

CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020

A Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, Bossier Parish, Louisiana was held on the 10th day of March, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in the Nature Center building, located at 135 Cypress Park Drive, Benton, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Walter Bigby. The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Jerry Fowler. Chelle Carroll called the roll, with all members present as follows:

Walter Bigby	Gary Wyche
Jerry Fowler	Robert Berry
Mel Allen	

Others present include Chelle Carroll, Office Administrator for the District; Lee Ayres and Alex Vozzella, Legal Counsel for the District; and Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Bossier Parish Engineer.

Please see attached sign-in sheet for members of the public who were also present.

Motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Fowler, to approve the March 10, 2020 meeting agenda.

Public comment was requested. Mr. Tom Lawson made a comment regarding Eagle Water, LLC's notice of intent. Because this is an item on the agenda, Mr. Wyche asked Mr. Lawson to hold his public comment until the agenda item is presented.

Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.

At the January 16, 2020 special meeting, a motion to deny Mr. Rodney Thornhill's swimming pool proposal as presented was made, seconded, voted upon, and appeared to have carried. At the February 11, 2020 meeting, Ms. Shannon Brown commented that Mr. Bigby did not verbally voice his vote at the January 16, 2020 meeting. Mr. Bigby stated that he intended to vote in favor of the motion. In order to clarify any concerns over whether the motion actually passed at the January 16, 2020 meeting, motion was made by Mr. Wyche, and seconded by Mr. Allen, to deny Mr. Rodney Thornhill's swimming pool proposal as presented. The motion carried with the following votes recorded:

AYES:	Walter Bigby, Mel Allen, Gary Wyche
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Robert Berry, Jerry Fowler
ABSENT:	None

Motion was made by Mr. Allen, and seconded by Mr. Wyche, to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2020 Special Meeting.

Public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rex Moncreif made a public comment on an item not on the agenda. No motion was made to add item to the agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Fowler, and seconded by Mr. Wyche, to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of Eagle Water, LLC's notice of intent submitted to DEQ, requesting a permit modification to increase discharge sanitary wastewater from Cypress Gardens Oxidation Pond.

Public comment was requested. Mr. Robert Aiello presented on behalf of Eagle Water, LLC and explained that the Louisiana DEQ is requesting a letter of no objection from the District.

Mr. Joe E. "Butch" Ford, Bossier Parish Engineer, spoke on behalf of the Bossier Parish Police Jury. Mr. Ford explained that the Police Jury would like to purchase the Cypress Gardens Oxidation Pond with the intention of eventually closing the oxidation pond and treating the sewage at the Police Jury's Red River Treatment Plant.

There was significant discussion between members of the public, Mr. Aiello, Mr. Ford, and the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Bigby suggested not taking action on the matter until additional information could be obtained from the Louisiana DEQ. No action was taken.

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of legal remedies for collecting delinquent 2020 landowner fees

Ms. Alex Vozzella, legal counsel for the District, stated that there are approximately 54 landowners who have not paid their 2020 landowner fees.

Mr. Berry explained what steps have been taken thus far to get landowners to pay their 2020 fees.

There was some discussion regarding legal action taken the previous year against landowners who failed to pay their 2019 landowner fees.

Motion was made by Mr. Wyche, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to proceed with legal action against the landowners who have not paid their 2020 fees.

There were some public comments regarding whether legal action meant sending a demand letter or filing suit.

Motion was made by Mr. Wyche, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to amend the first motion to authorize legal counsel to send registered letter to the landowners who have not paid their 2020 fees and give 15 days to pay the fees.

Public comment was requested. Mr. Bob Key made a public comment regarding the basis for the landowner fees.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of revising the Board's public meeting policy and procedure.

Ms. Vozzella explained the reasoning for revising the public meeting policy and procedure.

Public comment was requested. There were some public comments regarding the current policy and procedure and potential revisions to same.

Motion was made by Mr. Allen, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to table the agenda item related to revising the public meeting policy and procedures.

Additional public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of establishing a formal public records request policy and procedure.

Ms. Vozzella explained the reasoning for establishing a policy for responding to public records request.

Public comment was requested. There were some public comments regarding the recommend public records request policy.

Motion was made by Mr. Fowler, and seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize legal counsel to prepare a formal public records policy and procedure.

Additional public comment was requested. There was some public comments regarding the custodian of records.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bigby announced the revising the District's official rules and regulations.

Ms. Vozzella explained that the rules and regulations provide that they should be reviewed annually, and this has not been done in a couple years. Ms. Vozzella also explained that there appears to be some confusion among the public regarding various portions of the rules and regulations, which could be cleared up by revising the rules and regulations.

Mr. Allen recommended that each of the Board members look over the rules and regulations individually then have a workshop to discuss the recommended revisions.

Motion was made by Mr. Wyche, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to table the agenda item related to revising the District's official rules and regulations.

Additional public comment was requested. There was public comment related to the length of the rules and regulations.

The motion carried with the following votes recorded:

AYES:	Walter Bigby, Mel Allen, Gary Wyche, Jerry Fowler
NAYS:	Robert Berry
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

Motion was made by Mr. Wyche, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to enter into executive session to discuss the Hall litigation (*Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District v. David Wendall Hall, et al*; Suit No. C-159899, Sec. 3; 26th Judicial District Court; Bossier Parish, Louisiana) and other matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Allen, and seconded by Mr. Fowler, to enter back into the regular meeting.

Public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business at this time, motion was made by Mr. Fowler, and seconded by Mr. Wyche, to adjourn the meeting.

Public comment was requested with none received. The motion carried unanimously.

Walt Bigby, President

Jerry Fowler, Vice-President