**MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015**

**Board of Commissioners of**

**Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District Regular Meeting**

Union Parish Courthouse Annex

303 East Water Street

Farmerville, LA 71241

1. Roll Call – President Steve Cagle called the meeting to order. Commission members present were Steve Cagle, David Hopkins, Bruce Hampton, Cary Brown, Edward Lee, and Terri Towns. Also present were Trotter Hunt, future Board member, Bill Carter, Ron Riley, Robert Lemoine, Leslie Towns, Dan Morgan, and Tracy Ambrose.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Lee led the invocation, and Mr. Hampton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – Mr. Cagle introduced Trotter Hunt, soon to be appointed a member of the Board from Lincoln Parish.
4. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Mr. Hampton and seconded by Ms. Towns to approve the March agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Ms. Towns and seconded by Mr. Lee to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Report – The March 2015 treasurer’s report was presented. Motion was made to approve the report by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Hampton. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Old and New Business:

1. Consider Revisions to D'Arbonne Tainter Gate Opening Plan – Mr. Carter passed out a revised version of the Gate Opening and Closing Plan dated April 21, 2015. He stated that we are to the point where it appears everyone is satisfied with the current version of the Plan. Mr. Riley and Mr. Carter spent about an hour on the phone with Marshall Hill last Thursday discussing the Plan, concentrating on gate opening and closing procedures, and discussing the provisions that had been approved by the Commission last month. The consensus was that nothing needed to be changed. They also discussed other provisions that were misleading and which conflicted with the opening the closing procedures, such as lake level, etc., and they clarified those statements. Mr. Carter suggested that the additional changes be approved. Mr. Hampton stated that he thought it was a good document, and he commended Mr. Carter and Mr. Riley on the changes. Mr. Hampton made a motion to accept the revised Plan as presented by Mr. Carter and, upon approval and signature by Marshall Hill, that the President would be authorized to sign. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mega Ramp – Update – Mr. Riley said the Facilities Planning and Control called him last Wednesday and said they needed a revised operating budget by 9:00 a.m. the next day so he prepared one and sent it in. He said we might have a chance for funding. He stated that we're still in the Corps of Engineers permit process. It will cost about $10,000 to get the permit because wetlands mitigation will be required. There is some concern that the project would not be funded so the question is do we want to go ahead and spend the money to mitigate. Mr. Hampton asked if we need to rethink it. Mr. Carter asked if this money is supposed to be in the capital outlay bill. Mr. Riley replied that it is but we will not know if the funding will remain until the session ends, which is June 30. Mr. Hampton asked if we would run any kind of risk if we waited. Mr. Riley said we would not unless the Corps rescinds their determination but he does not think that is likely. Mr. Cagle said years ago when they mitigated something it wasn’t nearly as expensive as it is now. He asked if we should jump on it while it is at a certain price or whether we should take a chance that it will go to possibly $12,000 next year. Mr. Hopkins said the opportunity to get the funding is better than we thought the last time we met. Mr. Carter remarked that because of budget deficits legislative session will be tough, and we cannot assume that we will get the money.

3. Spillway Repairs – Update and Permission to Award Project – Mr. Riley spent a half day at the spillway and had a pre-bid conference today. Three contractors showed up. There are four sets of plans out. They are taking bids on May 7. Normally, we take bids and report to you at the next meeting but because we have to have this project under contract before June 30 or we lose the money, he wants the Board to authorize awarding a contract to the lowest bidder and the President to sign a contract to the lowest bidder provided DOTD concurs. The bid opening is on May 7. It will give us another week or two to get the contract signed, obtain the bond, insurance, obtain permission from Baton Rouge, etc. Mr. Riley asked to give the President the authority to sign all documents and a contract based upon DOTD approval since it is their money. Mr. Carter felt that is acceptable. This authorization would be based on Mr. Riley’s approval of the award after checking that the bid is calculated correctly, sent to the DOTD, and obtained permission from DOTD. This money is all coming from the State. Mr. Brown made a motion to provide President Cagle the authority to enter into a contract and sign any and all necessary documents associated with repairs to the spillway and to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder associated with that project, subject to DOTD approval of the same. The motion was seconded by David Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously.

4. State Park Lake Level Gauge – Update – Mr. Riley said his GPS device was broken so he has been unable to calibrate the gauges, and another one won't be in for another week. Even if we had an operable GPS, the software has to be re-written so we couldn’t calibrate the gauge until that is done. The hardware is in. As soon as we get the GPS and software, it will only take about an hour and the gauge will be up.

5. Designate Official Names for Boat Launches – Ms. Towns stated that Danny Smith, the 911 coordinator/homeland security officer for the parish, was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Towns stated that Mr. Smith is concerned someone will be in danger and stranded and feels we need a better way to let 911 operators know where they are in case of an emergency. We need to designate official names to each boat launch and have something posted so individuals in trouble can contact 911 with information easier to locate them. Mr. Smith does not know how much DOTD has to do with that or who would be involved in the process. Mr. Carter stated that ramps are not on state highways, so GIS may want to do it, or they may leave it to the Commission. Mr. Hampton believes 911 would be involved. Mr. Cagle said only three or four of the ramps do not have permanent names. Ms. Towns said she is concerned about the names of the launch maps on lake maps sold in her store, for example, D'Arbonne Village North and D'Arbonne Village South. Mr. Cagle commented on the names of various ramps. Ms. Towns asked who will be responsible for putting up signs. Mr. Carter asked if the Police Jury would help. Mr. Morgan said we would have to get with the 911 Commission. He stated that one of the Police Jury employees goes out every Wednesday and puts up signs that are missing. He sees no reason why they can’t help. Mr. Cagle asked if the funding for the signs would be the responsibility of the Lake Commission. Mr. Morgan said that will be between the Lake Commission and 911 Commission. Mr. Carter said someone needs to come up with a list for each ramp, email it to everyone, and the Commission can adopt the official names at the next meeting. Mr. Cagle stated that he will come up with some names and email the Board members and Danny Smith. We can then discuss it next month and pass it.

1. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
2. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Towns, seconded by Mr. Lee. The motion passed unanimously.