

December 11, 2018
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: Gary Wyche, Alan Warren, Walt Bigby, Jerry Fowler and Robert Berry.

Absent: None

Also Present: Chelle Carroll, Jennynne Pinter, Alex Vozella, Bruce Easterly, Charles Keene, Cliff and Anne Timmers, Bruce and Brenda Arnold, and Kosha Shah.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Mr. Wyche. 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. Warren 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 11-13-2018 Monthly Board Meeting was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Warren. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the 12-08-2018 Declaration of Emergency Meeting at the Bossier Parish Courthouse at 12:30 PM was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Warren. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made to enter a public hearing for the amended 2018 amended budget was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Bigby. Public comment was requested and there was some discussion regarding cuts that have been made to the park's expenditures as well as the status of the bond and its repayment.. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Bigby to approve the amended 2018 budget. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

- Resolution 2018-002 read as follows:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Bigby.

CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO.
2018-003 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2019 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District (the "District") is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana ("State") and a district created and existing pursuant to Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, as amended (La. R.S. 38:2601 et seq), and other relevant constitutional and statutory authority;

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 39:1310 and 1311 require that the 2018 budget of the District, as originally adopted on December 12, 2017, be amended to more accurately project the estimated actual revenues and expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2018;

WHEREAS, the 2018 amended budget of the District is presented as Schedule A to this Resolution;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was set for and held on December 11, 2018 to allow for public input and comment on this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that after receiving public input, that the 2018 amended budget be and is hereby adopted.

Resolution No. 2018-002 was read in full at an open and legal session convened. After public comment, the above and foregoing was offered for adoption, seconded, and then approved by the following vote:

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT
Robert Berry	X		
Walter Bigby	X		
Jerry Fowler	X		
Alan Warren	X		
Gary Wyche	X		

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 11th day of December, 2018.

CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Gary Wyche, President

A motion was made to exit the public hearing by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Warren. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made to enter a public hearing for the proposed 2019 budget was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Bigby. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2019 budget by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Warren. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

- Resolution 2018-003 read as follows:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Warren.

CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO.
2018-003 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2019 BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District (the "District") is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana ("State") and a district created and existing pursuant to Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, as amended (La. R.S. 38:2601 et seq), and other relevant constitutional and statutory authority;

WHEREAS, the 2019 budget of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District is presented as Schedule A to this Resolution;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was set for and held on December 11, 2018 to allow for public input and comment;

WHEREAS, notice of the December 11, 2018 public hearing was published as required by Louisiana law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that after receiving public input, the 2019 budget be and is hereby adopted.

The above and foregoing Resolution was read in full at an open and legal session convened. After public comment, the above and foregoing was offered for adoption, seconded, and then approved by the following vote:

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT
Robert Berry	X		
Walter Bigby	X		
Jerry Fowler	X		
Alan Warren	X		
Gary Wyche	X		

And the Resolution was declared adopted on this 11th day of December, 2018.

CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
Gary Wyche, President

A motion was made to exit the public hearing by Mr. Warren and was seconded by Mr. Bigby. The vote was unanimously carried.

A motion was made to re-enter into a public meeting by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Fowler. The vote was unanimously carried.

Nature Center Report: Read by Kelly Kruithof

Total number impacted by Cypress Nature Study Center November 2018 was 720

The Nature Center secretary, Beth Norwood, would be leaving her position to start work at the BPSB central office. Ms. Kruithof will now be at the Nature Center Monday through Friday. Mr. Warren asked that Ms. Kruithof thank Ms. Norwood on the Board's behalf for all of her work.

Director's Report: Given by Robert Berry

- The flood has delayed a couple projects.
- Salvinia has been spreading to open waters. We are hopeful that it will reach the spillways to be flushed out. No spraying is recommended at this time due to weather conditions.
- The boat stalls in the park are being torn out and rebuilt so that they can be rented.
- One of the cottages is being remodeled.
- The condo is complete and will be available soon.
- Invoices and updated leases for Landowner fees will be sent out within the next week or so.

New Business

- Proposed Operational Fees
 - The new fee structure for park services was read aloud by Mr. Fowler.

A motion was made to accept the new fees by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Warren. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

- Late Fee Amount for Delinquent Landowner Fees
 - Changes to the late fees for landowners who are delinquent in paying their lease fees was explained by Mr. Berry.

A motion was made to approve the new late fees for delinquent landowners was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Bigby. The late fee of \$50.00 dollars, but not more than \$1,500.00 dollars, will be added for each month the fee remains unpaid. For landowners with multiple payments, if you are delinquent one payment, the late fee will be added and the balance will be due immediately. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

Mr. Fowler spoke at length about the progress that the park has made under Mr. Berry's direction and offered his gratitude. He read aloud the following statement:

In 2013, this park was a disaster. It was on the verge of collapse and bankruptcy. It had a 500 thousand dollar deficit. The bills could not be paid. 17 thousand dollars in bills had to be held in order to make payroll. The infrastructure of the park was in shambles. No improvements or additions had been made in years. Repairs had only been done on a crisis or have-to basis.

The Director's job was open and it was anything but a dream or plum job. There was a person that wanted the job, though. That person was appointed Executive Director in June 2013.

He began by instituting cuts that amounted to 230 thousand dollars. A 200 thousand dollar line of credit was opened at the bank.

I became a member of the Commission in July 2014.

By the end of 2014:

1. A total of 330 thousand dollars in cuts had been made.
2. The debt at the bank had been paid.
3. Bills were being paid on time.
4. We had a carry over of 180 thousand dollars.
5. The 1.56 mil property tax had been renewed by 60% of the vote.

In January of 2015, a proposal to attack the infrastructure problems was presented and approved. This was in the form of a 3 million dollar bond to be used solely for capital improvements to the park. Some of the improvements with this money that have been made to date are:

1. Restructuring the park entrance and administrative offices.
2. Renovating the log cabin.
3. Resurfacing park roads.
4. Resurfacing the parking lot at the 162 launch.
5. Redoing the sewer system in the RV park.
6. New showers and restrooms in the RV park.
7. New showers and restrooms in the primitive area.
8. Rebuilding the pier in the RV park.
9. New marina, decking, walkway and decking around that point.
10. Redoing the beach area.
11. New event center..
12. New cabins.
13. Redoing the cottages.
14. New fishing pier on Parks Road.
15. New launching ramp pier on Parks Road.

More improvements are on the way.

By the Director's frugal money management, budget cuts, assuming additional duties and responsibilities and hands-on management, he is going to be able to take the 3 million dollar bond money and stretch it into 5-5.5 million dollars worth of capital improvements. An example of this is the new event center. If it had been bid and contracted out, it would have cost between

125-150 thousand dollars. It was built for 40 thousand dollars.

Since this person took over the daily operation of the park 5 years ago, between 550-600 thousand dollars in budget cuts and expenditures have been made without any reduction in park services. This has been made possible because of his willingness to take on and assume these additional duties and responsibilities. Also, there have been 16 major capital improvements with more on the way.

I failed to mention that while these things were being accomplished, you may remember, he was almost killed in February 2014 in a horrible electrical accident in the park that fatally injured one man and severely injured another.

As a Board member that has had the pleasure of working with this person for the past 4 ½ years, I want to sincerely and publicly thank him for the job he has done and is doing.

The person I have been talking about is Mr. Robert Berry.

Thank you, Robert, for a job well done.

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session by Mr. Warren and seconded by Mr. Fowler. Public comment was requested with none received. The vote was unanimously carried.

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

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

Gary Wyche, President

Alan Warren, Vice President