

Lake Providence Watershed Counsel Meeting – 8/17/2017

Conference call notes

Attendees – Francis Lensing, Thomas Van Biersel, Amanda Vincent, Andy Brister, Lee Denny, Ricky Moses, Reynold Minsky, Joey Smith, Ted Snyder, Mark Brown, Eddie Foster

Quorum present – 11

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes – minutes are complete

NEW BUSINESS

Amanda Vincent – DEQ update, sampling occurred in May, June and July (2 per month); hopefully more information later.

Andy Brister – Trying to set up meeting with USACE and congressman to see what is going on with application but have not gotten anywhere yet.

BILL PREP FOR 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Andy talked to Francis Thompson's legislative assistant and Francis.

Next Friday (8/25/2017) DOTD Sec. Wilson to visit Lake Providence to show port at 1230 or 1pm. Invite to lunch if Ricky and Thomas could be there – meet at Farmhouse or Country Club 1230 lunch then take a look at control structure on Hwy 134 – possible problem is to get there with wet roads/weather – may need a side by side; describe problem then give a port tour to see the port and how our harbor works; talk to him about that legislation and go from there. He may want to get someone else to sponsor it – Ricky said to confirm use of property to access the control structure with the property owner. Reynold agreed to do that.

Eddie Foster – Originally MRB description is reduced to land primarily cleaning up the lake. 418,000.00 allocated this year for construction activities in this area. 365,000.00 of which would go into one person's land. Other states did not have the applicants expected so Eddie got a larger chunk of money than expected. He had 9 applicants from Louisiana; he can fund 7 projects totaling 1,125,000.000 to implement projects to improve water quality (I am recommending cover crops; field borders, 30' wide vegetated (recommended Bermuda) – 12 months per year)

Riparian area projects – one person is hesitant 116,000.00 This guy is willing only to do cover crops. Keep in mind that these are 3-5 year contracts.

Ricky asked Amanda if the water quality done by DEQ would reflect the benefits of these projects. Amanda thinks that the monitoring will be for 2 years.

Eddie asked if water sampling would be done out to the 4-5 year range and Amanda said that was a possibility.

Thomas asked Amanda if continuous monitoring equipment was available for this.

Ricky wants to follow up after this monitoring with further monitoring to have data indicating an improvement.

Eddie said he had no baseline data for this federally funded contract – it was a public opinion driven project.

Thomas asked Eddy and Andy if they know faculty members at ULM or La Tech that might have an Ag student who wants to get involved – a potential case study where a lot of money is being spent on a watershed.

Francis – Wayne Parker? (LDWF enforcement) asked Francis about maintaining water level with some bags of sakcrete. What does the group think about this? Group consensus was hold off a bit and do some background research. Ricky Moses will talk to Chris and see what he thinks.

Next Meeting date – Andy please send a quick email out to the group after next Friday's meeting with Location for WED Oct. 18th 10 am.