

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
November 7, 2012

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 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. Stephen Chustz, Owen Bello, Jerry Hix, Jimmy Lyles, Paul Miller, Kyle Olinde, Cy D'Aguila, Jimmy Chustz, Ron Pourciau, Jake Causey, Major Thibaut, Rick Ward, Dr. Connie Castille and Mr. Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Mr. Steve Juge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2012, be accepted as written and be officially published.

Unanimously carried.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Stephen Chustz and seconded by Mr. Pourciau:

RESOLVED, That the Agenda be amended for inclusion of the following:

- Commercial Fishing Season Update

Unanimously carried.

STATUS OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO NO WAKE ZONE

Mr. Bello reported the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury made it law to make a change to the no wake zone. Mr. J. Chustz discussed with the council that 150 yards be accepted for spacing of the buoys and flats. Mr. J. Chustz will give the Kiwanis the locations of the buoys. The council was in agreement that nine or ten buoys are needed on both the north and south ends of the lake.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. J. Chustz:

RESOLVED, That the Pointe Coupee Police Jury purchase the bouys to be placed in False River and set by the Kiwanis.

Unanimously carried.

SEDIMENT MONITORING PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Van Biersel reported on the Draft Alternative Action Plan. LA Department of Natural Resources is producing data collection to be downloaded on a monthly basis. Sediment from storms will be monitored and surveys will be completed. Chairman Wood suggested to the council to get started with the data collection.

STATUS OF CHANNEL AND BASIN MAINTENANCE PLAN

Mr. Bello reported to the council that the Police Jury has been given copies of the plan to review and will produce an ordinance.

FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Thibaut reported to the council a \$500,000 appropriation will be considered by the State Bond Commission who will approve the recommendations. He thanked Mr. Pouciau who got commercial fisherman to the area and for the article in The Advocate. Mr. Thibaut stated the council is working on obtaining \$2.2 million in funding for next year which should be easier to obtain from Capital Outlay. Mr. S. Chustz stated once funding is approved, the jury will receive notification, then the permitting process will be in motion. Mr. Thibaut stated there is an opportunity for private funding in the amount of 1.5 million dollars. Mr. Thibaut met with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation where it was stated funding can come from contributions through corporations or individuals. Three board members and a scope have to be recommended to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation in order to obtain funding. The three (3) board members recommended are David Bondy, Gail Roy and Tommy Bryant. They will be informed of what is needed from them when they meet. The paperwork will be drawn up once the members are officially established.

Motion by Mr. Lyles and seconded by Mr. Causey:

RESOLVED, That three (3) board members and a scope be accepted as a mission statement and be presented to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Unanimously carried.

The council accepted the names presented to them.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. J. Chustz:

RESOLVED, That Messrs. David Bondy, Tommy Bryant and Ms. Gail Roy become members of the sub-committee to go before the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to help obtain funding.

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Unanimously carried.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Chairman Wood informed the council of the need to be proactive between meetings. He stated categories need to be in place for the each sub-committee. The council has to find out what area of expertise the people have for specific committees.

Chairman Wood informed the council sub-committees can meet as often as they feel the need to. He read the lists of members on the sub-committees.

Mr. Van Biersel will post table of contents to website.

COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON UPDATE

Mr. Pourciau informed the council of the opening of the commercial rough fish season which was a low turnout but the fish were plentiful. He shared with the council pictures of fish was caught. Mr. Pourciau stated four sets of fishermen will be visiting False River. Mr. Pourciau expressed concerns regarding the rough fish population getting to the point where they need to be and concerns of fishermen having a way to keep the fish because they are so plentiful. Chairman Wood stated the fishing season is in effect now to avoid conflict with other river activity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Dugas expressed concerns regarding a large fish kill. Ms. Rachel Walley, Biologist with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries informed the council that they did not find any dead fish. She stated the kill could have been a result of contaminated water, low oxygen and/or localized change in the water.

Mr. Tommy Bryant stated he is happy with the rough fish netting's visibility which is needed. He thanked the committee. He expressed concerns regarding Atchafalaya Spillway and study of False River and catch and release during storms. Mr. Wood informed the council ten districts were assigned to get extensive data of fish's age and growth. Data will be analyzed as soon as possible. The answer is not yet known.

Mr. Wood informed the council LA Wildlife & Fisheries samplings of fish are reported in the management plans.

Mr. Keith Robillard expressed concerns with allocation of the \$500,000 in state funds. Mr. S. Chustz said portions of the funding was set for terrace construction, habitat construction and engineering for the entire project but is not specific. The council discussed a possibility of funds being allocated for other purposes. Mr. Thibaut stated sub-committees may create long term plans. Mr. Ward stated

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when funds are received, more progress will be made. Mr. Thibaut thanked everyone involved in this process and stated there was a productive meeting with Capital Outlay.

Motion by Mr. Ward and seconded by Mr. Pourciau, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN