

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
April 5, 2017

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met via conference call at 9:00 a.m. on April 5, 2017.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moses

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, Andy Brister, Teddy Schneider, Joey Smith, Lee Denny, Donna Winters, Ricky Moses (Chairman)

Others in Attendance: Ryan Daniel (LDWF), Mike Renfrow (USFWS)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the February 1, 2017 council meeting were approved. Motion by F. Lensing, second by L. Denny.

COMMENTS and DISCUSSION

Old Business

T. Van Biersel - Review of pre-application checklist:

- pre-app. by ECPPJ (prep. by L. Denny) to LDOTD due by May 1 (replacement of structures in Tensas and Baxter bayous). No previous legislation to waive matching fund requirement (10%) was discovered but may still be possible.
- Request for the number of structures flooded during the 2008 and 2016 floods. L. Denny will contact ECP Homeland Security Director (L. Reed) for this figure.
- Announced the need for support letters from Sen. Thompson and Rep. Anders. A. Brister requested a draft letter and offered to get the letters signed by both.
- Request of a land use map of area surrounding lake
- Request of confirmation of property ownership at Tensas and Baxter Bayous. F. Lensing stated that Tensas may be accessed off of a State Hwy. and that Baxter is accessed from private property. He will research the ownership of this property.
- Request for any information concerning past drainage improvement plans or projects, including more details about the USACE proposal (with map) issued previously to R. Minsky.
- Need to review and finalize a.s.a.p.

New Business

A. Brister announced that he is pursuing funding from BP settlement that has been dedicated to tourism in LA. Will determine if improvements to L. Providence will qualify.

A. Vincent announced that EPA has approved funding to initiate a 4-year water quality sampling project on L. Providence, administered by LDEQ. Sampling is expected to begin in May-June, 2017.

F. Lensing gave report on rain event that moved through area on April 2nd. L. Providence received approx. 3 inches of rain, north end of Lake has gotten muddy. Backflow into lake observed at Baxter and Tensas bayous. He does not believe turbidity will persist as in past, possibly due to recent NRCS cover crop projects in the watershed.

D. Winters reported that Tensas Bayou is flowing north due to higher rainfall amounts south of L. Providence.

M. Renfrow – sent map of recent wetland projects in area to L. Denny

R. Moses – requested comments/opinions of utilizing a conference call for regular Council meetings. Several members, including R. Moses, had favorable opinions and agreed to continue as appropriate. D. Winters suggested an in-person meeting at least once every quarter.

J. Lensing reported that crappie fishing has been very good on the lake recently, better than it has been in recent years. R. Daniel replied that LDWF will be conducting an electrofishing survey next week to assess the current fish population.

The next council meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., to be held by conference call. Instructions will be e-mailed to all.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Ricky Moses, Chairman