

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 26TH DAY OF JULY 2024

The Caddo Parish Economic Development Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:02 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers Conference Room, with Mr. John E. Atkins, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, and Thomas (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Jones, G. Young, and J. Young (3). This does not constitute a quorum, but the meeting continued for discussion.

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

There were no Agenda Additions nor any public comments, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discussion of PFAS, Forever Chemicals, in water featuring guest, Dr. Peter Siska*

Mr. Epperson introduced Dr. Peter Siska to the Committee.

Dr. Siska discussed forever chemicals and their effect on the ecosystem. He explained that a forever chemical is a chemical that is very difficult to break down in nature, the ecosystem, and unfortunately, in our bodies. He mentioned that there are over 4,700 forever chemicals. Dr. Siska did a presentation on some of the forever chemicals that are currently in the ecosystem. It was also stated that the Earth and humans absorb the substances. The chemical structure of the forever chemicals has a very strong bond. Some of these chemicals are in our kitchens, such as in the non-stick cookware, laundry, furniture, etc. Dr. Siska also said that every American most likely has forever chemicals in their systems.

Mr. Atkins asked if the chemicals were dangerous. Dr. Siska explained that it is not good at all and contains carcinogens. PFAS reduces the use and response to vaccines in children meaning that it is not as effective as it was before.

Mr. Thomas wanted to know if they have identified any PFAS that reduces the efficacy of the vaccines. Dr. Siska said that all of them do. Dr. Siska explained that fluorine can interfere with the natural reaction to disease. PFAs penetrate the skin and then absorbed by enzymes and find the pathway to blood.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if other parts of the country have higher concentrations. Dr. Siska mentioned that Northern Italy has the highest amount and Michigan as well. LSU Health Center has been involved with Michigan in the water crisis. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know which industries yield the highest concentrations of it. Dr. Siska said this is proprietary information. He said that these chemicals entered our environments in the 1940s and have spread like wildfire. Dr. Siska said that the only water without PFAs is in the Hawaiian volcanic water.

Dr. Siska would like to establish a form of testing and monitor the effects of PFAs in the Shreveport/Caddo area. Mr. Epperson suggested testing ponds, lakes, and surface waters. Mr. Epperson suggested that Dr. Siska and the students perform the testing and have the Flagship University fund it. He also suggested LSU participating in the research. Mr. Epperson also suggested informing the Legislature about the PFAs and possibly have a collaboration with LSU-Baton Rouge and LSU Health.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if there is a concern with the levels that are currently in our water. He asked for the results of knowing there are forever chemicals in the water. Dr. Siska said that this is an opportunity to become a world leader in knowing what's in the water and making people more aware.

Mr. Clay Walker wanted to know what the treatment would be if it was found in Cross Lake, and if it was regulated by the FDA and EPA. Dr. Siska said that it would need to be filtered out. He also said that it is not FDA approved yet, but EPA is involved. Mr. Atkins said that the PFAs are a byproduct of manufacturing and refining.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if it has been proven to have a negative impact on health. Dr. Siska said that it decreases the efficacy of vaccinations for children.

- *Discussion relative to frack water lines crossing parish right of ways*

Mr. Tim Weaver, Director of Public Works, said that there are currently three active temporary water line permits. Each of the permits have a fee associated with it, and it depends on the size of the line. The permits are good for six months.

He also said that there are no fracs going on, but four drilling operations currently going on in the Parish.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the size of the water lines. Mr. Weaver said that they are 12

inch lines, but sometimes they run a 12 inch line inside a 15 inch drainage. Mr. Weaver also explained that if there is a weather event, they will tell the companies to “unplug” the segments.

Mr. Weaver also mentioned that the CVEU departments brings in thousands of dollars, but the main concern is citizen safety. Mr. Atkins wants to know how a vehicle is weighed. Mr. Weaver said that they have portable scales, and you have to be certified to use the scales. Mr. Weaver also explained that the Parish bridges can tolerate 8,600 lbs. A bridge is considered anything over 20 feet, and the Parish has 166 bridges with 20 not accounted for by the Bridge Better Federal Highway Department.

- *Receive and review Pipeline Right of Ways Map*

Mr. Epperson requested a pipeline map from Mr. Weaver. Mr. Weaver said that Public Works does not have a comprehensive map.

No voting took place at this meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashlyn King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ashlyn King
Office Specialist