

Letters to the MNM editor from Paul Fortune and Ken Shaw.

The Marshall News Messenger

Our Readers Write

Sunday, April 16, 2006, p. 5A

No merit to statement

From: Paul Fortune

Vernon Lewis' statement implying that I voted against the CVND resolution to support the request for Congress to take CLI's grant money and give it to the CVND because I benefit financially from CLI is totally without merit.

I have benefited financially much more from work I have done for Vernon Lewis in the past than I have from CLI.

My friendship with Vernon Lewis is valued highly, and although we disagree on some issues, I remain optimistic and look forward to working for the day when he and CLI President Rick Lowerre and all the WPP collaborative members will sit down at the same table and have civil and productive discussions about Caddo Lake issues.

None of us will ever agree on everything all the time, but much can be accomplished if we can find enough common ground to work together.

None of us are right all the time, however, this method has always worked best for me in getting things accomplished. This life is too short to spend it fussing and fighting with each other.

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Editorial on target

From: Ken Shaw, Chairman, Cypress Valley Navigation District

Though I am Chairman of the Cypress Valley Navigation District, I am writing this letter from my own personal perspective (obviously, the majority of the board would

not support my thoughts since they voted 6-3 in opposition to my position. I was the 10th vote, but was out of town on family business and unavailable to vote.)

I want to thank you for the editorial published as "Our View, Tilting at windmills, again" in your April 12 edition of the MNM. You were exactly correct in every point you made. Up to and including your comments about the federal government not being willing to give money "to the Cypress Valley Navigation District, for, well, uh, stuff."

Or as the General and the Judge so aptly put it in the Resolution to Senator Hutchison, "to Harrison County and/or the Cypress Valley Navigation District for the exclusive use of cleaning up, maintaining, and prolonging the life of Caddo Lake."

The Cypress Valley Navigation District board members have worked long and hard over the past several years to perform their responsibilities, in spite of severance of funding from the State, and a pittance of funding from Harrison County. They have worked non-politically, trying to shed themselves of the shadow cast over them from the water debacle of 2000. They were beginning to have admirable relationships with other agencies and organizations working to help Caddo Lake, "without taking sides."

Now, in less than three months, the General and the Judge have successfully placed the board in a divided contentious position. Through this action, the CVND has given notice to the various agencies earmarked to receive help from this funding for the long term rehabilitation of Caddo Lake (i.e., TCEQ, TP&W, USGS, NETMWD, and many others), that the CVND is more qualified than them to rehabilitate Caddo Lake. That returning the aquatic vegetation to the bottom of the lake will fix it sooner than establishing a periodic flushing and water quality improvement program. Yes, "another step backwards."

Or, maybe it's just "taking another stab at attacking Caddo Lake Institute."