

FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes of the September 5, 2012 Meeting

At 5PM the meeting was called to order and the roll called by Chairman Mike Wood. Present were; Ron Pourciau, Jerry Hix, Stephen Chustz, Kyle Olinde, Rick Ward, Mike Wood, Jake Causey, Jimmy Chustz, Jimmy Lyles, Cy D'Aquila, Major Thibaut, Steve Juge, Jim Bello, a quorum was in attendance.

Motion by Rick Ward second by Major Thibaut to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2012 meeting, unanimously carried.

Jim Bello reported on the Apache Foundation Tree Grant and advised that the application at this time was denied and that the Council should reapply in 2013. Steve Juge suggested the resources of Baton Rouge Green for trees, Don Haydel with DNR said he would inquire with them.

Thomas Van Biersel with DNR presented a draft plan for Channel and Basin Maintenance of the existing silt trap and discussed how the plan might work via use of annual or bi-annual inspections. The draft plan will be presented to the Pointe Coupee Police Jury for their review.

Co- Chairman Stephen Chustz commented on the status of work to collect sediment input data around False River. He introduced Justin Shaw the project engineer for Fenstermaker whose firm has been hired to collect the data and perform the study. Chairman Wood requested a time frame for completion. Mr. Shaw advised that a minimum of six months was needed as a variety of rainfall events would be required to develop the model, and that a lack of rainfall would impact the time frame.

Jim Bello discussed the draft model ordinance for erosion and sediment control as developed by Thomas Van Biersel. He suggested that the Police Jury should implement such a plan and Kyle Olinde agreed that we would introduce the draft plan to the Police Jury. Jimmy Lyle suggested that we should develop breakout groups to work through and refine these types of documents and plans. Steve Juge suggested that creation of sub committees would be a good idea to study large issues. A subcommittee was created to study the model ordinance consisting of the following members, Kyle Olinde, Jim Bello, Cy D' Aquila, Thomas Van Biersel and Rachel Walley.

Jimmy Chustz introduced the maps his company developed defining the various depth contour lines from 2 to six feet in the north and south flats of False River. Discussion was help by the Council on what was the appropriate depth in consideration boater safety and

creation of turbidity by boaters. On a motion by Major Thibaut and unanimous second and vote of members present it was agreed that the six foot contour with modifications to the contour in the north flats be recommended to the Pointe Coupee Police for adoption by ordinance. Mr. Chustz advised that he would provide the Pointe Coupee Kiwanis the necessary GIS coordinates for placement of the buoys.

Jimmy Lyles provide and update on his meeting with John Spain with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) in effort to locate an organization that could accept contributions. Mr. Lyles advised that BRAAF can set up a "Field of Interest Fund" and manage the funds at no cost. The Council would have to create a three member board to make recommendations. Co-Chair Stephen Chustz recommended checking with the La. Ethics Board. Major Thibaut agreed to set a meeting with Ms. Kathleen Allen and to have a report for the next Council meeting. Rick Ward and Jim Bello agreed to attend the meeting with Major.

Major Thibaut provided an update on the \$500,000 in state capital outlay funds for False River and the timeline. He advised that both he and Rick Ward had discussed the project and funding with the state Division of Administration and that False Rivers funding was in line and that new projects will be considered by the State Bond Commission in September and October 2012. Co-Chair Stephen Chustz expressed concerns of understanding the timeline of approval of funds, engineering, permitting, etc to completion.

A round table discussion was held on the drawdown concept. Jim Bello advised that the lake was drawn down to the 15' foot level due to Hurricane Isaac and that there were no complaints. Major Thibaut stated that plans need to be made for draw downs. Chairman Wood sated that the LADWLF does have a plan/schedule for draw downs and that watershed issues should be the major focus. Jimmy Lyles stated that the silt entering the lake should be controlled first. Major Thibaut stated that a contingency plan was needed. Jerry Hix commented that he was being contacted by residents wanting to know when the drawdown will begin. Chairman Woods stated that a press release should be provided. Mr. Lyles stated that the Council should wait until funding was secured. It was the general consensus of the present council members that funding is the priority at this time.

The Council discussed next steps and the path forward. Co-Chair Stephen Chustz suggested the development of more sub-committees. Chairman Wood suggested the minutes be published. On a motion by Major Thibaut and second by Rick Ward to publish the minutes in the Pointe Coupee Banner, unanimously carried.

In public comment Ron Pourciau requested an update on the commercial netting season and Glenn Darby questioned the purpose stocking of hybrid stripers into False River. Chairman Wood commented on both questions advising that the Louisiana Wildlife Commission was handling the netting season and he would solicit an update from them. On the hybrid stripers he advised that their purpose was to provide open water control of the plentiful shad population in the lake and to add recreational value to the fishery. He further stated that black bass and stripers do not compete for food resources.

On a motion by Jerry Hix and second by Co-Chair Stephen Chustz the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Jimmy Bello