

March 11, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, Bossier Parish, State of Louisiana, was held on the above date in the Nature Center Building located inside the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Area, Benton, Louisiana with the following present:

Present: James Huckabay
Ernest Covington
Wes Burdine
Jerry Juneau

Absent: Sonny Head

Also Present: Dickie Walden
Sandra Baldwin
James Southerland
Bruce Easterly
James Bates
Larry Wiley

President Huckabay called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Mr. Covington, seconded by Mr. Burdine. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the minutes of meeting held on February 12, 2008 was made by Mr. Burdine, seconded by Mr. Covington. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Revenue and Expenditures and Bills for payment was made by Mr. Covington, seconded by Mr. Juneau. The motion was unanimously approved.

As Melissa Whittington was not in attendance, Mr. Walden read the following Nature Center Report:

Total number of visitors to the nature center for the month of February was 579.

Environmental Education Symposium was held in Baton Rouge, LA on Feb. 1 & 2, 2008. Received new materials on water safety that will be utilized for Bass Pro Rangers on March 8, 2008.

Met with several Boy Scouts this month to plan an Eagle Project for them. James McKeown will build about five trail map boxes for the Nature Center. Met with Mr. Kerry Bird Scoutmaster to discuss some Eagle Project ideas. Taylor Bright is in the process of choosing one of three projects that I offered him. Ryan Turek is planning to complete his bench project on Saturday, March 15, 2008 and Sunday, March 16, 2008.

Attended the February 21, 2008 School Board Meeting with Mr. Walden and Mr. Head.

Regional Science Fair was held Friday, February 29, 2008. The Nature Center sponsored a \$50.00 Savings Bond for an Outstanding Environmental Project. This year's winner was Chi Nyugen.

The trees that were donated to the Nature Center are being planted in pots and around the park. The work crew has been a great asset in getting them in the ground in a timely manner. There are approximately 600 left to plant on the nature trails over the next week or two.

Old Business:

Jeffrey Hood – Landowner. Mr. Hood was not in attendance, however, the board agreed to approve his fire pit construction with the stipulation he gets a construction permit from the Administrative office.

Computers for the Administrative office: The board agreed to continue working with Mr. William Bell with the City of Bossier to obtain their used computers. Mr. Juneau suggested we obtain new software for the entrance gate to assist them with reservations.

New Business:

James Bates explained that we were no longer associated with U.C.C.S and will begin sending our State Unemployment payments directly to the Louisiana Department of Labor.

State Ethics Board opinion on Financial Disclosures – Mr. Southerland stated that the information received from State Representative Jane Smith’s office states that a “Political Subdivision” is exempt from the Financial Disclosures. He also advised that we write the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program for an opinion. On motion by Mr. Covington, seconded by Mr. Juneau and unanimously approved the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION
OF
CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HELD AT CYPRESS PARK
ON MARCH 11, 2008
AT 4:00 P.M.**

WHEREAS, the Legislature has passed a number of bills in the First Special Session of 2008 pertaining to Ethics.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1 says that State board or commission shall not include any entity created as a political subdivision of the state of local government or as the governing body or an agency of a political subdivision.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, as per LRS 38:2603, desires to know of any of the new provisions of the Ethics Reform package passed by the Legislature in the First Special Session applying to them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Secretary of the commission request an opinion from the Ethics Board as to any application of the Ethics Reform Law to the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District.

Zoo matters: Mr. Burdine advised that he has another person to join the Zoo Advisory Committee. He also said he would like to discuss the hiring of a Zoo Supervisor. Mr. Walden said he has a gentleman in mind who is a certified teacher and wants to take his skills outside the classroom. After much discussion on motion by Mr. Juneau, seconded by Mr. Covington and unanimously carried, Mr. Walden was given permission to negotiate a salary for a Zoo Supervisor and report to the Commissioners when it was finalized.

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Bruce Easterly's Report:

Oxidation Pond – He is going to contact DEQ to see if they can help with funding the repairs on the oxidation pond.

He has no further information on the Beach erosion.

Executive Director's Report:

First month's report: We continue to exceed revenue each month compared with this time last year.

Spring season: The Bossier Parish Police Jury sent a crew with equipment to spread the sand on the beach. We will begin summer hours on Friday, March 21st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James Huckabay, President

Wes Burdine, Secretary