

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 21ST DAY OF JULY, 2020

The Caddo Parish Natural Resources Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m., via ZOOM teleconference, with Mr. John-Paul Young, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, and Young (3). ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson and Lazarus (2).

Mr. Young gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, stating that, due to the current Public Health emergency declared in the Governor's Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and citing the provisions of La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., granting him the authority to control the "ingress and egress to and from a disaster, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor, in Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, has limited all gatherings of 10 or more people, for public safety purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Governor has issued a general stay at home order "unless performing an essential activity," 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, attendance at a Caddo Parish Commission Natural Resources Committee meeting is not stated in the list of essential activities, listed in 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and, WHEREAS, the usual conduct of the meeting would require travel and the presence of a number of persons in excess of ten (10); and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, Section 4, issued on March 16, 2020, has invoked the aforementioned statutes authorizing him to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency; and,

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on July 21, 2020 due to the Governor's proclamations, and will be required to meet by video conference, and, if necessary teleconference, on that date as allowed by law and the Proclamations of the Governor listed above.

Date: July 15, 2020

/s/Mario Chavez, President

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ashley McConnell submitted the following statement:

Please vote NO! on resolution 51!!! Shreveport citizen and native!

Catherine Jacobs submitted the following statement:

Vote no on Resolution 51. No drilling around Cross lake! Catherine Jacobs

Alison Hodges submitted the following statement:

Hi please vote no on Resolution 51 we do not need to damage our local ecosystems for oil.

Brenya Faith submitted the following statement:

Vote no on Resolution 51. I am concerned about more oil and gas extraction so close to the lake that provides our drinking water. I'm very scares and concerned —Brenya

Kimberly Talley submitted the following statement:

Protect our land and especially our drinking water. Surely there are better ways for the parish to bring in revenue than leasing, among other things, our water source and putting it at risk for spills and damage we've seen happen in other areas. Vote NO on Resolution 51! Kimberly Talley

Emily Hamann submitted the following statement:

Hello, I'm aware that the Caddo Commission will be voting THURSDAY on selling off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land in the sections in blue, some of which are right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. PLEASE vote NO on Resolution 51! Thanks, Emily

Annie Williams submitted the following statement:

Good morning, I am a resident of Stone Lakes Subdivision and over 40 years resident in Caddo parish. I am asking for a vote of "No" to Resolution 51. Please do not allow Oil and Gas drilling on parish properties ESPECIALLY CROSS LAKE, our primary WATER SUPPLY! Registered voter, Respectfully submitted

Charles Campbell submitted the following statement:

My name is Charles Campbell and I am writing to express my harsh disapproval and disappointment that ya'll are considering selling stolen land. This not only effects lower income neighborhoods negatively, but it also pollutes the environment. If you want this land to still be livable in the future, you need to think about your actions and how they will affect the community and planet.

Jennifer Courtney submitted the following statement:

Dear Commissioners, Please oppose the Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease sale and federal minerals around Cross Lake. We cannot afford to take a chance on damaging or polluting OUR WATER SOURCE. It sure seems a lot like biting the hand that feeds you. I understand that revenue is important to our parish, but the health of its citizens is priceless. Please do not allow the Bureau of Land Management to proceed with this deal.

Adrienne Critcher submitted the following statement:

My husband Bobby and I want to express our strong opposition to Resolution 51 which would sell off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land, some of which is right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. We strongly oppose any action that could jeopardize and possibly contaminate our drinking water. I'm also cc'ing our Commissioner John-Paul Young to ask him to vote against Resolution 51. Kind regards, Adrienne

Libby Mangum submitted the following statement:

As a resident at Cross Lake, I want the Caddo Commission to know my opinion. On THURSDAY, vote NO on selling off the rights to drill for oil and gas on parish land in the sections which are right on Cross Lake, our drinking water source. I am respectfully requesting that the Commission vote NO on Resolution 51. Sincerely, Elizabeth "Libby" Mangum, Resident S Lakeshore Drive.

Romandie Green submitted the following statement:

I urge you to vote "NO" on Resolution 51. Having a safe source for water is an essential to having a decent living environment. We have already seen what companies are capable of in reference to "the bottom line." I am a firm believer in the notion that money means very little in the face of contamination and/or operations disasters. Despite the need for funds in this parish, the risk is too great to sell off the drilling rights. We must protect those things that are required for life. We must not fail ourselves or our children! Please vote against Resolution 51.

Erin Berry submitted the following statement:

Caddo Commission: Please save our drinking water. In the midst of a larger global pandemic, the last thing we need to do is foul up our local source of drinking water and security. I am emailing all of you. John Paul Young is my elected representative, but issues like this transcend borders. We are all affected and we all need your help. On Thursday, July 9, 2020, please vote NO on Resolution 51 which, if passed, would open portions of Caddo Parish, including areas within Cross Lake, to leasing for oil and gas exploration and extraction. Cross Lake is the primary source of potable water to thousands of households, businesses, and institutions in the greater Shreveport area. Maximally protecting this natural resource is critical to the health and well-being of the citizens of Caddo Parish and beyond. Oil and gas exploratory and extractive practices are inherently damaging to the environment, involving, but not limited to, land use alterations, intrusive infrastructure, and the introduction of polluting and potentially harmful toxic compounds and substances which impact all three critical environmental matrices; namely, soil, air, and water. With the current downturn in the oil and gas industry worldwide, due not only to limitations of storage capacity in an already glutted market but also a marked downturn in consumer demand, there is no need to increase the footprint of such a potentially hazardous industry any further upon the NW Louisiana region.

Renee Dossett, Maureen Murov, Jennifer Russell & Sarah Hair submitted the following statement:

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critical to the health and well-being of the citizens of Caddo Parish and beyond. Oil and gas exploratory and extractive practices are inherently damaging to the environment, involving, but not limited to, land use alterations, intrusive infrastructure, and the introduction of polluting and potentially harmful toxic compounds and substances which impact all three critical environmental matrices; namely, soil, air, and water. With the current downturn in [the oil and gas industry worldwide, due not only to limitations of storage capacity in an already glutted market; but also a marked downturn in consumer demand, there is no need to increase the footprint of such a potentially hazardous industry any further upon the NW Louisiana region. Sarah Hair added: In the same vein, the only way our economy can credibly recover is if we all step up and prioritize public safety. I applaud that Shreveport has instituted a mask requirement, and would appreciate consideration of the implementation of the similar requirement throughout Caddo Parish that is on your agenda. Resident of District 4

Chris Jay submitted the following statement:

I am writing you to urge you to consider a "no" vote on Resolution 51, which entails selling drilling rights to the Pine Island area of Cross Lake. Cross Lake is where we get our drinking water, and we cannot afford to risk it. Shreveport (and Caddo Parish) face plenty of enormous challenges already - finding a new source of potable water would be one too many. Also, with oil and gas prices in the toilet, as they have been for so long now, do we really stand to gain that much from royalties? Unlike lots of folks you're probably hearing from, I am not anti-oil and gas. I am anti *this* project, which is just too big of a gamble and, if it were to go wrong, could deal this city a blow that it may not be able to recover from. We can, through grit and determination, rebuild from a GM plant leaving, a major annual event going belly-up, or a global pandemic decimating our economy. We cannot rebuild from having no clean water to drink. Please vote "no" on Resolution SI, and thank you. Thank you, Chris Jay

Sofia Nicole submitted the following statement:

I implore you to vote to stop the lease which allows oil and gas extractions on parish owned land. The risk is too great, especially with some of the land so close to Cross Lake. This lake is the primary source of drinking water for the denizens of Shreveport, Louisiana. There is a risk of an accident occurring while extractions which could ultimately lead to contamination in the nearby waters. Not only is this a risk for the environment and wildlife of the area, but it poses a major risk to humans if they were to consume the polluted water. These health issues can be grouped into respiratory damage, liver damage, decreased immunity, reproductive damage, and increased cancer risk. I must remind you that we are currently facing a worldwide pandemic, in which the virus also causes respiratory problems and damage, and the risk is too great not only for the people of Shreveport but also to local hospitals. As the daughter of a health professional, I understand that COVID cases in Shreveport are rising and the resources and space in hospitals can only go for so long. The oil and gas extraction poses a risk to the 183,800(ish) Shreveport denizens that could easily be avoided. Thank you for your time, I hope you consider this serious matter, Sofia Nicole

Jade Kerouac submitted the following statement:

My name is Jade Kerouac and I am writing to express my opposition to the federal Bureau of Land Management's proposed oil and gas lease sale beneath Cross Lake's southern, northern and western shores. Cross Lake is Shreveport's drinking water source, and development of these leases could pollute that water. I am asking you to vote NO on Resolution 51. This plan poses significant threats to Shreveport's drinking water supply, and should be canceled. The parcels proposed for oil and gas lease are located on the shores of Cross Lake. Any spill or well blowout could do significant harm to Shreveport's drinking water. This is simply not a risk worth taking. Clean drinking water is something people all over the world fight to have access to. Cities in this country are still fighting that fight, but Shreveport doesn't have to be fighting that fight unnecessarily. By voting NO on Resolution 51 you can help your community stave off that fight. I do not feel that the Bureau has thoroughly analyzed the potential impacts to dam safety and other geologic hazards that could result from induced seismicity triggered by oil and gas development and wastewater injection on the lease parcels. Frankly, these risks to dam safety are not worth taking; the risks associated with the Bureau's plan are significant and they are significantly controversial. If the Bureau does not cancel this plan outright, it should at least undertake a full Environmental Impact Statement to fully analyze, disclose, and mitigate potential impacts to the environment and our community. Please vote NO on Resolution 51 and allow more time and research before risking to Shreveport's main water supply. The Bureau of Land Management's failure to notify the public and local governments about its plan does not meet its public notice requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act. Similarly, twelve days is not enough time for the public to evaluate and provide meaningful comment on the Bureau's plan. This sale seems hushed and rushed; deliberately doing business this way in the middle of a global pandemic comes across as shady and uncaring towards community concerns. I urge you to vote NO on Resolution 51 to allow more information to be presented to our community before putting its' main source of drinking water in jeopardy. Thank you for reading, Jade Kerouac

Will Fox submitted the following statement:

Oil and Gas does not belong in Shreveport's economy and incarceration doesn't need to be our state's main source of revenue, shouldn't we be investing in our people, or is that up to the younger generations too!

Michael Beason, M.D. submitted the following statement:

To risk our only water source for Shreveport for no reason except greed and stupidity is unbelievable. Any councilperson that supports this would do so ONLY for an obvious kickback of some type. There could be no other reason. If this insane proposal should pass- I suggest the next money making scheme should be storage of nuclear waste products under the homes of councilpersons that voted for the obscene proposal.

Several citizens submitted the following statement. Their names are listed at the end of the comment:

I am writing on behalf of the undersigned high school students and youth of Caddo Parish. We spoke out in public comments last week asking the commission to vote no on Resolution 51. We spoke out in fear for our futures and the state of our environment and our drinking water. With the knowledge of water wells in New York and Pennsylvania contaminated by methane at seventeen times the rate of those farther away from (racking sites, with the knowledge of the birth defects, the blood disorders, the nerve damage; we wrote to you in fear. In hopes that you, our elected and easily removed representatives, would respond in compassion. Instead, though some of you stood in understanding and solidarity, what we heard from several commissioners on Thursday was dismissal. We, the youth of this city and of every city, are more than familiar with the stagnancy of older generations. It is not necessary for the commission to remind us that in the past, we have been met with unnerving silence in response to drilling projects and pipelines. Commissioner Lyndon Johnson confirmed the existence and danger of these past projects, and I know that with this awareness he plans to lead us in the right direction to address that danger. How will the commission work to make right the past? After all, it is the young people of this city—your children and grandchildren—who will inherit the toxins in our air and the chemicals in our water. It is the young people of this city who will have to inherit the unstable infrastructure of oil and gas investment: leaking pipelines, dangerous installation and removal work, unstable jobs, polluted and thus abandoned neighborhoods. But it is also you, who pay as taxpayers to test the water once you pollute it. It is you who must drink the water, who must trust that it will not poison you and your families. It is you who will watch and shoulder the blame for the steady downfall of our city as it becomes national news that no one here has safe water to drink, and that these decisions could have been prevented in your chambers. It is no safe bargain to assume exploiting our future will lead only to profit in yours. The youth of Caddo Parish collectively sign in request for the commission to join our fight for a more sustainable future, to leave the world safer for our children than our parents and grandparents left it for us. You have asked us why we want to leave this city when we graduate. You have asked us to stay, to build it up. I trust that you will help us to do that. Our requests for the Commission:

- 1) We request that the Natural Resources Subcommittee ask the state Department of Natural Resources and the companies proposing the drilling on parish land to provide more information including what drilling units the parish lands are included in, if state owned lands and lands that the federal government has the mineral rights to are included in the same drilling units, what percentage of landowners have signed to allow drilling in each unit, and what kind of extraction is being proposed.
- 2) Since neither the Bureau of Land Management nor the state Commissioner of Conservation held a public hearing on whether to allow drilling under and next to Cross Lake, we request that the Natural Resources Subcommittee hold its own public hearing on the issue of drilling in the Cross Lake watershed, invite the Bureau of Land Management and the Commissioner of Conservation to attend, allow for video and written testimony by citizens and experts, and submit the testimony to the Bureau of Land Management, the state Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor.
- 3) We request that the Caddo Commission send a letter to the Governor and the Commissioner of Conservation asking for a moratorium on drilling in, under, and next to our drinking water supply and for the state to allow local governments and citizens the chance to participate in the decision making process for drilling in, under, and next to our drinking water supply by holding public hearings and allowing for public comment periods.

Signed,

Gretchen Upton, District 4
Gus Demerath, District 4
Ivy Woods, District 4
Daisy Kallenberg
Emma Dong, District 9
Sofia Padilla, District 9
Sameer Tirumala, District 6
Nate brown, District 6
Joseph Clary, District 6
Adam Soileau, District 5
Zoha Ibrahim, District 5

Caroline Crittall, District 9
Selena Simmons, District 4
Tiffany Robinson, District 9
Henry Jones, District 4
Ryan LaFitte, District 6
Yen Chu, District 4
Emma Thigpen, District 5
Lauralee Weinland, District 6
Pooja Veerareddy, District 9
Pranshu Khanna, District 9
Renee Katz, District 9

Abigail Katz, District 8
Stewart Simon, District 9
Olivia Horrell, District 5
Haley Nguyen, District 6
Maddie Gnann, District 4
Sophia Singh, District 9
Lauren Miller, District 10
Abigail Schmidt, District 9
Meagan Welch, District 10
Ray Carroway, District 5
Hallie Krauss, District 9
Colton Krauss, District 9
Sophie Wiener, District 4
Ravdeep Warar, District 9
Sirish Yerrapragada, District 9
Arianne Graves, District 2
Veronica Penales, District 10
Eleanora Lawrence, District 4
Kevin Zheng, District 6
Jackson Holoubek, District 5
Bella Mainiero, District 9
Juliana Miller, District 7
Ameesha Paralikar, District 9
Diya Desai, District 9
Eshaan Tandon, District 9
Austin Kiihnl, District 10
Mabry Wojciechowski, District 9
Ava Singh, District 6
Alice Hale, District 5
Keaton Russo, District 4
Lydia Clark, District 4
Lyssa Harmon, District 1
Aila Yurochko District 6
Lily Sobalvarro, District 9
Daniel Bae, District 9
Lillie Edwards, District 6
Tarif Islam, District 9
Abigail McDade, District 1
Ethan Mackowiak, District 9
Jade Proctor, District 4
Maggie Weaver, District 6
Sabrina Huynh, District 6
Cate Engle, District 4
Storm Burton, District 8
Emma Pickens, District 4
Natalie Cockrell, District 9
Taylor Rosen, District 4
Mia Levermann, District 4
Ella Slack, District 4
Lauren Prudhomme, District 9
Sam Vekovius, District 7/District
2
Levi Volcheck
Hannah Cockrell, District 9
Ella Mason, District 4
Adelaide Mason, District 4
Rona Zibari, District 9
Neusha Zamani, District 9
James Perkins, District 2
Nick Mackowiak, District 9
Brenya Faith, District 4
Lexi Rhodes, District 4
Jaime King, District 9
Tuyen Chao, District 9
Mai Tran, District 3
Justina Vo, District 4
Sara Oberle, District 9
Danielle Krop
Autumn Sommers, District 5
Andrew Steward, District 8
Nayan Paavalar, District 9
Kendall Knotts, District 4
Rafaela Demerath, District 4
Lauryn Henderson, District 9
Savannah Rust, District 9

Ava Thurmon, District 4
Cooper Lemons, District 6
Merritt Hughes, District 5
Vance Melmoth, District 1
Zi Mills, District 4
Sidney Trundle, District 5
Mohammed Ibrahim, District 5
Theresa Johnson, District 6
Kai Boulton, District 4
Rohan Singh, District 6
Kailyn Jones, District 4
Jessica Fiser, District 9
Grace Boudreaux, District 7
Kaylee Bynog, District 2
Taylor Lex, District 3
Sydney Davis, District 6
Skylar Garcie, District 11
Shelby Virani, District 4
Baileigh Picou, District 4
Savannah Green, District 10
Merritt Shemwell

Mr. Young welcomed everyone to the Committee and stated that they will be discussing the following items:

- Discuss Resolution No. 51 of 2020, drilling under and around Cross Lake and public input in the drilling permit process

Mr. Young stated that he has three visitors who would like to discuss their points of view on this matter. He introduced Frances Kelly, Gretchon Upton, and Gus Demerath to the Committee.

Gus Demerath gave the following statement:

Hello everybody! I'm a senior at Caddo Magnet High School. The people of Shreveport get their water from one location, and that's Cross Lake. We trust that the city handles the water well, checks for chemicals, make sure it's clean, and generally cares for it. We trust the city puts its people before private corporations, before economic opportunity, and before profit. We can only trust that because we do not have the chance to voice our concerns in a public hearing. When there is an oil spill in Louisiana there's only a small chance of it getting cleaned up. So, the database kept by the State Department of Natural Resources said that since the 1990s only 12 of 137 properties with state verified contamination had been properly cleaned up. That's not very comforting for people my age, growing up here. So, contaminated drinking water affects everything from cancer rates to a kid's cognitive function. You see, oil drilling would exponentially increase the risk of contaminating the water supply of around 200,000 people, and we do not want that. I've talked to my friends and they do not want to either. The input from the public, especially the youth like me, is vital for the government. We live here. We will be the ones drinking the water from the tap. I drink it every day. You see the youth of the city are the ones who inherit the contaminated water. We know Shreveport is our home and all we've ever seen is more wells in a stagnant economy. We watch our local public officials bargain our health, as if they aren't the ones drinking the water. No wonder my friends are angry. No wonder they're disappointed. And no wonder they want to get out of Shreveport. We urge you to consider the risks that come with a decision to allow for oil exploration today. Do not think about the economic gains but the lives ruined by the possibility of a technological malfunction, which are all too frequent in this industry. Think about how it would affect your constituency. And think about the people of the city. In the end, we drill all over Northwest Louisiana, but we only get our water from one source. Now what will you do if your water is contaminated. Tell me. See, I don't want to see you getting bottled water at the store if it is contaminated because I'm going to have to be drinking it. I can't afford to buy bottled water. Thank you.

Gretchon Upton gave the following statement:

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Gretchen Upton I'm 17, I'm going to my senior year at Caddo Magnet High School as well. I want to say that I couldn't believe it when I heard about these projects, but I could. It's all too familiar to us: the prioritization of money for a few over the safety of many is something I've seen for as long as I have lived in the South. I've been told that for my voice to matter I had to be older and mature and smarter. Decisions like this are kept away from us and for the most part, our parents have been silent. You want to say it's not dangerous that because of this long standing history of oil and gas development that these new projects are just a drop in an ocean. But if we look at it this way, we will tell my generation not to vape to smoke because God only knows how harmful that is for our bodies. So if I tell you I smoke half a pack of cigarettes a day or half a Juul pod a day, why not make it a full pack? A full pod? Why not two? Why ever stop? Because we know that smoking more and smoking longer increases the risk to our health. We know it's not worth it. We know too that the more pipelines, we have the more will leak; the longer they stay there, the higher the chance of failure; more chemicals to come into the air and into the water, the more people die; and I'm scared. And I'm wondering commission if you all know how much money these projects will bring, and I'm wondering if any amount will be enough for you to sell our well being. Adrian Perkins came to my school just this past year and asked everyone gathered in the auditorium if we wanted to stay here after we graduated and the room was silent and it was still. I love this city and I want to say. I love the music and the art and the crazy local politics. I know how many of my friends feel the same, but we can't be expected to stay in a city that doesn't love us back enough just to keep our water clean to prioritize the brighter futures that you all want us to build. I hope you'll receive the letter that we wrote, which after circulating for just a day gathered over 100 signatures from young people in the city who are afraid. And I hope you have children or grandchildren or you live in a city have to pay taxes in a city have to drink the water in the city. I hope you can put aside to learn priorities of money and capital that this industry relies on you to bring to boats like this. And that you can decide just to hear us loudly and clearly as people who aren't often given a voice. Thanks.

Frances Kelly gave the following statement:

I want to thank you and the other committee members and also the full commission for allowing us to have this opportunity to talk about this. I know that it's a little bit complicated legally and politically, but I think that Commissioner Burrell made at the meeting about this being the only place to for public comments is really key. I did call the Department of Natural Resources to ask them like what the public participation process was for decision to do drilling under, around, and next to the lake. They told me that there is no public participation process. We're dependent on y'all as our local government or local

representatives to try to create a space for the public to be able to voice their concerns about this. I think that one of the things that we would like to see that was talked about in the letters that they you'd sent is to have the subcommittee hold a public hearing, invite the Governor, the Commissioner of Conservation, the Bureau of Land Management to send representatives to that meeting, so that the public really does have a chance to weigh in on this decision. We know that it's not all in your hands, but you do have the power to call for a public hearing and to allow for that to happen. I think it's really important for you all to think about your role in this as local government. Louisiana is sort of really unique as a state in that in every other state that has the oil and gas industry as a major part of their economy, there is a split in terms of the power where the state oversees the drilling process that the local government does have some oversight over land use policies and where wealth can be placed. It varies from state to state how much power is split between the state and local government, Louisiana is the only state where all of the power is with the state and you guys really also do not have to say in the City of Shreveport. [inaudible] charter has the power to protect the watershed but that was taken away through a lawsuit because of the state law that says, all the power was Department of Natural Resources, and there is no public participation process. I think it's also really a matter of fairness, because if you look at any other industry that either pollutes or has the potential to pollute their permanent [inaudible] Department of Environmental Quality, there is a public participation process; there is a place for public comments. There is a way to have a public hearing, and it's really unfair that this one industry is singled out to have this special protection where local governments and citizens have no ability to weigh in. We're asking you to have this process to invite those players to come. They're not required by law to listen to the public on this, but I think that an invitation from the Commission saying, our citizens are concerned and they would like to have their voices heard and we are having a hearing, and we would like you to send representatives to attend. It doesn't just affect the property owners who are drilling on this, it affects everyone who drinks the water, and that is 200,000 people. So, that would be, you know, I think, the way to think about this, it's about your authority, it's about how do citizens get a chance to weigh in to the process. And what can be done to allow for public presentation as much as possible.

Mr. Young said that it is his understanding from the visitors that the Commission pass a resolution inviting representatives from the Governor's Office, the Office of Conservation, and the Bureau of Land Management to discuss expanding public input in the drilling process in Louisiana.

Mr. Epperson agreed with Ms. Kelly's comments. He said that Louisiana is strongly controlled by the Oil & Gas industry. He said that he often receives calls regarding drilling. He said that this issue has been well overdue. Mr. Epperson said that we need to amend, update, and re-evaluate the oil and gas fracking and drilling ordinances of Caddo Parish and the State of Louisiana.

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to draft a resolution urging the State Legislature and the Governor to draft a public hearing process for citizen participation in Oil & Gas discussions.*

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Parish was only involved in this resolution because there is a parish right-of-way within the tract of the property. He said that the majority of the land is owned by private citizens, not the Parish. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that the well would sit on that private citizen's property, not the Parish's. He pointed out that the majority of the private citizens are willing to have the well on their tract of land. Mr. Johnson said that the Parish could potentially miss out on royalties from the drilling.

Mr. Johnson also thanked the youth for getting involved in the process. He reiterated that the private citizens will have the well on their land.

Mr. Young thanked Mr. Johnson for his explanation and said that there seem to be two separate issues going on. In regards to Resolution No. 51, the Commission does not have any authority or influence over whether or not the drilling will take place. He suggested that Resolution No. 51 be moved forward. He explained that the other issue is that this resolution seemed to have alerted people to their voiceless-ness in this matter.

Mr. Chavez wanted to know if the oil company would have to negotiate a different deal with the landowners if the Parish declines participation in this resolution. Attorney Bernstein stated that they would not.

Attorney Bernstein also mentioned that there are two processes involved here. The process that this resolution is about, is asking the State Mineral Board to put out requests for bids to lease the parish land with regard to the granting of a lease to the oil and gas companies. He said that it does not tie into any drilling of oil or permitting the drilling of oil, which is a separate process under the Office of Conservation.

Mr. Chavez asked what would happen if the Parish were to vote no on Resolution No. 51. Attorney Bernstein explained that it would be twofold. If the Parish chose not to lease its interest, the Parish would not get a lease bonus. The Parish would also be considered an unleased interest, it would only be once the oil and gas company recovered their costs of drilling the well, that the Parish would have any entitlement to funds. He also pointed out that there is no guarantee that the Parish would a dollar.

Friendly amendment by Mr. Young to include an invitation to a public hearing to the representatives from the Governor, Office of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, and Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Chavez agreed.

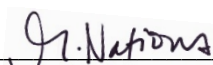
Mr. Young wanted to know if there was any federal land in this tract. Ms. Kelly said that there the majority of it is private land, but there is a percentage of city, state, and land that the federal government does not own, but has the mineral servitude in. She indicated that the Bureau of Land Management is also going through a process of whether or not to lease their land.

At this time, Mr. Chavez's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, and Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 51 of 2020 back before the full body.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, and Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

It was **moved by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to advise Dr. Wilson to direct Ms. Krystle Grindley to draft a press release in regards to Resolution No. 51.* Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Chavez, Epperson, and Young (3). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson and Lazarus (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There be no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Deputy Commission Clerk