

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
January 9, 2013

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at the Courthouse Annex in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Mike Wood called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Dinah Bourgeois to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Owen Bello, Stephen Chustz, Jerry Hix, Paul Miller, Cy D'Aquila, Ron Pourciau, Jake Causey, Jimmy Lyles, Kyle Olinde, Major Thibaut, Dr. Connie Castille, Rick Ward and Mr. Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jimmy Chustz and Steve Juge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The council accepted the agenda.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Wood informed the council that a vote on approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of Wednesday, December 5, 2013 will take place at the next False River Watershed Council meeting due to corrections.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Carrie Castille reported on the first Watershed Conservation Sub-Committee meeting which was held December 19, 2013. They discussed existing and new programs that address conservation. She will obtain a report conducted by NRCS entailing outreach efforts. The sub-committee also discussed management practices for agriculture as well as septic system issues. Another meeting will take place to further discuss these issues.

Mr. Paul Miller reported on the Water Quality Sub-Committee meeting. They discussed the history of water quality data. Additional information will be added to the report.

Mr. Ron Pourciau reported on habitat improvement. He discussed with the council the Christmas Tree Project. A plan for the project will begin in 2013. The council discussed turbidity and grass growth as part of the plan for water quality. Chairman Wood discussed with the council establishment of submerged vegetation.

Mrs. Rachel Walley reported that LA Wildlife and Fisheries spoke to some of the commercial fishermen who caught thousands of fish on the south end of the lake.

Mrs. Walley stated that recommendations will be made when data is obtained. Red Ear Sunfish were recently stocked. If the fish establish a self-sustaining population this would be a positive result.

Mr. Chris Knotts discussed causes of turbidity. He suggested educating property owners regarding vertical walls and bulkheads. He also discussed with the council obtaining an ordinance for future bulkhead construction. Chairman Wood stated that outreach is needed for this sub-committee. Mr. Cy D'Aquila discussed with the council resolving issues regarding state property lines along with the creation of an ordinance. Mr. Major Thibaut stated that a survey needs to be done to determine the distance of the farthest bulkhead now, to protect the interest of property owners. Once the survey is complete, it can be reviewed by the Legislature. He expressed concerns regarding approximately \$100 thousand dollars needed for the survey.

Mr. Kyle Olinde reported that his sub-committee discussed fencing setbacks on the drainage systems around False River. Mr. Cy D'Aquila will draft a fencing setback ordinance that will be presented to the Police Jury. He also discussed an ordinance pertaining to the distance along the canals that landowners can plant crops and raise cattle. He met with Mr. Darren Boudreaux of NRCS. He stated that Mr. Boudreaux is knowledgeable in construction and maintenance of canals. Mr. Boudreaux informed him that an operations and maintenance report is done every year by NRCS. Mr. D'Aquila informed the council that once problem areas are identified, restructuring of canals can be done according the NRCS guidelines.

Mr. Hix reported on Lake Level Management. He discussed with the council engineering and construction that will be discussed more thoroughly with his sub-committee.

FUNDING UPDATE

Dr. Castille discussed with the council, funding availability for various programs. The council also discussed fund raising and several state departments applying for grants. Mr. Jimmy Lyles expressed concerns regarding outreach programs and setting up mechanisms for funding. Chairman Wood encouraged all sub-committees to work in unison. Mr. Thibaut informed the council NRG is also helping to fund the project and that he will try to get severance tax funds and bills drafted for funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Bello informed the council that Mr. Glenn Darby of the Kiwanis Club has been provided the GIS coordinates for placement of the buoys in the North & South ends of the lake.

Mr. Steven Chustz explained the process of construction of the terraces.

Mr. Justin Shaw of Fenstermaker presented turbidity samples to the council. There were concerns about how deep of a sample Mr. Shaw is able to obtain, it was suggested that possibly he can use a water craft that would allow him to obtain samples at various depths.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tommy Bryant expressed concerns regarding the shoreline. He stated citizens are interested in planting cypress trees to slow down the energy of the water. Dr. Castille will try to obtain seedlings for the trees.

Mr. Keith Robillard expressed concerns regarding the time frame for the sediment collections. Mr. Shaw informed the council that he wants to get different readings over time for analysis.

The council discussed adding Mr. Darren Boudreaux of NRCS to the committee.

The council discussed the fish habitat and reproduction in the Lake.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Thibaut and seconded by Mr. Ward, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN