

The curious case of a Caddo resolution (editorial)

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An odd action took place last week at the Harrison County Commissioners' court meeting that could have almost gone unnoticed.

The court unanimously approved one of those routine resolutions we sometimes wonder if anyone ever reads.

This particular resolution asked Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison to help get \$400,000 over the next two years to be given to the Cypress Valley Navigation District for the "exclusive use of cleaning up, maintaining and prolonging the life of Caddo Lake."

Nothing sounds wrong with that on the surface other than the fact that CVND chairman Ken Shaw didn't have the slightest idea of any such project and, in fact, told this newspaper that the CVND wasn't capable of performing those functions and that giving them such money would make the lake's situation worse, not better.

But if you look closely at the resolution, the resolution asks that the money be transferred from the already approved appropriation of the Ramsar Wetland Science Center" to the CVND.

And what that means is that this resolution is pure politics.

We aren't going to argue whether the best interest of the \$400,000 is immediate lake management or for a science center at Caddo Lake. Depending on your view, we suppose an argument could be made either way. We certainly won't argue that Caddo Lake needs immediate help, because that is the absolute truth.

The question is, is the CVND the best agency to give that help?

The chairman of that organization certainly doesn't think so. That having been said, is the government of Harrison County the best agency to give that help?

We certainly don't think so. We don't know which department at the courthouse handles lake maintenance, but it seems to us that the county would have to take that money and find an "expert" somewhere to advise it on what to do.

Can anyone smell lawsuit here? Can anyone smell even more divisiveness in the Harrison County community? We can, as smelly as burning grease on the stove.

We can't understand why there is such effort poured into fighting the Caddo Lake Institute and other lake entities by our elected officials. It happens with such regularity it cannot be an accident and lends serious credence to a philosophy common at the lake

that Marshall and county officials are "out to get them." This seems to be more than mere paranoia.

We are sure that if the same effort were only put into resolving issues instead of creating new ones that our county would be the picture of harmony right now.

But "winning" the battle of Caddo Lake seems more important than anything, particularly the lake itself. If we can't learn to come together instead of fighting one another, we will someday be able to put up a historical monument to commemorate this fateful battle.

Right in the middle of what used to be a lake.