**MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2022 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 – Richard Royal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Richard Royal, Steve Cagle, and Clint Graham. Terry Morris, Todd DeMoss, and Ken Myers were absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest and several members of the public. Bill Carter stated that since there was no quorum present, no action could be taken by the Board but the Board could hear reports and public comment.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Clint Graham led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – Numerous individuals signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – No action taken.

E. Approval of Minutes – No action taken.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve June and July 2022 Bank Account Summary – No reports or action taken.
2. Approve June and July 2022 Bank Statement Reconciliation - No reports or action taken.
3. Approve June and July 2022 Financial Report – No reports or action taken.

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Terral Island Boat Launch Improvements Project – No action taken.
    2. Spillway Beach Improvements – No action taken.
    3. Lake Level Gauges – No action taken.
    4. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements - No action taken.
    5. Boat Launch Fees - Status – No action taken.
    6. Channel Markers - No action taken.
    7. Crappie Regulations - No action taken.
    8. Lake Drawdown Schedule – Discuss and Consider Revising Drawdown Policy – Richard Royal said that the drawdown schedule is currently on a four (4) year schedule that coincides with the presidential election years. Mr. Royal said that every drawdown year prior to the drawdown, a letter is submitted to the Secretary of LDWF requesting permission for the drawdown including the depth of five (5) feet and time period and in turn, the Secretary requests the DOTD, who owns the tainter gates, to implement the drawdown. He said that the discussion regarding revising the Drawdown Policy would change the four-year drawdown to a six-year drawdown.

H. Public Comment –

Tony Portellini – Mr. Portellini asked the Commission members to consider the impact the policy change would have on property owners on the lake primarily a reduction in the opportunity to make repairs and perform maintenance on lake property and discussed several items he thought would enhance the lake and surrounding areas.

Lisa Lambert - Ms. Lambert agreed with Mr. Portellini’s comments and asked if the drawdown policy was changed that it be delayed since she and other homeowners were planning to make repairs and maintenance in two years based on the four year drawdown schedule. She also noted that during the last two drawdowns, the lake was not held at a low level long enough to allow frost to kill non desirous vegetation which is becoming a bigger problem. Steve Cagel said that the Wildlife and Fisheries would spray the vegetation in proximity to a homeowner’s property on the lake if requested.

Sandy McGivney – Ms. McGivney asked when the four-year drawdown began and Steve Cagle said 2005 and discussed the reason behind scheduling the drawdown every four years.

Michelle Bryan – Ms. Bryan asked if the new crappie regulations would be enforced by the Commission and Steve Cagle said that it would be handled by the Wildlife and Fisheries.

* + 1. Reminders: (a) Louisiana Annual Ethics Training (Due December 31), and (b) Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15)