

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
January 24, 2024

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met in person in Lake Providence on January 24, 2024.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Butler.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (11): Kristi Butler (Chairman), Thomas Van Biersel (Vice Chairman), Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, Andy Brister, Mark Brown, Randy Walters, Roger Clement

A quorum was met.

Others in Attendance: R. Daniel (LDWF), Anthony Bridgewater (NRCS)

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting were approved: J. Lensing (motion), A. Brister (second).

The agenda of this meeting was approved: Jim Lensing (motion), R. Walters (second).

REPORTS

1. Fifth Levee Board update – None (R. Minsky absent)
2. Police Jury Update – R. Walters mentioned the funding (\$350,000) from the LWI-HMGP for the Baxter Project.
3. Capital Outlay – None.
4. Watershed Council Report – Thomas Van Biersel: report is due May 1, will get a copy to everyone prior for review
5. Fisheries Update – Ryan Daniel: discussed Christmas tree project. They will be put out in coming weeks. The low water levels from the recent drought were discussed, including the potential benefits to the fishery. A few council members mentioned seeing numerous mussel shells in the lake bottom during the low water period. A request was made by K. Butler to give thanks to Ronza Osteen for paying for the delivery of the Christmas trees to the LDWF office.

NEW BUSINESS

R. Daniel discussed the need for the Council to create a scope of work for inclusion in the grant request process. It was decided to focus on hydrology issues. It will be beneficial to provide this when applying for various grants. The question of dredging on the north end was brought up and T. Van Biersel mentioned concerns over possible DDT and other contaminants in soil, which may prevent any disturbance of the lake bottom. A discussion concerning sediment traps was brought up. It was mentioned that they would be required to be installed on private lands. T. Van Biersel mention they could potentially be installed in-lake. R. Clemens asked about re-routing Jack Falls

Bayou and should be included in any studies conducted. The relocation of the Baxter Bayou structure should be included. The False River model will be very useful. It has resulted in a 30% reduction in sediment input.

A. Bridgewater mentioned the MRBI is still active but can't be repeated on acreage where it has already been done. The NRCS will cost-share for buffer strips but land owners are hesitant to take land out of production. Vegetative buffers are preferred by farmers but are expensive. A. Bridgewater has submitted request for NRCS study in E. Carroll and will search for past studies of this area. They are typically larger than a lake watershed study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. April 17th in Lake Providence.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. A. Brister (motion), R. Clement (second)

Kristi Butler, Chairman