

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
April 2, 2014

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at the Courthouse Annex in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Mike Wood called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Dinah Bourgeois to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Owen Bello, Jake Causey, Stephen Chustz, Jimmy Lyles, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau, Major Thibaut, Ms. Linda Hardy and Mike Wood, Chairman.

ABSENT: Messrs. Alex Appeaning, Jimmy Chustz, Cy D'Aquila, Jr., Jerry Hix, Rick Ward and Dr. Carrie Castille.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The council unanimously approved the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of February 12, 2014.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PEC Engineer Gerald Babin presented sets of the preliminary plans of False River Ecosystem Restoration Phase I – South Flats. He discussed building containment dikes, analyses and timeframe. The council discussed bidding and the \$140,000 budget for the False River Restoration project. Mr. Babin also discussed drawdown which could be six months depending upon the weather.

The council discussed obtaining a core permit. Mr. Wood informed attendees of the process.

The council discussed informing the public about the drawdown for the lake before Labor Day Holiday.

Mr. Thibaut discussed meeting with Senator Mary Landrieu about the plans for the False River Restoration project.

Mr. Babin discussed edge hardening, shoreline hardening and dredging with the council. Mr. Thibaut expressed concerns on behalf of his constituents regarding access to their property when dredging starts. In response, Mr. Babin stated revisions can be made to the plans. Mr. Babin discussed the parish having an agreement with a property owner to have access to their property. He explained the process to the council.

The council discussed obtaining state lands permits.

Mr. S. Chustz discussed outreach plans with the council. The plans include a draft of items. He also discussed working with the Police Jury as part of the plan. Mr. Thomas Van Biersel discussed the public obtaining information about the project and being involved. He discussed having project exhibits at parish events. He also discussed timeline.

Mr. Bello discussed replacement of the old banner located by the lake with a new banner in regards to the drawdown.

FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Thibaut discussed \$1.2 million being moved to Priority 1. He also discussed application to be submitted to Capital Outlay for future projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Wood explained the process of production of fingerlings. It was decided to invest in larger fingerlings for better survival. He explained changing the priority system. He discussed a hindrance in production of fish. The council discussed dispersing fish.

Mr. Wood explained to the council why federal programs cannot be used for the project. He discussed productive habitat of fish and genetic material. The council discussed possibility of rearing pond.

The council discussed limiting amount of silt in the False River.

The council discussed vegetation being placed in the river when drawdown is done.

The council discussed gravel beds. Some are in good shape; some are washed away.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The council discussed travel of fish and hatcheries. Mr. Wood explained stocking process. Mr. Lyles express concerns regarding a major fish kill that took place. In response, Mr. Wood stated improvement of habitat is best course of action.

The council discussed the process of weirs being built.

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Bello, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

MIKE WOOD, CHAIRMAN