

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
July 17, 2024

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met via conference call on July 17, 2024.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Butler.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (11): Kristi Butler (Chairman), Francis Lensing, Andy Brister, Mark Brown, Brian Howard, Reynold Minsky, Roger Clement, Michael Schooler, Donna Winters

A quorum was met.

Others in Attendance: R. Daniel (LDWF), Jacob Brister (Andy's son), Nicholas Greer (NRCS)

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting were approved: A. Brister (motion), R. Clement (second).

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

REPORTS

1. Fifth Levee Board update (Minsky) – No update. Ramona Martin with Letlow's office did visit LP following the last Council meeting to survey the flood conditions and to see the problems with the Tensas drainage.
2. Police Jury Update – None.
3. Capital Outlay (Brister) – 2024 HB2: \$100,000 in Level 1 should have been approved; not sure if \$300,000 in Level 5 for "repairs and drainage" projects in LP watershed was approved
4. Watershed Council Report (Butler) – report was submitted; reminder to continue taking photos around the watershed
5. Fisheries Update – None. Discussion about low bass abundance with potential causes being turbid or unsuitable conditions during spawning season, an overabundance of crappie, low d.o. levels... LDWF agreed to sample for crappie this fall to assess the 2024 year class.

OTHER: F. Lensing stated the new Tensas weir is working great. R. Clement stated the new culvert past the Country Club is not big enough and is restricting flow. He noticed a 3ft. drop in elevation on the downstream side following a rain event. May need an explanation from DOTD. Suggested to contact Francis Thompson.

NEW BUSINESS

K. Butler mentioned various LWI funding possibilities. K. Butler formally introduced Michael Schooler as the new LDAF representative on the Council.

COMMENTS

B. Howard suggested a launch fee for the two public ramps, with funds collected to be used for lake projects or to offset cover crop costs for critical crop areas. Concluded that launch fees will not be popular on LP. A. Brister suggested locating or creating a foundation to raise funds for various watershed projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Oct. 23rd via conference call, though may meet in person if J. Brister (COE) will be able to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Kristi Butler, Chairman