Enthusiasm Registered Over Cypremort Point Beach Site

Sand from an Abbeville pit may provide the spread which would be needed for the development of a public beach and recreation area at Cypremort Point.

That was one of two places suggested for acquiring the sand for the beach should present plans for beach development be realized. The other is from the Atchafalaya basin.

Plans, along with the estimated cost of developing the beach area, will be unfolded in about a week by Claude Kirkpatrick, Louisiana director of public works. Kirkpatrick made that announcement to legislators, including Rep. Warren Simon of Kaplan, members of public bodies and area newsmen at an on-the-spot inspection tour of the Cypremort Point area Sept. 12.

The proposed beach and recreation area probably would be located on the shores of Vermilion Bay from Quintanna Canal almost to Shark Bayou, it was the opinion of those who made the survey.

Accompanying Kirkpatrick on the inspection tour was Lt. Gov. Taddy Aycock of Franklin, who spoke glowingly of the possibilities of such a beach.

Rep. Fred. V. Decuir of Iberia Parish, who helped to spearhead the proposal, said that if and when such an improvement is made it would attract thousands of vacationers, tourists and those seeking recreation.

Nathan Levy Sr., second ward juror from St. Mary parish, and longtime promoter for water and recreation development of the area, briefed the party on details of the Cypremort Point area. He informed them that the area for the proposed recreation spot was owned by St. Mary and Iberia parish school boards and contained about 460 acres.

Kirkpatrick and Aycock agreed that this thickly populated area of southwest Louisiana deserved such an improvement. All present saw the possibility that when completed it would be one of the greatest attractions in the state.

Rep. Decuir said that even with the little publicity that had been given the project he had received many promises from businessmen to build motels and other facilities for the convenience of visitors.

Kirkpatrick made no estimate of cost but said that the department had earmarked $150,000 to get the project started.

It was agreed that the shoreline of Vermilion Bay would be more practical for a beach than to make a man-made lake inland.

Legislators and visitors came from a five parish area, including St. Mary, St. Martin, Iberia, Vermilion and Lafayette.

It was agreed that the same group would meet within a two-week period at the University of Southwest Louisiana at which time definite plans would be presented, together with cost estimates.

After inspection of the proposed site the group was entertained with lunch at the state's Marsh Island camp.

PROPOSED SITE—This is a view of the approximate proposed location for the building of a sand beach and recreation area at Cypremort Point on Vermilion Bay. Legislators from a five-parish area and public works department officials inspected the site Sept. 12 to draw plans and arrive at some cost estimates for developing the public beach and recreation spot. Rep. Warren Simon of Kaplan and Vermilion Police Jury Vice President H. P. Guzardo of Gueydan were among the group inspecting the site.

—(Photo courtesy Daily Iberian)