

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
February 1, 2017

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office on February 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moses

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Francis Lensing, Andy Brister, Reynold Minsky, Teddy Schneider, Mark Brown, Joey Smith, Lee Denny, Rep. Andy Anders, Ricky Moses (Chairman)

Others in Attendance: John Posey (LDEQ), Ryan Daniel (LDWF), Michael Schooler (LDAF), Mike Renfrow (USFWS), Brian Howard (Soil and Water Dist.), J. Everett (COE), Brandon Davis?(COE)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the December 1, 2016 council meeting were approved.

COMMENTS and DISCUSSION

Old Business

A review of the current Council members was given at Rep. Anders request.

A. Brister mentioned informal meeting amongst local Council members in January to discuss project needs.

A. Brister submitted hard copies of the report including personal letters to T. Van Biersel for delivery to Mark Moses and Jay Dardenne.

Rep. Anders recommends to be persistent with funding requests and to contact all 15 legislators of the northeast LA delegation.

B. Davis? (COE) – reported that COE has received request from Council and will be prioritizing projects as soon as funding is announced (soon). Suggested that a visit with COE Col. may be appropriate once funding is known. This project has been submitted under the Continuing Authorities Program – Sec. 206.

T. Van Biersel – pre-application by ECPPJ to LDOTD due by May 1 (replacement of structures in Tensas and Baxter bayous). Legislation to waive matching fund requirement (10%) may be necessary, though would have to be submitted next year. Request for the number of structures flooded during the March 2016 flood. It was estimated from LiDAR that 900 acres were flooded at 5 ft. above pool stage.

L. Denny – announced receiving \$280,000 from FEMA (incl. local match). This will not be enough for structure replacement, has been proposed to be used for the cleaning of portions of Tensas and Otter bayous.

T. Schneider – gave update on recent MRBI activity (by NRCS) in the watershed: 4 landowners are currently enrolled; \$230,000 allocated by NRCS in 2016 for 3 years of projects that improve water quality; an additional \$410,000 available in 2017 for more landowners; funding may be lost if more landowners do not sign up. It may be necessary to knock on doors to get additional landowners to participate.

M. Renfrow – announced an Ag. meeting on Feb. 7 at the Cotton Museum to discuss all issues related to farming in the area.

New Business

R. Moses – suggested next meeting to be held via conference call, agreed by all

The next council meeting was set for April 5, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., to be held by conference call. Instructions will be e-mailed to all.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Ricky Moses, Chairman