

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
OCTOBER 21, 2015

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Chairman Randy Myers called the meeting to order:

PRESENT: Thomas Van Biersal, Amanda Vincent, Jim Lensing, Donna Winters, Francis Lensing, Teddy Schneider, Lee Denny, Reynolds Minsky, Joey Smith, Andy Brister, Mark Brown, and Randy Myers, Chairman.
Others: Steve Nipper (NRCS), Eddie Foster (NRCS), Keith Brown (Rep. Abraham's office), Ryan Daniel (LDWF)

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Dr. Thomas Van Biersel presented initial copies of Managing Lake Providence Watershed Resources, a working draft to be presented to the legislature in April 2016. Council members volunteered to assume lead roles in various areas of expertise as listed in the table of contents.

Dr. Van Biersel again discussed the need to establish a hydrology study for Lake Providence to understand the effect rain events have on lake levels.

Mr. Francis Lensing inquired about re-establishing a lake commission. Randy Myers explained there are basically two means of establishment – appointment by police jury and creation by legislation. It was decided to determine the last appointees made by the police jury and request re-appointment of a full commission.

Mr. Nipper and Mr. Foster with NRCS explained the Miss. River Basin Initiative program, which provides funding for certain NRCS practices for a 3-year period, with expectations of improved water quality. Mr. Brown and Dr. Van Biersel agreed that improvements in drainage and erosion control are needed within the watershed and that voluntary participation by landowners is likely in the upcoming years.

Mr. Minsky and Mrs. Winters discussed the need for clearing trees and debris from the upper Tensas River. This would provide more rapid draining of Lake Providence following flood events. Funding for this project is needed.

A new weir and control structure at the Tensas River outflow was recommended by several members.

Misc. Items Discussed:

- ECPJ has requested capital outlay funding for a hydrology study
- need to form a “vision” for the lake; ex.: active water level control, etc...
- very little historic data available
- lake-wide bathymetric (depth) survey needed

The next meeting was set for November 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Randy Myers, Chairman