

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To extend the existence of the False River Watershed Council until January 13, 2020, and provide for its membership.

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the False River Watershed Council consisting of twelve representatives of state agencies, local government agencies, the legislature, and concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS, the council was charged with meeting to ". . . deliberate and produce a report that will identify, review, and evaluate management strategies to facilitate the goal of improving the aquatic habitat of False River; to provide recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the resources within the False River watershed, including but not limited to the following: the study of impacts and potential impacts to water quality, excess nutrient and sediment run-off management, shoreline modification management, watershed conservation measures, and innovative habitat restoration methodology; coordination of federal, state, and local efforts to improve and protect water quality; surface water resource management and protection policies; recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the natural resources in the False River watershed; identification of various funding options for ongoing maintenance of the False River watershed; recommended changes to current procedures and practices to make the management and protection of the natural resources in the False River watershed more efficient, comprehensive, and sustainable"; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 provides that the council shall cease to exist on January 11, 2016, ". . . unless it is extended by further action of the Louisiana Legislature. . ."; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 230 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature continued the council's existence until June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature continued the council's existence until June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the participants in the watershed council's efforts for "... improving the aquatic habitat of False River; to provide recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the resources within the False River watershed . . ." are united in their desire to continue those efforts through continued existence of the False River Watershed Council; and

WHEREAS, to achieve the goal of a restored False River watershed as quickly and completely as possible, it continues to be necessary to bring together the various government interests, as well as nongovernmental stakeholder organizations who possess specialized knowledge or whose members represent resource users in the False River watershed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend until January 13, 2020, the existence of the False River Watershed Council, whose membership shall be as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee within the department.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee within the department.
- (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee within the department.
- (4) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee within the department, who will serve as vice chair of the council.
- (5) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee within the department, who shall serve as chair of the council.
- (6) The state senator from Senate District 17.
- (7) The state representative from House District 18.
- (8) Two members to be selected by the senator from Senate District 17.
- (9) Two members appointed by the representative from House District 18.
- (10) Two members appointed by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

(11) The director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness – Pointe Coupee Parish.

(12) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of New Roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall submit a report to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the False River Watershed Council shall not be entitled to receive any salary, per diem, expenses, mileage, or other emoluments of the office for their service on this commission, outside of any that they may be entitled to by virtue of their service in another public office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall, at the proper time, contact the following federal resource agencies to solicit their views and input with respect to completing the study requested by this Resolution:

- (1) United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- (2) United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- (3) United States Geological Survey.
- (4) National Resources Conservation Service.
- (5) United States Department of Agriculture.
- (6) National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (7) United States Environmental Protection Agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, the commissioner of agriculture, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE