

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
June 18, 2013

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 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. Owen Bello, Jimmy Chustz, Stephen Chustz, Paul Miller, Jake Causey, Jimmy Lyles, Kyle Olinde, Major Thibaut, Dr. Carrie Castille and Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Messrs. Cy D'Aquila, Jerry Hix, Ron Pourciau and Rick Ward.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Thibaut and seconded by Mr. Bello:

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

- Chenal Bayou

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2013, be accepted as written and be officially published.

Unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Mr. Thibaut discussed the Capital Outlay Bill with the council. He stated that once the bill is signed, \$1.5 million will be available for spending. He informed the council he filed a bill that would utilize severance funds, but the bill did not pass.

FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Thibaut discussed facility planning with the council. He discussed steps to be taken in order to start spending funds. He informed the council documentation will be signed next week. PEC will assist in water projects. He stated everyone involved will work hard to stay on schedule.

Mr. Thibaut also informed the council NRG will soon aid in funding in the amount of \$250 thousand per year over a four year period. The NRG funds are designated toward M-1 canal and the drainage areas connected to it.

STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Thomas Van Biersel discussed the status update on actions proposed for False River. He briefly discussed, channel and sediment maintenance, watershed drainage network assessment, habitat improvement and commercial fishing. He reported no update on water quality. He presented documentation on the first phase for the water canal. He informed the council the long term action report was submitted to the legislature. He discussed the changes needed for the report. He went on to discuss the tasks presented to the council.

FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Thibaut informed the council that WBRZ and Richard Manship donated a production of the mini documentary on False River. Baton Rouge Area Foundation will utilize it to assist in the False River project. Mr. Thibaut presented copies to the council.

CHENAL BAYOU

Mr. Thibaut expressed concerns from his constituents regarding silt in Chenal Bayou. He stated farm ground is draining into it. The council members discussed better management practices be put in place. Mr. Justin Fenstermaker discussed data on sediment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Wood informed the council that the individual who is over the three-year aging study for the project was presently on vacation, but will have an update very soon.

Mr. Thibaut introduced URS representative, Charlie Bartz and informed the council they do engineering works for water projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rudi Schnur expressed appreciation to the council for their efforts. Mr. Thibaut informed the council that the cooperative endeavor agreement will be ready within the week. He also informed the council that funds will soon be received from NRG. Mr. S. Chustz discussed additional funding from Capital Outlay. Mr. Thibaut discussed Priority 5 being moved to the top of the priority list.

The council discussed meeting scheduling.

Mr. S. Chustz discussed information about the False River project being circulated to the public.

June 18, 2013

3

Motion by Mr. S. Chustz and seconded by Mr. Causey, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN