

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 140

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To continue the False River Watershed Council, amend its membership, and provide for its responsibilities.

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the False River Watershed Council consisting of 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, 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 is 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; and

WHEREAS, the success of the council is dependent upon the participation of the members, who are carefully chosen for their unique qualifications and subject matter expertise; and

WHEREAS, the council's objectives will be best accomplished by amending its membership to optimize the participation of its members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby continue the False River Watershed Council, whose amended 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 Department of Health or his designee within the department.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources or his designee within the department, who shall serve as vice chair of the council.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee within the department.

(6) One member to be selected by the senator of Senate District 17.

(7) One member to be selected by the representative of House District 18.

(8) One member appointed by the Pointe Coupee Parish Council.

(9) The parish president of Pointe Coupee Parish or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of the council.

(10) The director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for Pointe Coupee Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall submit an annual report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources no later than thirty days prior to the convening of each year's 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 emollients 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 Oceanic 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 the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE