

# Alliance works on Caddo plans

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*News Messenger*

JEFFERSON — A local organization has been established to coordinate U.S. Rep. Jim Chapman's 15-month-old "Caddo Lake Initiative."

Thursday afternoon, Chapman and Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Andy Sansom announced the establishment of the Cypress Valley Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to coordinating the environmental and economic initiatives — some 17 so far — now being pursued by various federal, state, and local government and private agencies in the watershed.

The initiatives are geared toward the development of environmental initiatives and sustainable economic growth on Caddo Lake and in the Cypress Valley

Watershed.

Jefferson School Superintendent Dr. Carol Harrell was elected chairman of the organization and Jesse M. "Duke" DeWare was made secretary-treasurer. Both represent Jefferson on the alliance. Others named to the organization are Paulette Cooper, also representing Jefferson, Ruth Culver of Leigh, Leta Kay of Marshall, John T. Echols of Karnack, Geraldine Mauthe of Uncertain, and Murray Lloyd of Shreveport, La.

Chapman and Sansom were named ex-officio members of the board.

Its first order of business will be to hire an executive director, an effort which will be coordinated by DeWare. Chapman expects there to be a nationwide search, he said.

"I will no longer be in the forefront," Chapman said. "The initiative has been handed off to a partnership which will carry it forward."

"Unprecedented" was a word Chapman and Sansom used often to describe the partnership forged among the various agencies. Chapman rattled off some of the work in progress — from Harrell's Junior Caddo Scholars Program to the work being done by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to establish public boat ramps and improve boat road markers.

Harrell called the forging of the Cypress Valley Alliance, "A grand day for the watershed."

"Our main goal is to preserve the history and culture of this region and to develop sustainable economic development," she said.