

# Banner-Democrat

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Lake Providence, LA

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## Watershed meeting on lake and water quality

Last week, the Lake Providence Watershed Council hosted a public meeting at the Louisiana Cotton Museum to seek ideas and avenues of funding. This meeting was organized in hopes to present a plan to address the protection of the natural resources in the parish water bodies, such as the lake. Top soil and excessive rain has created sediments in the lake. These sediments are causing massive problems with the water coloration in the lake as well as its ability to manage to successfully get the water to properly drain from the lake in a manner that doesn't create flooding in other parts of the parish.

Numerous residents were in attendance at the meeting. Local attorney, Andy Brister, Mark Brown, Donna Winters, Jim Lensing, Francis

Lensing, Reynold S. Minsky, and Teddy Schneider compiled the local Watershed Council. They made it clear that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the public about the purpose of the council and the progress of dealing with local water quality issues.

There is an excessive amount of brown water discoloration caused by soil erosion. A member of the state's conservation department advised area farmers that there are grants, which are available for persons interested in planting cover crops during the winter.

These crops will prevent their land from becoming dirt and mud that will slide into the lake easily and contribute to the problem.

Drainage in the low lying areas of town and

use of the lake, as well as recreational use of the lake by tourist and fishermen, are also major concerns. Any plans to address water quality also requires input to address these problems as well. Other possible ideas to help alleviate the problem includes the following: buffer zones, pipe drops on adjoining farmland along with dikes, sediment basins and diversion canals to slow down the flow of the eroded soil into the lake.

One person said, to put it mildly, if mud and dirt is transported into the lake and does not have a reliable canal to exit the lake, then it is eroding the lake by increasing the land under the lake. Citizens can go online and read the report by going to website: [www.dnr.la.gov/lake-providence](http://www.dnr.la.gov/lake-providence).