

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
April 17, 2024

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met via conference call on April 17, 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, Brian Howard, Reynold Minsky, Amy Preau

A quorum was met.

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting were approved: F. Lensing (motion), B. Howard (second).

The agenda of this meeting was approved: M. Brown (motion), F. Lensing (second).

REPORTS

1. Fifth Levee Board update (Minsky) – Ramona Martin with Letlow’s office is visiting LP today to survey the flood conditions and to see the problems with the Tensas drainage. The COE supposedly has funding for Tensas work but needs a directive from Letlow to release funds for this project.
2. Police Jury Update – None.
3. Capital Outlay (VanBiersel) – 2024 HB2: \$100,000 in Level 1 and \$300,000 in Level 5 for “repairs and drainage” projects in LP watershed
4. Watershed Council Report (Van Biersel) – will make change to Item 1 regarding this meeting (from in-person to conf. call). Will submit final report if no other edits are received.
Vote to approve Final Report: J. Lensing (motion), R. Minsky (second)
5. Fisheries Update – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Brister asked about the benefits of the cover crop program to the fishery and potential negative impacts by excessive fishing and new technology (i.e. Livescope). R. Daniel replied that the cover crop program may have provided some benefit by reducing turbidity during the spawning season and that increased abundance of crappie has been documented since 2015, around the time when the MRBI program was initiated in the watershed. K. Butler commented that Livescope usage is increasing and catch rates appear to be higher among anglers using it, though negative impacts to fisheries have yet to be documented.

A. Brister asked how we could re-implement the cover crop program in the LP watershed. A. Bridgewater replied that he is trying to get it going again in the area but cost-sharing previously enrolled acreage is not allowed. He is looking for alternative means or programs to increase the usage of cover crops in the immediate vicinity of the lake.

A. Preau stated that recent samples have shown that LP is not meeting standards for dissolved oxygen, which could be a limiting factor for fish propagation. K. Butler replied that providing for a means to improve d.o. levels should be included in the Scope-of-Work document currently being prepared.

COMMENTS

A. Brister commented that the lake has been very muddy for much of this spring.

R. Minsky commented that water was recently flowing into the lake over the Baxter structure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. B. Howard (motion), A. Preau (second)

Kristi Butler, Chairman