

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
July 7, 2021

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the Sheriffs Office at 10:30 a.m. on July 7, 2021.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moses.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (7): Ricky Moses (Chairman), Thomas Van Biersel, Andy Brister, Amanda Vincent, Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, and Reynold Minsky

A quorum was not met.

Others in Attendance: R. Daniel (WLF), Anthony Bridgewater (NRCS)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the April 14, 2021 council meeting were not approved due to lack of quorum.

AGENDA

The agenda for this meeting was not approved due to lack of quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

- T. Van Biersel reported that the pier holding the water level recorder is collapsed and no longer usable. The recorder will need to be relocated. It was suggested to relocate to Sheriff's pier.
- T. Van Biersel reminded of the requirement of an annual report and to keep documenting events and providing updates.
- A 10 inch rain event was mentioned. The storm occurred on June 10th and the lake took nearly 2 weeks to return to normal stage. Flooding occurred around the lake with some damage reported.
- F. Lensing reported that some cleaning of Baxter Bayou was scheduled to occur later this summer.
- A. Bridgewater suggested a study on the Baxter watershed similar to current study in Madison Parish. The study is funded by NRCS and determines the best methods to improve drainage. It was suggested that it may be possible to include West Carroll. The next phase of LAWI funding will be searching for shovel-ready projects and that the East Carroll SWD should submit a proposal.
- A. Brister asked about low water bridge below Hwy. 580. It was agreed that it may not be a real problem and not causing significant blockage of flow.

OLD BUSINESS

- Watershed Report (T. Van Biersel) – Reminder to continue providing updates.
- Police Jury Update – None
- LWI Update – None
- Fisheries Update (R. Daniel) – Reported that bass abundance has been relatively low, despite evidence of successful reproduction. All size classes of fish were represented in 2020 sampling but overall abundance was low. There has been a downward trend in abundance over past 20 years. Crappie abundance has increased significantly in recent years. F. Lensing reported that bass catches from recent tournaments has been good.
- R. Minsky reported that he has met with a representative from J. Letlows office and plans to speak with her later about cleaning of the Tensas.
- A. Brister suggested to meet with Jacob Brister of COE for funding of cleanout projects.
- A. Vincent suggested a request that certain money collected from fines/penalties be dedicated to LP restoration efforts.
- A. Vincent reported that the special water sampling project on LP will end soon but ambient monitoring will continue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OTHER

Members attending the Council meeting also attended the Rotary Club meeting at the Country Club to hear a presentation by Rep. Travis Johnson. Afterward, members of the Council approached Rep. Johnson about the Council and its ongoing efforts to restore Lake Providence. He was handed a copy of the most recent interim report. He was very receptive and agreed to cooperate in search for needed funding.

The next council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in Lake Providence at the sheriff annex.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Ricky Moses, Chairman