

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Chairman Randy Myers called the meeting to order:

PRESENT: Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Jim Lensing, Donna Winters, Francis Lensing, Teddy Schneider, Lee Denny, Representative Andy Anders, Reynolds Minsky, Joey Smith and Randy Myers, Chairman.

Chairman Myers discussed the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 115 by Senator Thompson and Representative Anders that established the Lake Providence Watershed Council. The SCR identified the membership of the LPWC. Additionally, other resource agencies were identified to solicit their views and input with respect to completing a study of Lake Providence. A report of the LPWC findings shall be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality no later than May 1, 2016.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF FALSE RIVER PROJECT

Dr. Thomas Van Biersel presented an overview of the False River project. He discussed various aspects of the project including the establishment of the False River Watershed Commission. He provided an update on the Phase I project, the planned Phase II project and the M-1 canal project. He also discussed the funding for the project. He informed the council of the DNR website, falsriverrestoration.dnr.la.gov, where reports, meeting minutes and other information for the project can be found. Chairman Myers discussed information about the Lake Providence waterbody management plans available on LDWF's website at www.wlf.la.gov.

Dr. Van Biersel also discussed the need to establish a hydrology study for Lake Providence to understand the effect rain events have on lake levels. Following Dr. Van Biersel discussion, the committee discussed many aspects of the False River project, the lessons learned and how they relate to Lake Providence. Mr. Minsky indicated the council is seeking advice from DEQ, DNR, LDWF, and other agencies and stakeholders on how to manage the lake. Members recommended seeking assistance from the NRCS and to invite the NRCS to attend the meetings.

Mr. Francis Lensing and Representative Andy Anders discussed the existence of the Lake Providence Lake Commission and the fact that Mr. Lensing is the only current member. Members discussed the need to review the legislation to determine how the board was established. Re-establishment of the Commission was recommended.

The Council discussed identifying goals that will be important to completing the final report as directed by SCR 115. Goals such as the decrease in sediments, improved fisheries, boating access, and the re-establishment of the Lake Commission were discussed.

The next meeting was set for October 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Randy Myers, Chairman