

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
November 1, 2023

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met via conference call on November 1, 2023.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Butler.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present (11): Kristi Butler (Chairman), Thomas Van Biersel (Vice Chairman), Francis Lensing, Jim Lensing, Andy Brister, Mark Brown, Reynold Minsky, Amy Preau

A quorum was met.

Others in Attendance: R. Daniel (LDWF)

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting were approved: R. Minsky (motion), T. VanBiersel (second).

The agenda of this meeting was approved: F. Lensing (motion), R. Minsky (second).

REPORTS

1. Fifth Levee Board update – R. Minsky; did not go to Washington. He does have a meeting with Julia Letlow about cleaning out of Tensas; starting at lower end and moving up; cutting timber (Jones Lumber company) on Swan Lake; PJ supposed to go down there and clean out a ditch stopped up with silt; 2.5 miles south
2. Police Jury Update – R. Walters not available; F. Lensing Reporting; LWI nothing happening; Randy and Roger have Womack Construction on rebuilding the weir; permits and materials complete, work set to begin any day; F. Lensing says the lake is as low as he has seen it in his life (~4.5' low) – he thinks it will be done in 30 days.
3. LWI Update – R. Daniel said there was a LWI steering committee meeting and Baxter Bayou improvement project was approved for Hazard Mitigation Program – R. Waters was at the meeting - \$350,000 - Andy suggested holding that up and making sure there is a gate included in the Baxter project. Francis is hoping this is what it will do. No details available.
4. Capital Outlay – Andy Brister had no new information; “That’s a Randy Walters/Roger Clement question” Annual
5. Watershed Council Report – Thomas Van Biersel; low water condition; terrestrial vegetation; stocking; Baxter Bayou gate before/after; Tensas weir before/after/during; dry areas/alligators; Swan Lake timber cutting/logging map
6. Artificial Reef Deployment Update – Ryan Daniel; electrofishing early October; bass numbers remain low; difficult to sample due to low water so sample may have been biased towards being lower than average; LPWC wants to do more Christmas trees; Ryan will call

the big retailers to see if they can get trees; talked about tapping into local schools to get volunteers to build/deploy artificial reefs

7. 107 adult FLMB stocked in Lake Providence last week; Ryan will draft a press release; asked about mussels and surveying mussels;
8. A. Preau - 2022 water sampling showed an increase in dissolved solids, DO issues, both of what can affect mussels; tree harvesting in Swan Lake; LFA revised forestry bmp manual – since that contractor is based out of Mississippi, they may not have a copy; Ryan will look into mussel sampling

NEW BUSINESS

none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. January 24th in Lake Providence.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Kristi Butler, Chairman