

**MINUTES**  
**LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**March 29, 2016**

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office on March 29, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Van Biersel (in the absence of Chairman Myers)

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Jim Lensing, Francis Lensing, Andy Brister, Reynold Minsky, Teddy Schneider, Donna Winters, Mark Brown, Lee Denny, Kevin Wofford

Others in Attendance: U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, Kent Parrish (USACE), Donovan Taves (ECSWCD), John Posey (LDEQ), Kendall Thompson (VP-ECPJ), Gwendolyn Berthelot (LDEQ-NPS Mngr.), Keith Brown, Ryan Daniel (LDWF)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the February 11, 2016 Council meeting were not presented for approval.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Dr. Van Biersel reported on the 2015 Draft FEMA report which stated that no drainage projects are been proposed on Tensas Bayou because no studies have been completed in the proposed area.

Rep. Abraham asked who is responsible for a study. Dr. Van Biersel replied that funding is normally routed through a local entity (ECPJ) since it is a local project. Mr. Parrish offered assistance by USACE.

Mr. Schneider provided a description of lake conditions during recent flood event, including aerial photos showing sediment inflows.

Mr. Minsky stated that the levee district will conduct the necessary maintenance to Tensas Bayou if funding is provided. He will work with the USACE to look at potential funding sources.

It was agreed that there should be 2 separate studies: Lake Providence Watershed and Downstream Outflows.

Mrs. Winters mentioned the importance of slowing the flow of water into the lake and asked about means to accomplish. She also acknowledged the importance of assistance from Rep. Abraham.

Mr. Brister mentioned discussion with Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, who stated that legislative funding was a real possibility, with Lake Providence having an equal opportunity.

Mr. Taves spoke of a drainage issue which impacts his property. Mr. Minsky inquired about the specific problem and how could it be addressed. The problem described by Mr. Taves was insufficient culvert area in a privately constructed earthen dam. This issue was agreed to be investigated further.

Mr. Parrish gave brief description (described in February meeting) of USACE 1135 funding and suggested combining funds with capital outlay funding (if secured).

Dr. Van Biersel suggested Mr. Minsky consult with Mr. Parrish on downstream issues within jurisdiction of USACE.

Mrs. Berthelot gave an update of LDEQ investigations and stated that studies triggered by an impaired status for total dissolved solids under Sec. 319 will be initiated very soon. An implementation plan will be associated with this project.

Dr. Van Biersel issued reminder that a final draft of the Interim Report will be necessary by May 1, any additional pertinent information needed a.s.a.p. Further information is still needed for: Land Use Development, Management Strategies, and Funding Strategies

Dr. Van Biersel expressed the potential need for local ordinances as management strategies, providing examples such as bulkhead construction, pier construction/removal, lakeside construction.

Mr. Brister mentioned that an extension for the existence of the Lake Providence Watershed Council beyond Dec. 31, 2016 has been applied for.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 21st, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Randy Myers, Chairman