

September 13, 2016  
Board Meeting

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 in the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Area, Benton, Louisiana on the above date with the following:

Present: Alan Warren, Jerry Fowler, Walt Bigby, Gary Wyche, Robert Berry

Absent: None

Also Present: Chelle Carroll, Nancy Scripture, Stacey Smith, Melissa Whittington, Madora Abney, Charles Keene, Jim Carroll, Randy Pace, Todd and Rhonda Alexander, Michael Nix, for complete list, please see sign in sheet

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Mr. Warren. Roll call was made by Chelle Carroll. The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Fowler. The prayer was given by Mr. Warren.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Fowler. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the 08-09-2016 Board Meeting was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Wyche. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion to approve the bills for payment was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Wyche. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

**Nature Center Report:** Given by Melissa Whittington

Walk-in visitors to Cypress Nature Study Center for August 2016	191	
August 1-6	Monday Staff meeting Contacting Teachers about Tours & Confirmations Preparations for Transition Ironfish Competition	Monthly Activity Schedule Social Media & Website Updates Eagle Scout Meeting (5) Daily Small Group Tours (24)
August 6	Cooperative Extension Master Naturalist Program (32)	
August 9	Commission Meeting	
August 10	Orientation Day for Madora Department of Exceptional Children—Caddo Parish (12)	
August 11-18	Monday Staff Meeting Lesson Plans for September Internet Assessment for possible upgrade	Trail Inspection – down trees check Meeting with SpEd Created displays for Nature Center
August 22-25	Monday Staff Meeting Meetings for Security Procedures/demo equipment	Trail Inspection – mosquito check Security letters for Principals and
Teachers for all September classes	Assembled APES booklets	Prepare materials
August 29-31	Planning meetings for beginning of tour season Monday Staff Meeting Trail Inspection – mosquito check BPPJ – meet/assess/implement precautions mosquito control Meetings with cooperative agencies (LDWF, Bossier City Env. Div., Cooperative Extension-4-H, etc...	Developing activities for AgMagic Conference with Mr. Berry Put together water quality packets BHS APES students Independent Projects (4)
The total number impacted during the month of August 2016	278	

**Memorandum**

The Nature Center is implementing new security procedures for the parents/adults that attend field trips. These are all new procedures for parents attending trips but with our ever changing world we are trying to stay on top of any possible issues.

Changes will also be implemented at the facility during classes. The nature center will be closed to the public during classes for security reasons and to prevent interruptions for the students. Late arrivals will miss the opportunity to enter with the class and be a part of the inside lesson BUT they will be more than welcome to take the nature hike with us afterwards.

BIG "Thank you" to this CBB Board for the new and faster internet connections. We appreciate your support of our programs at the nature center and recognize the expense it is taking to move us into the next century. Madora and I are looking at grant options that are supportive of the combined technology vision that you share with us. We hope to procure an activeTouch panel to be used for educational purposes and for the boards use at meetings.

Benton High School Advanced Placement Environmental Science student Kylie Andrews will conduct her Independent Project at the Nature Center over the next eight weeks. We had our initial meeting and she will choose from two projects.

With the unusually wet weather this August, the nature center staff has been monitoring mosquito activities. On Monday, August 29, I determined that it was necessary to contact BPPJ Mosquito Control to meet with them to see how they could assist us in addressing this issue. Mr. Mark Coutee set up a time for Mr. Cliff Cannon to come out as assess the problem and find a solution that would work for our classes. Mr. Cannon determined that he would spray the whole park from his truck, then utilizing a small spray rig he would spray the handicapped trail and the one woodland trail to the bridge before classes start. Thank you Bossier Parish Police Jury Mosquito Control for all your help!

Madora's first month has been very busy with the normal beginning of the year activities, along with transitioning into this position. So glad she is here to see how we kick off the new school year.

Coming Soon

Labor Day Holiday – Monday, September 5, 2016

AgMagic @ the State Fair of Louisiana – we will participate Thursday, October 27, Friday, October 28, Tuesday, November 1, and Wednesday, November 2

**Director Report:** Given by Robert Berry

- Met with Chief Wallace to help get structure up for their emergency vehicle.
- Big thanks to Mr. Wyche for filling in for Mr. Berry while he was out for surgery!

**Old Business:**

- Salvinia Update:
  - We have tried a couple of different methods such as hiring a private contractor to spray and harvesting the salvinia. Many factors such as weather and depth of water have made it harder to rid the lake of this vegetation. After further discussion from concerned landowners, the board of directors will look into more forms of action.
- Delinquent Landowner Payments:
  - We have recently filed suit.

A motion was made to enter into executive session by Mr. Wyche and seconded by Mr. Bigby. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made to enter back into regular session by Mr. Bigby and seconded by Mr. Wyche. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

There being no further business at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Berry to adjourn the meeting. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

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Alan Warren, President

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Jerry Fowler, Vice-President