

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
August 2, 2023

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the Sheriff's Annex on August 2, 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, Brian Howard

A quorum was met.

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA

The minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting were approved. (A. Brister 1 F. Lensing 2)

The agenda of this meeting was approved. (A. Brister 1, J. Lensing 2)

REPORTS

Fifth Levee Board Report: no update; R. Minsky mentioned potential meeting in DC with J. Letlow in September.

Watershed Report: T. Van Biersel requested to keep taking photos and continue to submit for Report: T. Van Biersel recommended continuing to submit for Capital Outlay funding. Deadline is Oct. 1. The 2023 submittal was 100k priority 1 and 300k priority 5. Request more in 2024.

Police Jury/LWI Report (prov. by F. Lensing): stated that R. Waters and K. Baker attended LWI meeting last week and were discouraged by comments concerning the need for modeling to evaluate potential impacts downstream. A Bridgewater stated that J. Hughes with MPPJ felt encouraged about potential projects following meeting and that NRCS had put in for funding for a study of the hydrology of East Carroll Parish. T. Van Biersel stated that an LWI application submitted by the ECPPJ was not reviewed by him nor the Council and was not informed that they (ECPPJ) had submitted on their own. T. Van Biersel stated importance of installing a gate in the new Tensas weir (supported by LDWF and others), though some Council members believed that it would not be possible due to funding currently available through Police Jury. A phone call was made to R. Waters asking about meeting with the engineer later in the day to discuss but he indicated that it was likely too late to add a gate and that available funding (COVID relief) had to be spent and would allow for only a weir without a control structure.

LDWF Fisheries Update: R. Daniel asked about continuing Christmas tree project next year and it was agreed to conduct again in 2024. K. Butler explained that Largemouth Bass were not stocked into LP this year due to limited numbers of fingerlings available caused by a fish disease outbreak at the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. Stocking LP in 2024 will be a higher priority.

NEW BUSINESS

none

Other:

K. Butler stated that K. Wofford is currently on the Council even though he is retired from LDAF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

OTHER – Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Nov. 1, 2023 in Lake Providence.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Kristi Butler, Chairman