La. Parks Commission May Take Over Cypremort Point

NEW IBERIA — Members of the Cypremort Point Beach Commission have submitted their resignations to Gov. John J. McKeithen and requested that the State Parks and Recreation Commission assume full control and administration of the beach and the public recreation facilities around the beach area.

The legislature has recently passed bills which would make this a reality. At present, House Concurrent Resolution 166 awaits approval by the governor before becoming law.

The Cypremort Point Beach Commission was created by executive order on March 24, 1965, by Gov. Jimmy Davis, to oversee construction contracts of the beach, located in both St. Mary and Iberia Parishes which have since been completed.

Federal Funds

Funds for the construction of the beach were made available through the Louisiana Bond and Building Commission in October of 1962 in the amount of $1,000,000. The allocated funds were exhausted in the construction of the beach.

The last contract was let in December, 1968. Since that time no federal maintenance funds have been made available to the commission, and the Iberia Parish and St. Mary Parish police juries say they can no longer maintain the beach.

Virtually Unusable

Presently, the point is virtually unusable to the public due to the lack of upkeep.

In an earlier letter to Iberia Parish Police Jury President Ernest Fouquier, Jr., chairman of the commission, State Department of Public Works pointed out that further operational funds from the federal government will not be available because of two factors:

(1) The organization responsible for maintaining and operating the beach must be a permanent body created by the Legislature (which the commission is not);

(2) Funds must be available for the operations and maintenance of the project throughout its expected life (which the two parishes of Iberia and St. Mary do not have according to officials).

Fouquier pointed out that the Iberia Parish Police Jury, and he understands St. Mary Parish Police Jury, does not have the funds to continue maintenance and operation of the beach. It has become a big project.

For this reason the request has been made to the State Parks and Recreation Commission to assume control of the beach area and make it a permanent part of the state's recreation system.

Awaiting Word

The commission is awaiting word from Gov. McKeithen for his approval on the request. Members of the commission consist of Senator Francis Romero, Representatives Carl Bauer, Helen Laperouse and Richard Breaux, Harold Junca, E. G. Landry, Millard Mannina, Ralph R. Longman, Sr., Anderson Yancy, Sr., and Ernest J. Fouquier, Sr., chairman.