**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 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 – Terry Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Terry Morris, Richard Royal, Steve Cagle, Clint Graham and Ken Myers. Todd DeMoss was absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest and numerous members of the public.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Clint Graham led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – No one signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the September 2022 Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the minutes of the July and August 2022 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve June, July and August 2022 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the June, July and August 2022 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve June, July and August 2022 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the June, July and August 2022 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve June, July and August 2022 Financial Report– Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the June, July and August 2022 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Terral Island Boat Launch Improvements Project – Steve Cagle said that the project is complete with the exception of tie-downs and lights on the pier.
    2. Spillway Beach Improvements – Richard Royal said the project is complete.
    3. Lake Level Gauges – Terry Morris said that he spoke with Scott Wooley of Delta Process who informed him that the new gauge has been installed and is actively being monitored.
    4. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Richard Royal said that there are a few small repairs that will need to take place in the future but as of now there are no active projects.
    5. Boat Launch Fees - Status – Richard Royal said that to date for 2022, $50,442.03 has been collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
    6. Channel Markers – Neal DeForest said that there is no change on the FEMA reimbursement. He said that the buoys came in and they will be installed in the near future after determinations have been made where they are needed.
    7. Crappie Regulations – Bill Carter said that the comment period for the Notice of Intent issued by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission ended on August 31. He said the DWF sent a letter to the House and Senate Committees which oversee recreation, giving them a report including all the comments made and those committees have 30 days to issue any questions or if not, the tentative date that the new regulations will go into effect will be sometime in November.
    8. Lake Drawdown Schedule – Discuss and Consider Revising Drawdown Policy – Terry Morris invited the public to comment regarding the drawdown schedule.

Frank Henry – Mr. Henry asked what the purpose of the drawdown was. Terry Morris responded that the purpose was for homeowners to perform maintenance on their piers, seawalls, etc.

Kendall Parent – Mr. Parent thanked the commissioners for their service and said that he believes the drawdown is hurting the bass population. Mr. Parent also stated that when the drawdown was extended for 7 or 8 months many years ago, many of the fish in the lake died and he was concerned that could happen again. He also asked if a stocking program/slot could be implemented and talked about how strengthening the fishing on the lake would enhance the community overall economically. Ken Myers responded that all of the enhancements to the lake are to create healthy fishing, ideal water sport activities and a safe place for homeowners.

Grafton Dempsey – Mr. Dempsey agreed with Mr. Parent’s comments and said that he believed the fish habitat would respond better to a six-year drawdown.

Jerry Silmon – Mr. Silmon questioned whether a homeowner’s property stopped at the water’s edge or if it extended into the water and made several comments about homeowners working on the banks extending out into the water.

Steve Randall – Mr. Randall said that fishing on the lake is not like it used to be and seems to think the drawdown is causing the fish population to decline.

Tony Cortellini – Mr. Cortellini said that he hoped the drawdown decision would be based on sound science.

Ken Myers asked the Commission members if anyone knew how the four-year drawdown began and Steve Cagle explained how the schedule arose.

Ronnie Bryant – Mr. Bryant asked where the public could find the Wildlife and Fisheries study of the fish population. Steve Cagle responded that he could provide Mr. Bryant with that information.

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

H. Public Comment – There was no additional public comment.

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