

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
December 12, 2018

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the East Carroll Parish Sheriff's office at 11:00 a.m. on December 12, 2018.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moses.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Ricky Moses (Chair), T. Van Biersel, Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, Andy Brister, Teddy Schneider, Mark Brown, Reynold Minsky

Others in Attendance: Ryan Daniel (LDWF), Dan Moore (COE)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the October 11, 2018 council meeting were approved.

AGENDA

The current agenda was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

It was announced that Eddie Foster (NRCS) is no longer working in EC and that the Council should invite his replacement to attend future meetings and request participation with the Council.

M. Brown and T. Schneider commented that some of the producers in the watershed were not able to plant cover crops due to wet conditions in the fields. Though, natural and volunteer plant growth should provide some benefit in reducing soil erosion.

A. Brister stated that L. Denny (absent) has details pertaining to the road swap plan between Parish and DOTD. Some roads have been identified as potential candidates.

R. Minsky reported that he had met with Denmon Engineering to discuss potential funding for the Tensas structure repairs and cleaning out of Tensas Bayou. Denmon stated that there may be funding through the LA Watershed Initiative to restore Tensas Bayou to its pre-1974 condition. Denmon has already completed some of the engineering on the structure and is capable of designing a stream cleaning project. Mr. Minsky also reported that he spoke with Sean Benton (LDOTD), who agreed to meet with the Council. He also stated that the COE would likely approve any dredging that would be required as part of the Tensas cleaning and returning it to pre-1974 conditions.

A. Brister announced that he and L. Denny would be travelling to Baton Rouge in January 2019 to meet with various individuals who may influence project funding including LDOTD, legislators, and others.

T. Van Biersel stated that it would be beneficial to meet with Jay Dardenne (DOA) to assist with funding under HB2 (capital outlay).

The Council voted unanimously to request Sen. Thompson by act of SCR to extend the sunset date of the Council for at least 2 years (Dec. 2020).

Dan Moore (COE) stated that the COE has authority to conduct cleaning on Tensas Bayou south of Hwy. 580. He also stated that the COE had sent a “guidance” letter to the Council, though it was not known if it had been received. A. Brister will check with R. Minsky to see if he has received this letter.

F. Lensing stated that the Tensas structure appears to be holding water since the application of numerous sacks of Sakrete. The structure has been completely submerged for a month or more from frequent rainfall.

NEW BUSINESS

T. Van Biersel asked if anything else had resulted from the meeting with Denmon Engineering over the Tensas Bayou structure. Denmon could design a new structure, though it would likely have little drawdown capacity.

T. Van Biersel commented that efforts should be directed toward the Tensas structure, as it should be the primary outflow for the lake, not Baxter Bayou. The channel at Baxter should be diverted so as not to flow towards the lake.

Question was asked if R. Minsky may have the spec.’s (stream bottom levels) on Tensas Bayou from pre-1974. Council will request this information.

T. Schneider stated the he believed that the Council was instrumental in causing the local NRCS to engage watershed producers in the MRBI cover crop program. The program likely would not have happened without efforts of the Council. M. Brown agreed.

It was agreed by all that the Council should publicize the efforts and progress that have been made thus far. Inquiries about media releases were made. R. Moses stated that LDWF may be able to issue a press release. Also Farm Bureau, LDEQ, etc...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The next council meeting was scheduled for March 20, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., to be held in the Sheriffs office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Ricky Moses, Chairman