

October 14, 2008

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

Board Members	Wes Burdine, Jerry Juneau, Ralph Whitley, Sonny Head
Absent	Ernest Covington
Also Present	Dickie Walden, Sandra Baldwin, James Southerland, Emmett & Mary Smith, Melissa Whittington, Bruce Easterly, Jake Hillen, Dan Wolff

Vice President Burdine called the meeting to order at 4:00 P. M.

Motion to approve the agenda, moving "Landowner Rules and Regulations" to last on the agenda was made by Mr. Head, seconded by Mr. Juneau. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the minutes of meetings September 4th, 9th and 23rd, 2008 was made by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Juneau. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve revenue, expenditures and bills for payment was made by Mr. Juneau, seconded by Mr. Whitley. The motion was unanimously approved.

At this time Melissa Whittington presented the Nature Center Report:

Total number of visitors to Cypress Nature Study Center was 1,463.

Our walk in visitor numbers are up compared to last year as well as an increase in tour numbers. September was wonderful due to the weather and kids are excited to be in nature. 4-H W.I.L.D. Conservations Ambassadors met for the first time this school year on September 18th and October 9th, 2008 at the Courthouse Annex in Benton. I am very proud of the youth that participate in 4-H W.I.L.D. Conservation; therefore, I have nominated two of my nature ambassadors for the "Discovery Tomorrow's Leaders". I will let you know if any of them are chosen for this honor. I spoke with Carolyn Pitts concerning information about the points of interest in this area. She has requested from me a small write up about the nature center and nature trails that will encourage tourists to come and visit the Benton Area. Carolyn is a local artist that frequents the zoo for pictures, is active in the Bossier Historical Foundation, and is now a representative of this area for tourism. She needs any information by October 15. She asked if I could share this information at the Commission meeting today. If anyone knows of some historic site or place that would draw tourists please let her know. I have her information if you would like to speak with her. The last Saturday and Sunday we were invaded by Cub Scouts and young Boy Scouts. The weather has been very cooperative for these groups to come and earn badges in the different outdoor activities that we have to offer. It is very exciting and I am glad to see our scouts returning to the park. Girl Scout Troop 1180 utilized the Nature Center October 4. Ricky Kilpatrick and I planned a small tree planting activity with one of the local Scout groups October 11th and sometime in January, 2009. November 4 the Nature Center will host a Regional 4-H Outdoor Skills Day for youth from five parishes. We are hoping to have over one hundred youth.

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Bruce Easterly's Report:

Mr. Easterly reported the oxidation pond repairs have been completed and Specialty Trackhoe did a great job. On motion by Mr. Juneau, seconded by Mr. Whitley and unanimously carried approval was given to pay Specialty Trackhoe.

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Walden stated he is working on the 2008 amended budget and 2009 proposed budget. He will present these at November's meeting for approval in December's meeting. He and Howard Peterson, maintenance supervisor are compiling a list of surplus equipment. When finished he will present it to the Board to declare them surplus.

Landowner Rules and Regulations revisions:

After review of Mr. Southerland's suggestions, Mr. Head asked the commissioners to email their suggestions to him. After much discussion, this issue was tabled until next board meeting.

At this time Mr. Walden requested the board go into executive session.

The board reconvened with no action taken in executive session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Wes Burdine, Vice President

Jerry Juneau, Secretary