue if the project requires past this date. 68,000 cubic yards removed so far. The dewatering process is taking longer than anticipated. Additional bags are coming in along with topping off existing bags. Movement of bags has been resolved by constructing a berm around each bag. Contractor does not feel that drawdown will affect the project.

Mr. Thibaut expressed concern regarding drainage around the staging area. Would like to meet with the contractor to discuss these issues. Asked about topping off the island in the south end. Mr. Babin stated he would talk to contractor about topping off island.

Mr. Ewing asked about capacity. Mr. Babin stated that if the bags are filled to standard, then they could get 15,000 more cubic yards in area. Volume of material is about 95,000. The areas of thickest material have been dredged.

Mr. Thibaut questioned how much is being removed versus what is being paid for. Mr. Babin stated the capacity of the property will be the issue. Moving the first bags will give more space, but stacking the bags are not ideal.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Priorities for Future: Mr. Thibaut spoke about the capital outlay process, the responsibility of maintaining M1 and M2 canal bulkheads in addition to Lighthouse Canal. There is a need to upgrade the gate system and gages. The additional funding coming for False River needs to be prioritized. False River from Bayou Chenal is becoming increasingly harder to access. Another priority he has seen is work at the boat launch.

Mr. Moses explained that funds for boat launches are limited. The equipment and value of property could be used for match requirements with regards to funding for boat launches.

Mr. Van Biersel spoke of a state wide DOTD program. He believes that the flooding issues in the past would help the parish get in position for funding.

There was discussion about what the parish could do for Bayou Chenal including rocks/erosion control.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Van Beirsel spoke about the draft channel maintenance manual.

Mr. Ewing made a motion to adopt the channel maintenance manual.

Mr. Thibaut seconded.

No opposition

Motion passed.

Discussion regarding the Lighthouse Canal Operation Plan.

LDWF gave an update on donation of excess pipe which will be used for the construction of fish habitat. They will be deployed at north flats and the Kiwanis will mark them with buoys.

The drawdown will begin day after Labor Day. It is expected to go down by 1.5 inches per day. There was talk about oxygen levels and preventing fish kills. There was discussion about leaving the lake at 15 ft. and then starting from there for drawdown.

Mr. Hix offered a motion to recommend to the parish to drop the river to 15 ft. before the drawdown. Seconded by Mr. J. Chustz.

A voted was held:

For: Major Thibaut, Cy D'Aquila, Jerry Hix, Jimmy Chustz, Ron Pourciau, Mark Ward, Thomas Van Biersel, Ricky Moses

Against: None

Abstained: Mr. Ewing

Motion Passed.

Mr. Thibaut indicated that he would follow the written recommendation of LDWF with regards to lowering the lake level to 15ft prior to the drawdown date.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Bill Ruiz  
Jude Glazer  
Keith Robillard  
Tommy Bryant

Next meeting will be September 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. Pourciau.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.