Lake Fausse Point, Grand Avoille Cove, Lake Dauterieve Advisory Board

Regular Board Meeting

10/2/17

The regular board meeting was called to order by Representative Sam Jones. Attendance was taken by Secretary/Treasurer Kimberly S. Walden. There was no quorum. The meeting continued in order to provide and discuss updates and ideas.

Mrs. Walden gave the board an update on the opportunity that the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has to partner with federal agencies to put forth a plan for grant funds to the RESTORE Council. One of the projects to be submitted in the next grant round is for Lake Fausse Point Restoration. Mrs. Walden will need information to formulate a thorough plan and get estimates for the funding request. The plan would need to include methods and cost estimates for sediment removal and possible other activities such as runoff prevention.

Mr. Lucian Cutrera offered his services. Rep. Jones instructed Mrs. Walden to check on the committee’s fund balance to see if there are funds that could be used to pay Mr. Cutrera.

General discussions followed for the remainder of the meeting covering topics related to the board’s development of a plan, next steps, and concerns regarding recent flooding due to related drainage and sedimentation issues.

Mr. Cutrera stated that this is a regional issue and it is caused by local and regional sediment.

Rep. Jones stated that Morgan City is building a dredge that could possibly be used.

David Laperouse recommended that we look at an Alaskan Company with similar experience.

Rep. Jones stated that the Atchafalaya should be 20ft. deep and it’s only 12ft.

Jody David stated that measures need to be taken to stop agricultural run-off.

David LaBourgeois stated that sedimentation in other areas like the Bayou Teche has increased due to the lack of sugar barges pushing sediment and that Bayou Teche needs dredging as well.

Mrs. Walden discussed working with USDA NRCS to educate and offer incentives to landowners and producers to grow cover crops and/or plant buffers which reduce agricultural runoff. Joey Breaux agreed and stated that this could work with the new generation of farmers. He recommended the 319 program with EPA non- point source, EQUIP, and NWQI-the national water quality initiative. He recommended that the Board work with upper parishes’ 319 program to develop a plan after testing by DEQ. He also mentioned that pipe drops are also helpful.

Mrs. Walden stated that a suggestion for bull rush planting was offered as a way to reduce turbidity. Concerns were expressed over bull rush spreading.

Mr. Cutrera suggested a master plan and that we could raise funds locally possibly with a millage.

Leslie Proctor asked about Iberia parishes’ drainage plans to put more flow down Tete Bayou which would increase sediment into the Lake.

Clarence Vappie expressed concern about out flow, or lack thereof down the Chipque.

Jody David stated that he has a plan for Lake Fausse Point. He also informed the committee of a Corps of Engineers project on False River that could be used as an example.

Lucien Cutrera recommended that the Board host a meeting with potential partners since this is a largescale problem. Development of a draft list of invitees was discussed. Participants would include Soil and Water conservation districts, NCRS, Drainage boards, EPA, DEQ, water districts, and the Teche Vermillion. The proposed meeting date is December 7th.

Joey Breaux also recommended RCPP via NCRS for our restoration and conservation work.