

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
September 18, 2019

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met via conference call at 10:00 a.m. on September 18, 2019.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moses.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (7): Ricky Moses (Chair), Thomas Van Biersel, Francis Lensing, Andy Brister, Teddy Schneider, Lee Denny, Amanda Vincent

Others in Attendance: Raynie Harlan (LDWF), Tracy Hilburn (GOHSEP point of contact for LWI)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the August 14, 2019 council meeting were not approved due to lack of a quorum of Council members.

AGENDA

The current agenda was not approved due to lack of a quorum of Council members.

OLD BUSINESS

- Providence Lake report: epic flooding, lake has been out of banks for months.
- Tensas weir update: Police Jury has helped with cleaning out Tensas past Moose lodge, which is as far as the cleaning out will go this year. It was noted that an engineering update will be provided on the structure at the next meeting.
- DOTD buy-back program: approved to purchase back from Parish, but share of money allocated to N.O. All of the work done to date is in place for next year. A request was made for Lee D. to send pre-application letter for DOTD road transfer.
- Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 update: Ricky M. stated need to update membership. Andy stated he will check in on this item. It was noted that a full update would be possible after new appointments are made in January. SCR Report will be due in January. Thomas V.B. noted that coordination is needed to complete the report. He will send out email requesting input from all agencies involved. The following question was posed to the Council, "What is the Watershed Council's goal?"

NEW BUSINESS

- Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI): Point of Contact; Tracy Hilburn GOHSEP liaison for LWI Region 3
 - A regional Watershed Steering Committee will need to be set up and begin to meet to determine regional needs/projects.
 - Future outlook: all flood control work and dollars will come through the regional Watershed Steering Committee. The regional committee will compile a comprehensive project list. The projects will be ranked, and finally reviewed by

the Louisiana Watershed Council. Note this ranking and review process is still under construction. This has not been finalized.

- It was noted that cleaning out Tensas could be a project idea
- It was noted that modelling will be a requirement in the future for all projects (state is working to provide this for all regions).
- It was noted that representation on the Watershed Steering Committee should reflect constituent needs.
- Francis – Providence Council goals of enhancing water quality and deal with flooding; decrease sedimentation. Tracy stated that he is familiar with the area (Baxter Bayou) and stressed the importance of regional impacts when presenting project ideas
- Ricky – suggested that we send new report to Tracy and possibly add section in report to highlight flooding impacts
- Tracy – floodplain managers working to update ordinances, CRS program, stated that first “batch” of money will be \$100K for no regret projects.
- Lee – noted need to have Watershed Steering Committee membership. How and who appoints the members of this committee? Suggested that Francis might be a good candidate; NRCS committee member (cover crop MRBI impacts)
- Tracy – cell phone 318-816-2672; call anytime to come speak and update this group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Upcoming report due date; effort needs to be coordinated
- Lee might not make the next meeting; he thanked the Providence Watershed Council on their hard work and offered thanks to all involved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

The next council meeting was scheduled for October 30, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., to be held in the Sheriffs office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. (Francis Lensing motion, Teddy Schneider second)

Ricky Moses, Chairman