

Minutes of January 20, 2014

Bayou D'Arbonne Lake Watershed District Commission

Union Parish Courthouse Annex, 303 East Water Street

Farmerville, LA 71241

- A. President Steve Cagle called the meeting to order. Present were Don Hogan, David Hopkins, Noel James, Joe Rainer, and Terri Towns. Edward Lee was absent.
- B. Mrs. Towns led the invocation, and Mr. Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. The agenda was approved. Motion by Mrs. Towns and a second by Mr. Hogan. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. The minutes of the December 30, 2013 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Hogan and a second by Mr. Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. The treasurer's report for December was presented and approved. Motion by Mr. Rainer and a second by Mr. Hopkins. The motions passed unanimously.
- F. Old business: None.

New Business:

Mega Ramp on Hwy 33 – Discussion and Appoint Committee – The following were appointed for the Mega Ramp on Hwy 33 Committee: Mr. Cagle, Mrs. Towns, and Mr. Hopkins. The members convened and arranged a brief outline of their ideas in regard to the Mega Ramp to present to Ron Riley. Mr. Riley will provide some financial information and some drawings to this committee while also working on the permit from the Corps of Engineers.

Boat Ramp Below Spillway – Discussion – The following were appointed for the Boat Ramp below the Spillway: Mr. James, Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Hogan discussed three different options for this boat ramp. The first option will move the boat ramp further down and install a boat ramp on commission property. The second option will be to purchase some land further east. The last option will be to close the boat ramp permanently.

Catfish Hogging – Discussion – No committee was formed for Catfish Hogging. Mr. Hogan has the Regulation and has some comments from Rick Owens. Mr. Hogan suggested that the Regulation and comments from Rick Owens be presented to Mr. Bill Carter for further direction on Catfish Hogging.

New Lake Level Gauges – Discussion – The following were appointed for the New Lake Level Gauges: Mr. James, Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Rainer. The gauges will be installed below the Spillway and above Gils Ferry to be able to track what the Ouachita River will do to the water level. Mr. Hogan has been in touch with Ben McGee, and the cost of the gages will be \$3,000 installed. The maintenance will cost \$6,000 a year per gauge. A subject to revisit at the next meeting will be to confirm that the DOTD will pay for half of the maintenance cost and the USGS will pay the other half of the maintenance cost for the gauges. Mr. Hogan will speak with Ben McGee and Marshall Hill in reference to the gauge maintenance cost.

Boat Launch Improvements – Discussion – The following were appointed for the Boat Launch Improvements: Mr. Cagle, Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Lee. Mr. Hogan discussed some improvements for each ramp with DOTD paying for the cost of the improvements. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Cagle have looked at each boat ramp and discussed the improvements with an engineer that will propose an amount that will outline the expense for the ramp improvements.

Channel Markers – Discussion – All Board Members will participate on the Channel Marker committee. Mr. Cagle has asked that Mr. James and Mr. Hopkins observe any channel markers needed at the big lake end, Mrs. Towns to survey between the bridges, Mr. Rainer and Mr. Hogan to inspect Little D'Arbonne, and Mr. Lee and Mr. Cagle will examine the Corney area. Mr. Cagle asked that every Board Member take a lake map and perceive where a channel marker is needed and bring that

information to the next committee meeting. After all channel markers ideas are discussed, Mr. Riley will be notified. Mr. Hopkins made mention that the committee should prioritize in each section to be cost effective.

Committee Assignments – Assigned above.

Mr. Cagle asked that Mr. Rainer and Mr. James form a committee for public service and Wildlife and Fisheries, and also that Mrs. Towns will serve as the Lake D'Arbonne representative for the town of Farmerville and will administer information about the boat races, and fireworks.

- H. Public Comment: Nick Bowman asked how many gauges are on Lake D'Arbonne and how does someone get access to the lake levels. Mr. Cagle suggested that a person should use the USGS website or the US weather service. Mr. James also commented that the public should have access to the new gauges being installed. Mr. Bowman also asked when the next lake drawdown will occur. Mr. Cagle answered that the next lake level drawdown is scheduled in 3 years. The lake level drawdown does occur every four years.
- I. Adjourn: Motion by Mr. James, second by Mrs. Towns. The motion passed unanimously.