**MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2020 REGULAR MEETING**

**Board of Commissioners of**

**Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District**

Union Parish Courthouse Annex

303 East Water Street

Farmerville, LA 71241

6:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call – Jake Halley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Jake Halley, Terry Morris, Todd DeMoss, Steve Cagle and Richard Royal. Clint Graham was absent. Also present were Bill Carter and Neal DeForest.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Terry Morris led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – One person signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the August 2020 Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the minutes of the July 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve July 2020 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the July 2020 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve July 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the July 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve July 2020 Financial Report – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the July 2020 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard Royal suggested amending the Budget to reduce the amount of FEMA reimbursements from $102,588.78 to $93,876.59. Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to reduce the FEMA reimbursement line item in the Budget from $102,588.78 to $93,876.59. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest reported that the reimbursement is still on step 2 of 11 and is being processed.
    2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road – Neal DeForest said that he sent out four quotes and none have been received to date, but he anticipates having them by the end of the week.

* + 1. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest reported that he met with Ben Humphries of Delta Process as well as representatives from Claiborne Electric and the location of the new utility poles have been established. He said that some trees will also need to be cleared and Claiborne Electric will need a right of way across the property. He said that he is in the process of preparing sketches to attach to the right of way. Jake Halley said that there were two options for electricity. He said that the current configuration has the new poles connecting to the existing transformer that is about 300 feet from the bridge and would require an extra $200 worth of cable. He said that the second option was to have a new transformer installed at a closer location at a cost of roughly $1,200. Neal DeForest said that the Commission is saving $1,000 by utilizing the existing transformer.

1. Lighting at Boat Launches – Steve Cagle reported that he still does not have a contact for Entergy. Jake Halley said that Todd DeMoss is planning to call Entergy on another matter and will speak with them about this issue when he calls. Mr. Halley said that the lights to be discussed are Spillway North and Terral Island. He said that both ramps have night lights and need to be upgraded to LED spotlights. Mr. Halley asked Steve Cagle what was needed to replace the lights under the Highway 33 bridge and Mr. Cagle said bulbs and a transformer were all that is needed. Jake Halley asked Steve Cagle what the estimated cost would be, and Mr. Cagle said approximately $1,000. Todd Demoss asked how many bulbs were out and Steve Cagle said that there are a total of nine. Mr. Cagle said that he would look into what is needed to replace the lights.
2. Boat Launch / Ramp / Sign Maintenance / Conveyance of Ramps and Roads by DOTD to Commission – Jake Halley reported that the Commission owns all but three boat launches. He said the three owned by DOTD are Stowe Creek, Hwy. 2 East Ramp Road and Hwy. 2 West Ramp/Lester’s. Mr. Halley said that DOTD has proposed transferring ownership of the three ramps to the Commission with an approximate $328,000 credit from the DOTD to provide maintenance on other boat launch facilities. Mr. Halley said that he would like all of the Commission members to put a list of any questions together for the DOTD before any decision is made. He said that DOTD will meet with the Commission and accept a wish list of things to repair on the three ramps before ownership is transferred. He said that he previously provided all of the Commission members with a spreadsheet with some rough estimates on what could be allocated towards each ramp. He gave various examples of questions that the Commission could pose to DOTD.

Bill Carter said that DOTD approached the Commission in 2004 and proposed to transfer ownership of four ramps which were the Highway 33 Ramp Road, Jakes and both Hwy 2 ramps and the Commission decided to take ownership of the Highway 33 Ramp Road and Jakes. He said that the agreement was that DOTD transfer ownership of those ramps and approaches to the Lake Commission in exchange for laying two inches of asphalt on the road surface and aggregate on the shoulders at designated areas. He said that after ownership is transferred, the Commission would be responsible for maintaining the road. He said that DOTD is attempting to convince all cities/towns, etc. to take ownership of state road ramps to get away from the maintenance responsibility.

Mr. Carter said that the low traffic volume on these ramps makes road wear less of an issue, but the Stowe Creek launch area is a potential concern because it goes under water often. Steve Cagle said the City recently patched six areas on the ramps. Terry Morris said that the City would most likely be willing to patch the ramps if they are notified.

Steve Cagle suggested putting a gate up on Ramp Road to prevent traffic flow when the road is under water. Jake Halley said a gate for every ramp would be a good idea. Bill Carter noted that such was a possibility with the reminder that the Commission has limited authority to close ramps as discussed several months ago.

Todd DeMoss asked if the Commission generated enough funds annually to maintain the ramps on a long-term basis. Bill Carter said that the Commission could consult with a road engineer to discuss what the maintenance costs could be over a long period of time. Mr. Carter also said that maintaining a good relationship with the Police Jury and the City is important because they have road maintenance equipment and materials. Jake Halley said that he would like to start a maintenance schedule for the ramps so that they are continuously worked on.

Blake Simpson, General Manager from Read Lumber Company, said that everything has been approved for the repair of the docks at Jake’s Landing and Ramp Road. He said that repairs will begin when the lake falls. Mr. Simpson said that they intend to repair the ramps with better materials than what has been used in the past and will submit those items to the Commission for approval before beginning.

1. Lake Closure / No Wake Policy – Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance – Jake Halley said that there is nothing to report at this time.
2. Lake Drawdown – Bill Carter reported that he spoke to the LDWF enforcement division and they already have in place plans to increase enforcement during the drawdown. Mr. Carter said that when the drawdown begins, commercial fishing is prohibited, and increased enforcement begins.
3. Joby Dendy Boathouse Removal / Change Order to Contract – Jake Halley reported that the boathouse has been removed. Bill Carter discussed a change order to the contract with Skylnek Contractor, L.L.C. He said that after Larry Kenly started the removal of the boathouse, it was discovered that it was submerged deeper in mud than anticipated and he had to take additional measures to remove it which made the amount of work increase. Mr. Carter said that this represented an unknown site condition and the additional work was in the amount of $1,600. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the change order to the contract of $1,600. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Obstructions in Lake – No action was taken.
5. Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – No action taken.

H. Public Comment – Blake Simpson of Read Lumber Company made comments regarding the repair of the docks at Ramp Road and Jakes Landing which is noted under Section G(5) above.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Richard Royal. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.