

MINUTES
LAKE PROVIDENCE WATERSHED COUNCIL
April 21, 2016

The Lake Providence Watershed Council met at the East Carroll Sheriff's Office on April 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Myers

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Francis Lensing, Andy Brister, Reynold Minsky, Teddy Schneider, Donna Winters, Mark Brown, Lee Denny, Joey Smith, Randy Myers (Chairman)

Others in Attendance: Keith Brown (U.S. Rep. Abraham), Mike Renfrow (USFWS – Partners for F and W), Donovan Taves (ECSWCD), John Posey (LDEQ), Brian Howard (lake commission), Ryan Daniel (LDWF)

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the March 29, 2016 council meeting were approved pending adding Keith Wofford to list of council members present.

COMMENTS and DISCUSSION

A. Brister: concern of drawing “negative” attention in request for funding under HB 2; incorrect wording or description of project may jeopardize funding and public perception of status of L. Providence. News media outlets may hinder success if misinformed. A council extension has not yet been filed.

A. Brister: inquired about the possibility of dredging the shallows, specifically the north end. Also mentioned the need for a park, possibly a State Park. May contact Robert Barham, CRT Secretary.

T. Van Biersel: replied that deposition of material in wetland areas on the north end would not be feasible due to required mitigation. Islands would be possible if sediment characteristics are suitable. Filling of low-lying areas adjacent to lake may be a possibility. A few areas were identified by council members. If any residues of DDT or other contaminants are found in the lake bottom, sediment removal will not be an option, only island construction. Sediment input must be first addressed before sediment removal is pursued.

D. Winters: clarified that the interim report will demonstrate the need for specific studies.

L. Denny: confirmed from FEMA that control structures may qualify for flood mitigation funding. T. Van Biersel commented that this funding could possibly be combined with LDOTD funding.

R. Minsky: mentioned that FEMA may cover removal of silt bars in the Tensas River through funding to Levee Board. Mentioned meeting of Tensas LB, 5th District LB, and USACE to be held next week.

T. Van Biersel: issued reminder that report must be submitted by next Friday (4/29).

M. Renfrow: sedimentation along Tensas River must be addressed first, prior to cleaning out the channel.

T. Van Biersel: a parish ordinance may be needed to address sedimentation into ditches flowing into the Tensas River.

A. Brister made motion, R. Minsky provided a second to present the current report to legislature. No oppositions. Copies to be mailed to all council members. A. Brister requested copies to be sent to offices of Jay Dardenne and Billy Nungesser.

F. Lensing: stated that the town of Lake Providence is potentially losing millions of dollars from lack of visitations and related expenditures due to turbid lake conditions.

D. Thaves: (conc. abandoned fish ponds and dams along Tensas River; response to R. Minsky) – believes current land owner would be cooperative in removal of drainage barriers in this location along Tensas River

R. Myers: need for public announcement/hearing, LDWF will generate a news release; A. Brister – will consult with others to determine best time for local hearing

D. Winters: essential to not use “impaired” or similar language concerning the lake when describing the projects purpose to the public

The next meeting was agreed to be held in conjunction with the public hearing. Date to be set.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Randy Myers, Chairman