Swamp Tourist Attraction Feasibility Study Is Sought

Possibilities Are Discussed in Ascension

By CLAIRE PUNEKY
(T.P. Bayou Lafourche Bureau)
GONZALES, La. — The Ascension Parish Resort, Conservation and Development Project Committee was asked by one of its subcommittees Tuesday to seek a feasibility study relative to a swamp tourist attraction in the parish.

The recreation, wildlife and tourism subcommittee of the parent Ascension body met with experts from various state and federal agencies Tuesday in the Gonzales Town Hall to discuss the possibility of such a project.

The meeting resulted in the decision that such a feasibility study is needed and the parish RC&D committee headed by Bill Stegelmeyer was asked to speak to the proper authorities to have this study done.

PROVIDE JOBS

There is no place in Louisiana where tourist can see a swamp and swamp animals and there is no place in the state where children can see and study such an area that is typical of Louisiana, Mrs. Potts said. She also noted that a swamp project would be a tourist attraction and would provide additional jobs.

The size of the area needed was discussed, along with long-term ecological stability of the area. Also discussed were possible roads for a boardwalk in the swamp, parking places for cars, and guided tours in the area.

The possibility of a visitation center, a rest stop and the potential number of tourists that could be expected were all brought up in discussion.

GOOD PROJECT

The committee decided that this project would be a good one and various agencies offered help and interest in it. Gus Stacy and Leslie Kent Jr. represented state parks. The parish RC&D committee was represented in addition to Stegelmeyer by Calvin J. Castaing and Mrs. Boyce Madere.

Vernon Robinson represented the Louisiana Forestry Commission; Robert E. Murray, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; and Wayne Robichaux, recreation specialist for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, represented that agency.

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service was represented by district conservationists J. B. Landry and C. M. George, recreation specialist Carl V. Thompson, and Charles Hollis, biologist assigned to the RC&D project under Leroy Willie, the coordinator.

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