**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 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, Clint Graham, Todd DeMoss, and Richard Royal. Steve Cagle was absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest and various other citizens.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Todd DeMoss led the invocation and Clint Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the minutes of the December 2019 and January 2020 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve December 2019 and January 2020 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the December 2019 and January 2020 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve December 2019 and January 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the December 2019 and January 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve December 2019 and January 2020 Financial Report – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the December 2019 and January 2020 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Amend 2019 Budget – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Clint Graham to amend the 2019 budget to actual amounts received and expended. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Select Authorized Checking Account Signatories – Jake Halley reported that the new signatories are Jake Halley, Terry Morris and Todd DeMoss. He asked Bill Carter if there were any issues with the auditor in having all of the Commissioners as signatories on the checking account and Mr. Carter said the auditor indicated that it was acceptable.

Motion was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Clint Graham to authorize all Commission members to become signatories on the Commission checking account. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest reported that the reimbursements are still in progress. He said thus far approximately 90% of the reimbursable amounts have been received or are currently being processed by FEMA. He anticipated that the remaining reimbursement would be received within the next 30 to 60 days. He also informed the Commissioners that he will need signatures on GOHSEP paperwork for the new officers.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest reported two quotes were received and he recommends that the Commission enter into a contract with the lowest quoter which was Terral Construction, L.L.C.

Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Terry Morris to authorize the Commission to enter into a contract with Terral Construction, L.L.C. for Phase 2 of the Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Stowe Creek Ramp Road – There were no updates and no action was taken.
2. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest said that there are no updates at this time. Jake Halley informed the Commissioners that he spoke with USGS about the possibility of adding multiple gauges upstream. He said there would be approximately $20,000 in maintenance fee for two new gauges. He said that he has spoken with Ben Humphries with Delta Process Equipment about additional gauges. Mr. Carter addressed the audience and said that discussions have taken place about additional gauges upstream, up to Corney as well as midstream to give better readings. He said that the Commission has also discussed reinstalling the gauge behind the spillway that is not in operation because of high water.
3. Communications Relating to Rain Events/Tainter Gate Opening – Jake Halley said the Commission has previously discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook page and the details of who will administer that page still need to be finalized. He stated that DOTD’s website provides a link that shows updates on the current opening level of the gates on the Lake. He said he spoke with a representative at DOTD and one gate was at four feet and they were monitoring the rainfall and would adjust accordingly. Mr. Halley said that the Commission has been in discussion with the Banner, the Gazette and the Sheriff’s office on a daily basis to post information on their social media and websites. He also said that Steve Cagle posts regular updates on his personal Facebook page to update citizens.
4. Lighting at Boat Launches – Jake Halley said that he has one test light that he has not been able to install at the Terral Island ramp due to the high water.
5. Boat Launch/Ramp Maintenance – Jake Halley said that the Terral Island ramp needs to be repaired. Bill Carter asked what type of work the ramp needs and Mr. Halley said that the ramp mainly needs rocks. Mr. Carter suggested having Neal DeForest look at it and then obtain quotes for the repairs.

Motion was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Clint Graham to authorize Neal DeForest to look at the Terral Island boat ramp and obtain quotes for the repairs and the Commission thereafter enter into a contract with the lowest quoter for an amount not exceeding $5,000 for the repairs. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Lake Closure Policy – Jake Halley said that when the National Weather Service updated the forecast crest at 84 feet, the lake was closed. He said the crest did not reach the full 84 feet at the spillway but some areas of the lake were higher than 84 feet. He said that the current policy provides that the lake is to be closed to all boat traffic at 84 feet at the official gauge. He said that the lake was reopened when the lake reached 83.5 to idle only. He also stated that signs were printed asking citizens to please observe the 83 foot no wake zone.

Bill Carter suggested that a new policy be put in effect regarding no wake on applicable lake closures. He said that typically, with the exception of creel limits or a wildlife violation, the Sheriff’s Department would enforce the lake commission regulations.

1. Annual Financial Disclosure – Jake Halley said that the deadline to file the Financial Disclosure is May 15, 2020.

H. Public Comment –

Kendal Terral – Mr. Terral spoke on various issues including, rainfall, gate opening and closing and fish population.

Sandra Matthews – Ms. Matthews voiced her concerns about flooding and the pool stage of the lake.

Karen Bradford – Ms. Bradford said that she would like to see the gates opened sooner when there is rainfall predicted. She also wanted to know about the lake drawdown.

Jared Cook – Mr. Cook had a few suggestions about the lake level.

Bradley Smith – Mr. Smith talked about the fish population and the biology of the lake.

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