**MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2016**

**Board of Commissioners of**

**Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District Regular Meeting**

Union Parish Courthouse Annex

303 East Water Street

Farmerville, LA 71241

1. Roll Call – President Bruce Hampton called the meeting to order. Commission members present were Bruce Hampton, David Hopkins, Trotter Hunt, Steve Cagle, Cary Brown and Terri Towns. Also present were Bill Carter, Ron Riley, Robert Lemoine, Lussie Reppond and John Kelley.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Cary Brown led the invocation, and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – Lussie Reppond and John Kelley signed up to make a public comment.
4. Agenda Approval – A request was made by Bruce Hampton to add Item G9 to the Agenda which is a request by the Town of Farmerville regarding Old Highway 15, and Item G10, which is a request from the Keep Union Beautiful Organization to do with a cleanup of the lake on Highway 33 when the water is down. Cary Brown made a motion to approve the amendments and approve the agenda as amended, and seconded by Steve Cagle. There was no objection by anyone in the audience, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Cary Brown to approve the minutes of the July 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Reports – The June and July 2016 treasurer’s reports were presented. Motion was made by David Hopkins and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the reports. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers – (a) FEMA Claims – Ron Riley stated that they are still gathering data about the location and GPS markings. Everything at the dam is ready to go except for questions about the gauges and FEMA brought another man to look at those. Now we are waiting on FEMA.

(b) Repair Status – No discussion.

2. 2016 Drawdown – Mr. Carter stated that a letter had been sent by Mr. Hampton to the DOTD and Mr. Carter said he had called Ryan Daniel, in the Monroe office of the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, who oversees Lake D’Arbonne, and he has been trying to contact his supervisor in Baton Rouge. Mr. Hampton said everyone is aware of the drawdown and are on board. Mr. Carter said there is some question about the length of the drawdown requested by the Commission and that will have to be clarified. The Commission requested through Thanksgiving and the LDWF typically requests an extension. Steve Cagle said the only other thing to address are projects during the 2016 drawdown, such as maintenance of the rocks at the bottom of the boat ramps. Mr. Cagle stated that we probably need to think about those projects which will come up spur of the moment as soon as we start dropping the water. In the past, we have hired a contractor in Farmerville to use a trackhoe on the ramps, and it has cost $1000 per boat ramp as a base cost. Mr. Hampton suggested discussing this tonight because it would classify as an emergency and could happen before our next meeting. Mr. Carter suggested that Mr. Hampton make the decision as to each ramp and get Ron Riley involved. Mr. Hampton stated that he and David Hopkins will make the decision and will lean on Steve Cagle for his knowledge from doing this in the past. Mr. Cagle made a motion to authorize the President and Secretary to spend up to $1500 per boat ramp for repairs on an emergency basis, as needed. Cary Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Lake Information Pamphlet – Update – Ms. Towns stated that she is still waiting on the website and there are some other items that will be included, and she will distribute that by email to discuss at a later meeting.

4. Boat Ramp Rules/New Signs – Update – Mr. Riley stated the sign company sent the signs to him for approval, and he caught three misspellings. However, it was sent out already, so all the signs have three words misspelled, “continuously,” “D’Arbonne,” and “you’re.” He said those words can be corrected. They are waiting for one last approval before they proceed.

5. Mega Ramp – Update – Mr. Hampton said there is nothing to discuss as this meeting, so they agreed to pass on this tonight.

6. Maricopa Island Project – Update – Mr. Hampton stated that they had nothing to discuss on this.

7. Commission Website – Update – Mr. Hampton stated that he passed out a copy of the two quotes he received for the website. One is from Host Marketing owned by Buster Craig and the other one is by Robert and Summer Lemoine. The first has a $1,500 development cost with a monthly maintenance of $55, and the other has a cost of $1,021.73 with a monthly maintenance of $20. Mr. Hampton was comfortable with both and it appeared as though they would be receiving the same type of package, but one is less expensive. Mr. Lemoine stated that there are extras on his proposal that are not necessary and that can be removed (e.g., everyone’s own email address). His cost of $1,021.73 includes the domain name for ten years, the website builder package (life span of five years), the secure website logo for three years, seven email addresses associated with the website, all the tax cost and the one-time set up charge of $150.00. This is a one-time fee, and then $20 per month for maintenance or updates to the website. He is hoping people will start sending information and create a rolling calendar of events to increase interest in the lake, which in turn will create more interest in Union Parish and increase tax revenue. Mr. Hampton stated that we cannot advertise for anyone on the website. Mr. Carter asked if Mr. Lemoine hosts any other websites, and he stated only the one he hosts for himself. Mr. Hampton suggested that he helps with the Chamber website. Mr. Lemoine conceded, however, that Buster Craig has more experience. There was some discussion about links on the website and the pages that can be added. Mr. Lemoine stated the more tabs you have initially, the harder it is to load, especially on a smart phone. Mr. Hampton was of the opinion that five to ten pages would be enough. He also does not believe we need individual emails on the website. When asked about analytics, Mr. Lemoine stated that it can be added to see how many people are interacting with the website, but he stated that it is not 100% accurate. Steve Cagle made a motion that Robert and Summer Lemoine’s website proposal (Forever and Always Online) be accepted, and Cary Brown seconded the motion. Cary Brown asked that the minutes reflect that of the two, the one by Robert and Summer Lemoine was the low bid. David Hopkins asked about billing, and they agreed to bill six months at a time. Mr. Lemoine also stated that once the information is received from the Commission, the website would be up within a week. Mr. Hampton stated that they would like to have one month to work on it prior to Mr. Lemoine putting it up. They agreed to decide on a domain name, as well. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. Annual Dam Inspection – Report – Ron Riley stated that he still has not received a report. They sent the report to him once and the President has gotten it two or three times, so he does not know who they will send the report to. If Mr. Riley gets it, he will email it to everyone.

9. Town of Farmerville Old Highway 15 Request - Mr. Hampton stated that he got a request from Mayor Baughman of the Town of Farmerville regarding Old Highway 15. Two sentences were read as follows: “The Town of Farmerville requests permission to lay large pieces of concrete along the banks of Old Highway 15 leading to the condominiums to shore up the road for stability. This should not interfere with the lake and will help keep this road in better condition now and in the future.” Steve Cagle said the only issue was that years ago, there was concrete laying up and down the edge of Terrell Island. A man jumped out of the water to go hogging and he landed on a piece of rebar, and it went through his kneecap. He does not want the Lake Commission to be liable for any injuries. Terri Towns agreed that it would create breeding grounds for catfish and we will have hoggers in there. Mr. Carter also stated that this may violate our ordinance prohibiting foreign objects in the lake. This would have to be addressed but we could get an indemnification from the City. Mr. Hampton stated that we can discuss this at our next meeting. Mr. Cagle stated if they put concrete out there, there will be wire and rods in the concrete, and he has seen what happened already. Mr. Hampton also stated it may be within their right-of-way. Mr. Carter stated even if it is, if our servitude was there before the DOTD right of way, our servitude would be superior. Mr. Hampton stated that the right of way was turned over by the DOTD to the City.

10. Keep Union Beautiful Organization – Mr. Hampton stated that he was asked about having a cleanup project along Highway 2, possibly even in the bed of the lake during the drawdown. Mr. Hampton stated that there could be some liability issues in this regard, as well. They not only want to pick up trash on the side of the bank but also removing used tires and plastic along the lake. Mr. Hampton stated that it is not organized yet, but they have talked about using a tractor to pull things out if they are too heavy. They are not asking that we are involved in cleaning it up, but they are asking that they use the Lake Commission name to advertise and get volunteers. The last time they had one, there were several hundred people who helped clean. Mr. Cagle stated that the State workers were mowing the area, and he asked them to mow as close as possible near the water’s edge. He stated that they also are supposed to come in with a side cutter to mow up and down Highway 2. Mr. Cagle made a motion and Cary Brown seconded the motion to allow the Keep Union Beautiful Organization to have a cleanup project along Highway 2. Mr. Hampton stated that Nancy Love, Mark Rainwater and Brittany Unkle are some of the officers. The motion was passed unanimously.

1. Public Comment –
2. Mr. Reppond stated that Terrell Island launch area needs some work. There is a ditch either going in or going out where the water runs across into it. He also stated that the lights on the bridge are gone. Mr. Cagle stated that the City mowed the power line down and he has not had a chance yet to reconnect the wire. Mr. Reppond stated that the last word on the sign says no fishing or swimming after sunset or before daylight except launching and loading. He asked why you cannot fish at night off the bank. He has fished over there and has seen some things that are “not good.” Mr. Cagle stated that it is a safety issue. Mr. Reppond said if you are beyond that sign, you are governed by the sign. He stated that Ramp Road is a half a mile long, and the sign says no fishing or swimming within 50 feet of the launch ramp. But who will enforce it? Mr. Hampton stated that the Sheriff can and Wildlife & Fisheries. Mr. Carter stated that no one should be there because of what Mr. Reppond has seen. Mr. Cagle said if he sees something off, he can call the Sheriff and report any incident because no one is supposed to be out there.
3. Mr. Kelley stated that he attended a meeting two months ago about water level management, and he wanted to know if there have been any further discussions about maintaining the lake at the 80 foot contour. So far this year, he said it has been at 80 feet for eleven days. The rest of the year it has been closer to 81 feet. The flowage servitude goes to 80 feet, and he stated that this is taking one foot of property and it creates more maintenance in yards by having higher water. Terri Towns replied by stating that Louisiana has seen more water and flooding than in a long time. Mr. Kelley stated that he gave the Commission three years’ worth of data, and it was all at 81 feet. Mr. Cagle stated that the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries likes for us to have water in the lake. We have a flood control structure and a spillway that is set at 80 feet. We do not control it down to 80 feet. Mr. Kelley stated that we need to think about buying a servitude to 81 feet. Mr. Hampton stated that the other issue is the Department of Transportation and Development controls those gates. Mr. Kelley reiterated that something needs to be done because the servitude is at 80-feet and we are headed into a conflict if we do not try to maintain what the servitude bought. At 81 feet, it is a problem. He asked whether any attempt would be made to have a meeting with DOTD. Mr. Hampton stated that he could have a meeting with them anytime he wants to. He stated that he will get him the phone number and he can call them. Mr. Kelley asked what the Lake Commission’s position is. Mr. Kelley stated that there is a law because if he bought a servitude at 80 feet and the water is at 81 feet, you are taking up someone’s property. Mr. Hopkins stated that it would be almost impossible to maintain it at 80 feet at all times. Mr. Kelley stated that we could do better than eleven days out of the year. Mr. Hampton stated that Mr. Kelley’s time was up.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Terri Towns. The motion passed unanimously.