

**CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 09, 2020

A Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, Bossier Parish, Louisiana was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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; Alex Vozzella, Legal Counsel for the District, and Philip Rodgers, Bossier Parish Police Jury.

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

\*\*\*

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Mr. Bigby announced the Revised Meeting Policy and Procedures in order to comply with Louisiana Governor's Proclamation Numbers 74 and 75, issued on June 4, 2020, and to allow for public observance and participation to the fullest extent possible while still maintaining public safety.

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Fowler, to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.**

Public comment was requested. Ms. Vozzella stated that no public comment cards were completed concerning this agenda item and no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

**Motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Fowler, to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020 Special Meeting.**

Public comment was requested. Ms. Vozzella stated that no public comment cards were completed concerning this agenda item and no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

**New Business**

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for 2019 Audit.

Ms. Vozzella explained that the Compliance Questionnaire must be completed every year to accompany the annual audit conducted by Travis Morehart.

Public comment was requested. Ms. Vozzella stated that no public comment cards were completed concerning this agenda item and no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Mr. David Hall asked if this audit would be published on the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's website. Mr. Berry confirmed that it would be published with the audit.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

## **Old Business**

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of authorizing the required periodic review of the District's Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Vozzella explained that Rules and Regulations expressly provide that they should be reviewed annually and it has been a couple years since they were reviewed.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fowler, and seconded by Mr. Allen, to authorize legal counsel to conduct annual review the Rules and Regulations and present suggested revisions at a later meeting.**

Mr. Allen suggested holding a workshop to discuss the proposed revisions, and there was some discussion among the Board members about a potential workshop.

Public comment was requested. Ms. Vozzella stated that no public comment cards were completed concerning this agenda item and no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

Mr. Mike Loftin asked if the workshop would be held at the Nature Center. Mr. Bigby stated it would either be held at the Nature Center or the Event Center, depending on the number of people in attendance.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*

Mr. Bigby announced the consideration of the Louisiana DEQ's request for a letter pertaining to Eagle Water, LLC.

Ms. Vozzella stated, at the last meeting, there was a request on behalf of Eagle Water for the District to provide a letter of no objection to the Louisiana DEQ in relation to Eagle Water's permit request. The Board tabled the matter to obtain additional information. Ms. Vozzella presented the information she received from Mr. Todd Franklin, in the Water Permits Division of the Louisiana DEQ. According to Ms. Vozzella's conversation with Mr. Franklin, Eagle Water is requesting an individual permit, which requires public notice and an opportunity for public comment before the DEQ grants or denies the permit. Because the DEQ grants or denies permits based on state and federal law only, the DEQ will typically reach out to any local governments to determine whether there are any local laws or ordinances that would otherwise prohibit the permit that is being requested, and this is essentially what the DEQ is requesting from the District. However, Ms. Vozzella clarified that the decision on whether to grant or deny a permit request is completely within the DEQ's jurisdiction. After reviewing the District's Rules and Regulations, Ms. Vozzella stated she did not see any rules or regulations that would otherwise prohibit Eagle Water's permit request, so she recommends that the District provide the DEQ with the letter, as requested.

There was also some discussion regarding the Police Jury's agreement with Eagle Water to purchase the oxidation pond and eventually close the pond and tie it into their system that is treated at the Red River treatment plant. The requested permit from the DEQ is necessary for the Police Jury to proceed with this agreement.

Mr. Allen recommended that the District provide the letter and include that, although the District does not have any rules and regulations that would prohibit the permit, there are many citizens that live around the lakes that have concerns about the quality of the water that is discharged from the oxidation plant.

There was some discussion among the Board members regarding the content of the requested letter.

Public comment was requested. Ms. Vozzella stated that no public comments were received prior to the meeting but that public comment cards were completed concerning this agenda item.

There was significant discussion regarding the quality of water being discharged from the oxidation pond and alleged prior violations of Eagle Water's permit.

Mr. Tom Lawson stated his concerns regarding the lab results from the water samples that were tested by Gulf States Labs at the location of the discharge from the oxidation pond.

Mr. Mike Loftin stated his concerns related to pollution from the oxidation pond and inquired into whether there is any private cause of action against Eagle Water for violations of its DEQ permit.

Mr. Robert Aiello responded to the pollution allegations against Eagle Water.

Mr. Philip Rodgers discussed the Bossier Parish Police Jury's agreement to purchase the oxidation pond and an estimated timeline for shutting down the oxidation pond if it is purchased.

Mr. David Hall stated his concerns with the quality of water that is being discharged from the oxidation pond. He also spoke in support of having stricter language in the letter from the District to the DEQ.

Ms. Renee Hall stated that she presented a different sewage discharge proposal to the Police Jury for the requested new development.

**Motion was made by Mr. Fowler, and seconded by Mr. Allen, to grant permission for legal counsel to write the letter to DEQ in accordance with Mr. Allen's suggestions.**

Public comment was again requested again. Mr. Wyche stated that he believed Ms. Anne Timmers and Ms. Cynthia Reed emailed public comments in opposition to this agenda item, but these comments were sent to the wrong email address, so the comments were not available to be read into the record of the meeting, but their oppositions were noted in the record.

**A roll call vote was requested, and the motion carried unanimously with the following votes recorded:**

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

\*\*\*

Mr. Bigby asked if there was any additional business. Ms. Vozzella stated that Ms. Connie Sheffield emailed a comment not related to any agenda items. Ms. Sheffield's comment was into the record of the meeting.

\*\*\*

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Bigby at approximately 5:02 p.m.

---

Walt Bigby, President

---

Jerry Fowler, Vice President