

1 WHEREAS, in an effort to address these issues, in 2001, the United States Army
2 Corps of Engineers began the "False River Aquatic Resources Ecosystem Restoration
3 Project" which ". . . would enhance and restore the False River ecosystem by enhancing
4 fisheries and wildlife habitat, addressing sedimentation and associated water quality issues
5 in False River. . ."; and

6 WHEREAS, although it began in 2001 with an allocation of ten thousand dollars
7 which resulted in the Project Restoration Plan being completed and submitted to the Corps'
8 Mississippi Valley Division for approval in August 2002, the required preliminary
9 ecosystem study by the Corps went unfunded from 2003 through 2009 and therefore has
10 been stalled; and

11 WHEREAS, the Corps recently announced an allocation of four hundred thousand
12 dollars for the project, an amount that represents the total sum necessary to complete the
13 preliminary ecosystem study for the False River Ecosystem Restoration Project; and

14 WHEREAS, although the extreme riverine flooding experienced in Louisiana during
15 the spring of 2011 necessitated the temporary reassignment of personnel working to
16 complete the report, once again delaying the release of the preliminary findings by at least
17 three months, the Corps has announced that the preliminary finds are on schedule to be
18 released in July with the final report to be released in February 2012; and

19 WHEREAS, the final report is expected to include recommendations for how best
20 to restore the lake and should provide an estimated cost for those restoration efforts; and

21 WHEREAS, so far, funding for this project has come from the Corps' Continuing
22 Authority Program, a limited funding source that puts the False River project in competition
23 with other projects and which will necessitate a thirty-five percent funding match from the
24 local sponsor; and

25 WHEREAS, recent estimates of the potential local match hover around the two point
26 five million dollar range; and

27 WHEREAS, while it is essential to conduct a careful, deliberate, scientific study to
28 develop a sound and lasting solution to the deterioration of the False River ecosystem, it is
29 also essential that the Corps finish their study as expeditiously as possible in order to
30 preserve, protect, and enhance the resources now and for generations to come; and

1 WHEREAS, although there are many state and local agencies, including the
2 Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Environmental Quality, the
3 Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with
4 expertise, knowledge, and resources essential to identify and evaluate the problems present
5 in the False River ecosystem, the Department of Natural Resources and the Pointe Coupee
6 Parish Police Jury have been designated as the local sponsors for the "False River Aquatic
7 Resources Ecosystem Restoration Project"; and

8 WHEREAS, it is important that the designated local sponsors of the project bring
9 together all the appropriate state and local governments together with all the various
10 stakeholders interested in the restoration of False River to identify the problems, determine
11 solutions, and implement remedies to restore, preserve, and enhance the health and sustain
12 ability of the False River ecosystem.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Pointe
15 Coupee Parish Police Jury, to assume the role of lead local project sponsor for the "False
16 River Aquatic Resources Ecosystem Restoration Project" and to coordinate other state
17 agencies, local governmental agencies, and stakeholder groups in order to help expedite the
18 efforts by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to restore the False River ecosystem.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Natural Resources and the
20 Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury seek input and advice from other state agencies, including
21 but not limited to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of
22 Environmental Quality, the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the Department of
23 Wildlife and Fisheries, to assist the United States Army Corps of Engineers as it conducts
24 the study of the False River ecosystem and to provide assistance and support for the
25 implementation for the restoration plans recommended in the report to be issued by the
26 Corps in January 2012 and that those agencies provide such assistance, input, and support.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
28 secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, the
29 commissioner of Agriculture, and the secretaries for the departments of environmental
30 quality, health and hospitals, and wildlife and fisheries.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Thibaut

HCR No. 168

Requests the Dept. of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury, to assume the role of lead local project sponsor for the "False River Aquatic Resources Ecosystem Restoration Project" and to coordinate other state agencies, local governmental agencies, and stakeholder groups in order to help expedite the efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore the False River ecosystem.