

MINUTES
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

The False River Watershed Council met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Courthouse Annex Building in New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Randy Myers called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Dinah Bourgeois to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Major Thibaut, Jerry Hix, Jimmy Chustz, Jimmy Lyles, Kyle Olinde, Ron Pourciau, L. J. Grezaffi, Stephen Tassin, Bijan Sharafkhani, Thomas Van Biersel and Chairman Randy Myers.

ABSENT: Messrs. Rick Ward Cy D'Aquila and Ms. Carrie Castille.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Olinde and seconded by Mr. Van Biersel:

RESOLVED, That the agenda of the meeting of April 13, 2016 be accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Major and seconded by Mr. Olinde:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the September 10, 2015 minutes be accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT – PHASE I AND II

Engineer Gerald Babin gave an update on the proposed False River Ecosystem Restoration project for Phase I and II which is complete. It started November, 2014 and ended November, 2015. He also discussed the north flats in Phase II. He stated the project is closed out with Facility Planning and the cooperative endeavor has been amended. It was stated that 1.2 million dollars in funding is available for construction. One hundred thousand cubic yards will be dredged as part of the project. The members discussed the bidding process; the timeframe depends on the permitting process. It takes six months for a land permit. A report from Geo Tech will be presented next week. Mr. Babin stated to dredge an extra 150,000 cubic yards the

cost would be \$5.00 per cubic yard and extra mileage would be more costly. Finalization will be in July or August.

Mr. Van Biersel discussed negotiation with the Pipeline Company, as well as the vegetative plan. The members discussed opportunity to plant cypress along the levee.

The members discussed \$70,000 for allowance of utilization on Phase II. They also discussed preliminary drawings. Mr. Van Biersel stated that by the fall a permit could be obtained and work on the shallow parts can commence.

The committee discussed demographics. Mr. Babin discussed land accessibility.

UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT

Ms. Bliss Bernard of Fenstermaker presented maps to the committee. She discussed placement of weirs (M-1, M-2 and East Lateral). Fenstermaker did a study on M-1 and M-2. Mr. Van Biersel gave background information on mitigation project. He discussed slowing of sediment. The committee discussed nitrogen in the lake. They also discussed reducing influx of sediment.

It was stated that two core permits have been obtained.

The members were informed that water sampling will take place in the next two years. Mr. Hix discussed removal of silt. Mr. Thibaut expressed concerns regarding maintenance on weirs. The committee was informed there is a portion allocated for maintenance. The weirs will be inspected annually. Mr. Lyles discussed funding account to be allocated for the maintenance. Ms. Bernard suggested saving terracing for the end of the project; if there are not sufficient Funds, terracing should not be done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Thibaut discussed meeting in June, as well as creating a sub-committee. The committee discussed management practices for those building on their personal property.

Mr. Van Biersel discussed updating watershed plan. Mr. D'Aquila will be contacted regarding said plan.

Mr. Pourciau discussed maintenance issues toward the back of the island area. Mr. Babin informed the committee that funding is needed for this area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tommy Bryant congratulated Mr. Thibaut on his efforts made for the project. It was stated that some landowners are concerned with standard process of building seawall.

Mr. Robillard expressed concerns regarding lowering the water to drop off sediment. Mr. Babin responded that it would take plenty of water and also huge amount of money. Mr. Van Biersel also responded that part of it is at its lowest.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hix and seconded by Mr. Van Biersel, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

RANDY MYERS - CHAIRMAN