**MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 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 and Richard Royal. Steve Cagle, Clint Graham and Todd DeMoss were absent. There was no quorum present and thus no action could be taken by the Board. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest and Byron Avery.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Royal led the invocation and Terry Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – No one 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 December 2019 Bank Account Summary – No action taken.
2. Approve December 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation – No action taken.
3. Approve December 2019 Financial Report – No action taken.
4. Amend 2019 Budget – No action taken.
5. Select Authorized Checking Account Signatories – No action taken.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest reported that the most recent reimbursement has not been processed yet. He stated that FEMA can release a portion of the reimbursement and the remainder will be released during project closeout. He said that FEMA has apportioned the funds for the reimbursements different than what is on the Contractor’s Pay Application. He said that the Commission needs to generate the paperwork reflecting the new officers so that Jake Halley can sign the project closeout documents. He said that he anticipates all of the reimbursements to be received within three months.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest reported that the Request for Quotes would be finalized by the end of the week. He said that the list of Contractors has been updated and if anyone has suggestions on Contractors to include to please do so before the Request for Quotes is advertised.
3. Stowe Creek Ramp Road – No updates were provided.
4. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest said that due to the holidays nothing has been done yet. He said that he will contact Jeff Shapiro and have an update on setting up a meeting at the Spillway next month. Bill Carter said that challenge would be finding a gauge location that is high enough but still accessible. Mr. Carter said that Jeff Shapiro would like to have Marshall Hill at the meeting. He said that Mr. Shapiro heavily relied on the gauge when it was operational and it is very helpful to the DOTD.

Jake Halley said that the commission needs to do more research on upstream gauges. He said that the biggest problem was finding a power source and if a gauge can be found that is solar powered, a power source would not be a problem. Neal DeForest said that he is going to speak with Ben Humphries and contacts at other lakes that may have a solution. Terry Morris said that any new location of the gauges needs to be determined. Jake Halley suggested Hog Pen and Gills Ferry.

1. Communications Relating to Rain Events/Tainter Gate Opening – Bill Carter said that communication between the Commission and DOTD, primarily Jeff Shapiro and Jake Halley, has been very good. He said that the Commission should find a better way to inform the public about the status of the tainter gate. Jake Halley said that a good idea would be to create a Facebook page. Terry Morris said that the Sheriff’s office has been putting the information on their webpage. Bill Carter said that Greg Gossler with Homeland Security is monitoring the events as well. Jake Halley said that he spoke to Jon McKinnie about tying in with the Chamber. Bill Carter said that Robert Lemoine set up the Commission website and he was supposed to do periodic maintenance and that is another option. Bill Carter asked Byron Avery if he had been following the lake levels and Mr. Avery said that the Gazette can post anything for the Commission on its Facebook page.
2. Litter Program with Cub Scouts – Jake Halley said that the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have community service hours that they have to reach every year. He said that he has spoken to several members about getting involved with the lake. He said that it would be a quarterly cleanup project at the launch facilities around the lake. He said that he met with Stephanie Herman who is managing the Keeping Union Parish Beautiful Program about partnering with them. He said they have a meeting next week and DOTD will be there in conjunction with the Adopt a Highway Program. He proposed that the Commission purchase and furnish to the scouts approximately 60 litter grabbers if they are going to be cleaning the area around the lake. He said that Read Lumber sells the grabbers for $10.00 each and that they would reduce the cost to $5.00 each for the Commission. He also proposed buying a few boxes of contractor bags to keep on site. Bill Carter asked if there was any money budgeted under Ramps and it was noted there was a $10,000 budget allowance for ramp maintenance. Mr. Carter said that would allow for the purchase of the grabbers. Mr. Halley said that there is one clean up scheduled for April and one for September in Ouachita Parish and he would like to coincide with those dates. Byron Avery also offered a box of grabbers he had at the Gazette.
3. Lighting at Boat Launches – Jake Halley said that this item is in reference to adding motion sensor, solar powered lighting to the boat launch sites. Bill Carter said that several launches have streetlights. Jake Halley said that several of the launches do but he is not sure of the functionality of the lights. Bill Carter said that there are new LED lights that very bright and although they are not solar powered, they could be beneficial. Jake Halley said that someone needs to look to see which ramps have lights that are not working. He said that he knows for sure that the Terral Island light is out. He said that if they have to install a light, a pole would have to be purchased. He said that one could be tested at a location on Terral Island because there is an existing utility pole next to the ramp. Bill Carter said that each utility pole should indicate the owner of the pole, whether it is Claiborne Electric or Entergy. He said that the Commission can request the owner of the light to fix it.
4. Louisiana Annual Ethics Training/Annual Financial Disclosure – Jake Halley said the deadline to file the Financial Disclosures is May 15th. Bill Carter said that he would send out a reminder to file the disclosures.

H. Public Comment – No one signed up for public comment.

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