

False River Watershed Council
Minutes
February 6, 2013

The False River Watershed Council meet in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at the Courthouse Annex in the Police Jury Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and directed Administrative Assistant Linette Pascalini to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Owen Bello, Jimmy Chustz, Thomas Van Biersel, Cy D'Aquila, Jr., Jerry Hix, Jimmy Lyles, Paul Miller, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau, Major Thibaut and Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Dr. Castille, Messrs. Jake Causey, Steve Juge and Rick Ward.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Messrs. Justin Fenstermaker, Keith Robillard, Rudi Schnur and Ms. Rachel Walley.

AGENDA APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA BY 2/3 VOTES

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2013 MEETING

Chairman Wood requested the minutes from December 5, 2012 be approved.

Motion by Mr. Hix and seconded by Mr. J. Chustz:

RESOLVED, That the minutes from December 5, 2012 be approved as written.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. D'Aquila:

RESOLVED, That the minutes from January 9, 2013 be approved as written.

Unanimously carried.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Wood explained he wanted a status report from each sub-committee leader and wants a time-frame as to when the project would be complete.

Mr. Miller reported for the Water Quality Committee stating they will meet in two (2) weeks and will have a draft by mid April.

Ms. Walley reported for the Fisheries Committee stating they will not be completed in time to give a recommendation. She stated they agreed to use the 2012 fisheries management plan in the report.

Mr. Pourciau reported for the Aquatic Habitat Committee stating they had a successful meeting with an outcome of two (2) different projects called Creation & Restoration. The restoration will be locating existing shell beds and observe if they adapt to recommended materials placed in the beds. The creation will be to find locations for new shell beds and plan for future vegetation. The activity will be from the mid section to the north of the lake.

Chairman Wood stated that available funds should be identified and work through Wildlife & Fisheries with no charge for the project and cost would be the buying of gravel.

Mr. Cy D'Aquila reported for the Shoreline Modification Committee stating they have not met since December and will call a meeting soon.

Mr. Olinde reported for the Modifications Operation/Maintenance of Drainage Network & Sediment Basins Committee stating they have not had an official meeting but has spoke with Mr. D'Aquila in obtaining ordinances from surrounding parishes to modify for adoption by the Police Jury. He spoke with Mr. Bello on sideline setbacks. He explained the problem with the sediment is cultivation of land at the edges of canals causing run off into ditches.

Mr. D'Aquila stated a meeting is needed to discuss which watersheds need the most attention. Mr. Bello recommended contacting Mr. Boudreaux with NRCS to identify the watershed ditches.

Mr. Hix reported for the Lake Level Management Committee stating they will meet within 10 days to put the draft together and will obtain information from the fisheries on rainy/seasonal draw downs. This will be completed by mid-March.

Mr. Bello suggested developing a plan to use the locks to regulate water and stated this would also be beneficial to the Police Jury.

Mr. Bello expressed the need to understand what it takes to keep the lake down during heavy rain periods. Mr. Olinde reported this has been the second most rainfall in the month of January since recorded time and there is 37,000 acres that drain into the lake.

Mr. Thibaut inquired if other lakes the are drawn down for management tools are a set plans or do they make these decisions when needed. Mr. Wood explained that it is different all around the state. He stated the most successful are the set scheduled draw downs. This also allows convenience for the property owners.

Mr. Thibaut suggested making a recommendation to the committee for the jury and state to implement.

Mr. Van Biersel cautioned the council on scheduling a draw down due to it being a natural lake.

Mr. Van Biersel reported Dr. Castille had not called a Watershed Conservation meeting and she would have any information obtained.

Mr. Thibaut reported for the Funding Mechanism Committee stated there is \$500,000.00 for

engineering bidding. In April during the legislative session he will try to secure \$2.2 million and NRG/EPA agreed that \$1 million will be funded to restoration. He stated he is not sure how the funds will be distributed. He also reported thoughts of a fund raiser for the restoration fund. He informed the council the committee will meet again Wednesday, February 20, 2013 in the Police Jury Meeting Room.

Mr. Lyles reported on discussion about public outreach by holding civic meetings, rallies, and neighborhood meeting.

Mr. Thibaut informed the council he intends to file this session for future use is to take mineral severance revenues generated under False River for maintenance of the lake.

FUNDING UPDATE

Discussion covered in above item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Justin Shaw with Fenstermaker & Assoc. provided results graphs from recent rainfall events. The graphs showed the drainage basins and main laterals, Chenal, M1 and Northern basin that flows into the lake. He explained Chenal has 2,000 acres that tributaries, M1 has 10,000 acres plus east & west laterals equaling 20,000 acres, which is the major contributor and the North Basin has 10,000 acres.

Mr. Shaw informed the council rainfall is collected in gauges. The blue gauge on the graph is the most important because it indicates the water flowing into lake. Analysis samples are at LSU. He will work on the hydraulic model. He requested water level reports from the jury. He will continue collecting samples for two (2) more months.

Mr. J. Chustz requested that Mr. Shaw contact him to make adjustments on the water sedimentation.

Mr. Thibaut stated funds will eventually be needed for the north end of the lake. Mr. Lyles inquired on an amount of funds needed for the north end of the lake. Mr. Shaw will put together a cost estimate.

Mr. Bello informed the council the Kiwanis will soon be placing buoys on the north & south ends of the lake.

Mr. Van Biersel informed the council they have three (3) months remaining to hand in an approved package. He requested the drafts from the sub committees be completed by February 28, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Thibaut, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN