

MINUTES  
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL  
November 15, 2017

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 3:00 p.m. on November 15, 2017 at the Courthouse Annex Building in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Ricky Moses called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Jeanne Hendrix to call the roll:

Present: Messrs. Major Thibaut, Arthur Ewing, Jerry Hix, Ron Pourciau, Kyle Olinde, Ricky Moses, Thomas Van Biersel, Byron Nagel, Steve Chustz, Bijan Sharafkhani

Absent: Messrs. Brad Spicer, Jimmy Chustz, Cy D'Aquila, Rick Ward, Mark Ward

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Van Biersel. Second by Mr. Ewing.  
No opposition.

Resolved, That the agenda of the meeting of November 15, 2017 is accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Ewing to approve and second by Mr. Van Biersel.

Resolved, That the minutes of the September 20, 2017 are accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE II

Mr. Gerald Babin presented an update on the dredging and mechanical de-watering project. An agreement was presented to the first property owner but the demands by the property owner were such that an agreement could not be made. The second choice, Mr. Guy Jarreau has signed the draft agreement. There is a cost difference but it is slight. There is already access by a road to the property. They will meet again with the property owner to get original agreement signed and begin permitting which should be done around March. The limit to the material is 250,000 cubic yards, but could apply for more in the permit. Mr. Thibaut asked about going back to south flats project and Mr. Babin indicated that a request for funds has been made for approximately \$3.5 million. The project should be ready to begin around August/September 2018.

## UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT:

Mr. Kevin Gravois stated that the project is complete. There was damage to the weir due to large sudden rain fall in October but the weir is still able to function. There is \$380,000 left from the project. Mr. Ewing mentioned landowner concerns. Mr. Thibaut asked about extension of cooperative endeavor agreement. It has been extended to end at end of council term. Mr. Gravois stated that as long as Baton Rouge Area Foundation and NRG are happy they can continue to extend. Mr. Thibaut asked for maintenance estimates. Mr. Van Biersel stated the next two years would indicate what future maintenance cost.

Mr. Thibaut requested an estimate instead of waiting. He also requested plans. Mr. Ewing asked for a locked down plan/cost. Mr. Van Biersel stated that it had to be part of the 5 year plan and he would run it by NRG. Mr. S. Chustz asked about mats along the sides. Mr. Van Biersel expressed concern about the ability to hold funds.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Thibaut discussed the gates at the Lighthouse Canal, the outflow channel and Bayou Chenal. The gate was inspected by DOTD today. It is currently on a five year inspection schedule. All deficiencies from previous inspection had been corrected and the updated report would be ready in two weeks. There was discussion on possible upgrade to the gates included automated gates. There is the possibility of a presentation by Senaca Toussaint in the future.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Ewing spoke about bulkhead failures/repairs and how they relate to the new ordinance. Additionally stated that there needs to be some corrections/clarifications to the ordinance. He presented a decision tree to determine what type of repairs/construction need a permit.

Motion by Mr. S. Chustz to remove engineering requirements and to include homeowner as additional/named insured under policy. Second by Mr. Thibaut. Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Ewing to modify existing bulk head ordinance to include decision tree. Second by Mr. Olinde. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Thibaut explained reason for modification to ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Ewing to correct appendix to match the ordinance. Second by Mr. S. Chustz. Unanimously carried.

Mr. Van Biersel spoke about subcommittees and updates to report. He is still waiting on changes from subcommittees. There are only two months left to make changes. Asked for all changes by January 1, 2018.

Mr. Brian Heimann presented an update regarding the drawdown. Pointe Coupee saw a significant rain even on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Monday before the lake was at 10.9 ft. That Sunday it was at 13ft and by Tuesday it was at 17.4ft or 1 ½ feet above pool stage. Dissolved O2 levels were stable across the lake before the rain event. The front came in with the weather and while there were a few dead fish there were no remarkable numbers. He feels that the lake is in better condition and was able to recover from the extreme weather changes with the October storm. They will continue to monitor the lake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Mr. Thibaut welcomed Steve Chustz to the council. Mr. Chustz is replacing Jimmy Lyles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Ruiz  
Les Cantrell  
Stephen Smith

The next meeting was set for January 17, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Thibaut and second by Mr. Ewing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.