**MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2019 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 – Trotter Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Trotter Hunt, Steve Cagle, Cary Brown, Jake Halley and Guy Fortenberry. Terri Towns was absent. Also present were Neal DeForest, Bill Carter, Sam Hodge, Jon McKinnie and Mark Rainwater.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Cary Brown led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – John Kelly and Jon McKinnie signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Jake Halley to approve the March 2019 Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Guy Fortenberry to approve the minutes of the January 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve January and February 2019 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the January and February 2019 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve January and February 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Jake Halley to approve the January and February 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve January and February 2019 Financial Report – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Guy Fortenberry to approve the January and February 2019 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Amend 2018 Budget – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Jake Halley to amend the 2018 Budget to reflect the actual receipts and expenditures. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Adopt 2019 Budget – Trotter Hunt discussed the 2019 Budget proposed by he and Jake Halley. He stated that he maintenance project totals will increase to approximately $87,000 due to the Channel Marker Project and the Spillway Beach Area Project. Cary Brown questioned the increase shown for Parish Support. Jake Halley said that a check from 2017 was misplaced and had to be deposited in 2018. Mr. Halley stated that the proposed amount of $4,200 should be reduced to $3,600. Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Guy Fortenberry to amend the proposed 2019 budget reflecting the reduction of Parish Support from $4,200 to $3,600 and reflecting the increase for the maintenance projects from $50,000 to $87,000. The motion passed unanimously. Motion was then made by Cary Brown and seconded by Steve Cagle to adopt the 2019 Budget as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project – Neal DeForest indicated that the materials for the poles were delivered to three different locations in February. He stated that there was an issue obtaining the reflective material for the poles but it is now forthcoming. He said that there were some temporary reflective markings installed. He noted that April 22, 2019 is the completion date. He said poles starting being driven on March 12, 2019 and 23 of the 44 have been set. He indicated that the permanent reflective markings will be placed when they come in. He also said that staff gauge setting and tainter gate fencing have not been started yet but he expects that to begin in the next couple weeks. Trotter Hunt said that FEMA has come out with an express pay option. Mr. DeForest said that the express pay option was supposed to expedite the payment from FEMA. Mr. Hunt said that the process involves FEMA refunding 80% within 10 days of the request and holding 20% until FEMA does their check. Mr. DeForest said that it has been quite some time since the first reimbursement request was made and that once it gets into a cycle things should progress monthly. Mr. Hunt asked if a confirmation was to be sent showing approval. Mr. DeForest said he expects to see some form of confirmation but he has not received anything yet. Steve Cagle noted that 44 poles were being installed at this time and additional poles would need to be installed in the future.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements Project – Neal DeForest presented initial plans, specifications and an estimate for the project. He said some grading would be necessary and sand would be brought in. He said the main thing is to get a safety barrier around the existing poles and two new poles will need to be set at the water’s edge. He said that three additional poles need to be set to the west of the swim area for boats to tie to. The poles are in the estimate and will be 15 feet deep and 10 above the water. The signage at the area now covers the usage of the ramp and there will need to be signage added reflecting when the beach is open, what is prohibited on the beach, swimming at own risk, etc. This signage is also included in the estimate. He said new reflective markings would be installed on the existing poles plus signage indicating swim area and warnings. Mr. DeForest indicated that the barrier float system is identical to what was used for the tainter gate and there may be some materials left over that can be used to help offset some of the costs. Steve Cagle said that the original round orange buoys broke off from the spillway years ago but were retrieved and the commission use those buoys as well as the stainless steel cables. Bill Carter suggested sending out a request for quotes and that based on the estimate, the contractor must provide bonds. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Cary Brown to allow Neal DeForest to prepare a request for quotes and send to area contractors having bonding capacity. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Proposed Joint Revised Lake Regulations – Steve Cagle said that there is nothing to report at this time.
4. Sediment Erosion Near Mann Road/D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision – Bill Carter stated that he made contact with one of the owners and the owner has agreed to meet he and Neal DeForest at the site. The owner indicated that he will make efforts to remove the sediment. Mr. Carter said the owner stated that he had previously spoken with persons about digging in the lake and was told it was a Corps of Engineer issue. Mr. Carter and Mr. DeForest plan to meet the owner at the site.
5. Claiborne Electric Disaster Planning – Bill Carter said he spoke to George Upshaw with Claiborne Electric and he did not have a drawing for the site. Mr. Carter passed out an aerial with the proposed disaster planning area. He said that a Use Agreement will be drafted to which the aerial will be attached. He stated that the area, if used, will be primarily for equipment and personnel.
6. Tainter Gate Opening and Closing Plan – Neal Deforest said that there have been discussions regarding the operation of the tainter gate. Mr. DeForest said that some of the commission members recently met with Marshall Hill and Jeff Shapiro of DOTD and discussed the operation of the tainter gate. He said that once the gate is opened, the level of the lake is monitored to make sure that the level of the lake does not drop too fast. He said that DOTD also monitors all of the rainfall events. He said changing the parameters of the tainter gate operation could certainly be discussed but it should be in a larger forum and have Wildlife and Fisheries involved since the commission would not want to do anything contradictory to the fish habitat. He also suggested having the police jury involved. Mr. DeForest recommended this so that any decision is a group effort.

Mr. DeForest noted that Sam Hodge, an engineer with the DOTD was in attendance and asked him to comment. Mr. Hodge said that Marshall Hill and Jeff Shapiro with the DOTD could not attend the meeting tonight but will be at the April meeting. He said that he wanted to talk about the operation of the tainter gate and discuss what the DOTD headquarters in Baton Rouge has recommended. He said that the local DOTD office works with the Lake Commission and also gets input from the Police Jury which needs to be involved in any discussion. He said that Ryan Daniels, biologist with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, is also a great resource to have involved. He also said the public needs to be involved in a general discussion. He said that for flood control, everyone wants the lake as low as possible but fish habitats require slight elevations. He indicated that there are currently two gates opened and depending on the way things look, they could be closed tomorrow. Cary Brown thanked Mr. Hodge for attending and said that he thought bringing everyone together to make any revision to the Opening and Closing Plan would be beneficial.

It was agreed that the Tainter Gate Opening and Closing Plan would be discussed at the April meeting. The public will be invited and representatives from DOTD, Wildlife and Fisheries and the Police Jury will be invited. Jake Halley also noted that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries website has a water management plan series which shows the action stages are. He said that it was updated February of 2017 and is there if anyone wants to see the action stages.

1. Ramp Maintenance (Jake’s) ­– Neal DeForest said this item was complete and there is nothing further to report.
2. Annual Ramps Mowing Contract – Bill Carter said that the commission contracts with a mowing service every year to maintain its boat ramps. Mowing starts in April and continues through October. He stated that the commission has used the same company for the last two years, M&C Bryan Enterprises, L.L.C., owned by Mr. Mark Bryan. Mr. Carter said Mr. Bryan had done a good job and after discussing with Trotter Hunt asked Mr. Bryan if he would be willing to do the mowing for the same price as the last two years. Mr. Bryan said he would. Steve Cagle also complimented Mr. Bryan for work done the last two years. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Cary Brown to enter into the annual mowing contract with M&C Bryan Enterprises, L.L.C. for the same price as the last two years. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment –

1. John Kelley said that the commission has no right to hold the water level of the lake above eighty feet and that anytime the lake goes above 80 feet, the tainter gates should be opened.

2. Jon McKinney said that the Crappie Masters state tournament was held on Lake D’Arbonne on February 22 and 23 and provided some statistics from the tournament. He stated the next event is the American Crappie Trail tournament which will be held on March 28-30 which will have national exposure and have 100 teams.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Guy Fortenberry. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.