

AMENDED MINUTES  
FALSE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017

The False River Watershed Council met in a regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Courthouse Annex Building in New Roads, Louisiana.

Thomas Van Biersel called the meeting to order and directed Ms. Jeanne Hendrix to call the roll:

Present: Messrs. Major Thibaut, Brad Spicer Arthur Ewing, Cy D'Aquila, Jerry Hix, Kyle Olinde, Rick Ward, Mark Ward, Stephen Tassin, Bijan Sharafkhani, Thomas Van Biersel, Jimmy Lyles, Jimmy Chustz

Absent: Ricky Moses, Rick Ward, Ron Pourciau

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. Lyles.

Resolved, That the agenda of the meeting of July 12, 2017 be accepted.

Unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve by Mr. Olinde and second by Mr. D'Aquila.

Resolved, That the minutes of the May 17, 2017 are accepted for approval.

Unanimously carried.

UPDATE PROPOSED FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT - PHASE II

Kevin Gravois gave a presentation on behalf of Gerald Babin. They received an estimate on the cost of pumping sediment from False River into the Mississippi River. To pump 250,000 cubic yards of material into the river would cost \$3.8 million. Additionally it would have to be pumped at least 50 from the low water level.

Another option would be to pump out/dry/dispose on land. This would cost \$2.5 million. The amount of land needed would be 20-25 acres. There would no longer be a need for a levee around the property. Drying time would be shorter and could be used as fill material.

Mr. Babin feels that this option should be considered because of the costs. It would still involve pumping to a closer location.

In speaking with ELOS permitting for pumping into the Mississippi River may be difficult and is not a sure thing. Permitting is also going to add to cost of the project.

Mr. Ewing asked about costs if they were accurate.

Mr. Thibaut raised concerns about how the Mississippi River option was so far off the initial estimates. Mr. Gravois thinks the increase was due to the requirement of having to pump 50 feet out from low water level, putting pipe underwater, and having a barge involved. Mr. Thibaut expressed concerns about the time it has taken to get to this point, and the length of time to find property and move on.

Mr. Ewing asked about how hard it would be to find a property. Mr. Les Cantrell stated that there was a property owner willing to take the dirt on the Island side. It is composed of about 50 acres and access back to False River.

Mr. D' Aquila asked about creating an island. Mr. Gravois stated that it was his understanding that an island was not desirable.

Mr. Olinde asked about creating a peninsula. Mr. Van Biersel stated that the state would require separation because of possible claim by landowner. Mr. Ewing said everything is an option but the council has flawed estimates and cannot make a decision based on inaccurate figures.

Mr. Lyles stated that the correct numbers for the various options need to be done so that the project is not delayed further.

Mr. Gravois stated that he would get with Mr. Babin to get estimates on various options.

#### UPDATE FALSE RIVER NITROGEN IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT:

Mr. Gravois presented an update. M1 was bid and awarded. Notice to proceed was issued 6/1. Highwater on Mississippi River has delayed the project. Neal Construction is prepping the sites. A change order was to be presented to the police jury for the M2 work. He stated that it would add approximately \$114,000 to the project. NRG cannot allow access but they can access it from the new state highway.

M1 \$88,000 for 5 weirs. M2 is more costly because of the size of the weirs. Total the M1 and M2 will be about \$250,000 and would be completed this year.

Mr. Thibaut expressed concerns over maintaining the M1 and M2. Mr. Gravois stated that \$80,000 was left for maintenance. Mr. Van Biersel reminded the committee that the money is for nitrogen mitigation but if there are areas that need cover they can reach out to NRCS. Mr. Thibaut stated maintenance needs to be priority. Mr. Hix stated there are still areas that need addressing with regards to erosion control.

Mr. Ewing asked for a maintenance place and actual costs. Mr. D'Aquila asked if the parish will maintain and what are their policy and procedures.

NEW BUSINESS:

The No Wake Zone was discussed. Brian Heimann met with staff and provided the statute. WLF does not set them but there are guidelines to setting the zones.

Mr. Kenny St. Romaine gave an update on the buoys and requested volunteers to set the buoys back that have been moved since the August flood.

Mr. D'Aquila requested signs to warn river users of the shallow waters in the flats. WLF will enforce the no wake zones.

Mr. D'Aquila expressed concerns over boats with bladder systems allowing for increased wake production. Mr. M. Ward stated that enforcement would be difficult it would be easier to create regulations preventing the use of these wake creation devices on the river. Mr. Thibaut and Mr. Ewing asked for research on establishing regulations

Mr. Olinde explained gate control before the July 4<sup>th</sup> rainfall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Ewing asked about the watershed maintenance program. Mr. Van Biersel reported that it needs to be submitted by February 12, 2018 to DNR. Mr. Van Biersel will begin assigning sections for updates and revisal.

Mr. Hix asked about the commercial fishing season. Mr. Heimann stated it will be every October to February.

The council has been extended by legislation and a new member Mr. Mark Ward, Director of Emergency Preparedness with Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Next meeting will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Van Biersel and second by Mr. D'Aquila.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.