**MINUTES OF MAY 19, 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, Terri Towns, and Trotter Hunt. Also present were Bill Carter, Ron Riley, Robert Lemoine, Leslie Towns, Dan Morgan, Charles Sawyer, Danny Smith and Tracy Ambrose.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Edward Lee led the invocation, and Trotter Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – No comments.
4. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Edward Lee and seconded by Terri Towns to approve the May agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Bruce Hampton and seconded by Terri Towns to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Report – The April 2015 treasurer’s report was presented. Motion was made to approve the report by Terri Towns and seconded by Edward Lee. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Old and New Business:
8. Consider Revisions to D'Arbonne Tainter Gate Opening Plan – Bill Carter stated that he and Ron Riley had spoken with Marshall Hill and Jeff Shapiro and sent them a revised version of the D'Arbonne Tainter Gate Opening and Closing Plan. He asked Marshall several times if he had any changes to make but had received no response. However, just prior to this meeting, Marshall Hill responded and he had a few small requested changes. Bill handed out a redlined version of the Plan. On the first page there were changes regarding the allowable gate opening height charts, and the heading was changed to coincide with the description of the charts. On the top of page 2, he clarified that there is a difference in the gate opening height charts and the minimum level estimation chart and he wanted to clarify the charts used in the gate opening procedure. Bill believes they are ready to sign the Plan. The revised Plan is dated May 14, 2015. Bruce Hampton made a motion to approve the suggested changes to the D'Arbonne Tainter Opening and Closing Plan dated August 14, 2015, and the motion was seconded by David Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Revised D'Arbonne Minimum Level Estimation Chart – Ron Riley then distributed the latest version of chart used to predict how high the lake will go. This is the newest and the best chart. It may change next month but it will give you some idea about the lake. As an example to read the chart, Ron said if you look at the top row that says D'Arbonne Pool, then go to 82. Go to the top of the column that says Corney Gauge, and go down to 5. Take your finger and go to 82 and 5. If you look on the computer and the D'Arbonne pool stage was 82 and Corney was 5 and they are both rising, then the prediction is the lake will go to 82.31 feet. Ron stated that this is the chart they have been using although there may be other charts out there. DOTD asked that the Board approve this chart. This is the one they are using for the near future. Ron Riley and James Henry developed this. Steve Cagle mentioned that it did not work yesterday because it was 1½ feet higher at Stowe Creek but it usually works. Steve agreed that this is a great chart.

Bill Carter said the date at the top (1/10/15) is the one they are using. Ron said they do not have a level gauge on the D'Arbonne leg, only the one on Corney. He said there is almost 1,600 to 1,700 square miles that drain into D'Arbonne Lake, which is a tremendous drainage area. On the chart, if both those things are happening and the lake is rising, they estimate that the lake will at least get to that number, maybe more. Ron asked that the estimation chart be adopted at DOTD's request. Terri Towns made a motion to adopt the D'Arbonne Minimum Level Estimation Chart dated 1/10/15-1, and the motion was seconded by Trotter Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mega Ramp – Update – Ron Riley stated that there is not a lot that has happened since the last meeting. We did get the DEQ certification. He was called last week again by the DOTD Real Estate section in Baton Rouge to let us know they are still considering abandoning the right-of-way that is in the lake in favor of the Lake Commission which would make us own it all. This will probably happen before the next meeting. The funding for the Mega Ramp is still in the capital outlay bill, as far as he knows, but they will not know for sure until the session ends on July 11. All we can do is hope. We are two-thirds of the way there. They accepted the application last fall. We got into the bill. The next step is to stay in the bill and then afterwards convince them there is enough money to sell bonds to build it. Usually that process takes 3-4 years. We just submitted this last fall so it is moving very rapidly. Mr. Cagle said since the Board has made it through this first segment, Ron Riley suggested the Board go ahead and purchase the Corps of Engineers permit. Mr. Riley said they have an offer from the Corps of Engineers, and that they have delineated the 4.6 acres that we want to fill in and make a parking lot. Of this acreage, .44 acres is wetlands (the trees around the edge). This equals 4.3 credits of mitigation. We got a price two months ago from a mitigation bank in Catahoula Parish at $2,400 per credit. With 4.3 credits, if that price is still good, it would cost $10,320 to mitigate. Mr. Cagle recommended taking Ron's suggestion and making this purchase. He did not want to be caught and not have permit if we get to the next step. Mr. Hampton reminded everyone that this was discussed this several months ago and the Board agreed that we would wait. If we spend the money now and it doesn't go through, then we have spent this money for nothing. Bill Carter agreed that they discussed this at the last meeting. The money is in capital outlay, but there is a huge budget fight. Nothing has changed. Ron Riley agreed that it would be safer to wait until the session is over on July 11 to see if we come out of the legislative session with the money in the budget. If so, there is an excellent chance they will sell bonds in September or October.

3. Spillway Repairs – Update and Permission to Award Project – Ron Riley stated that they took bids this afternoon, and he handed out a tabulation of the bids. He stated that he forwarded this to Baton Rouge this afternoon. We do not have the money on the preliminary budget but there are things we can do in the next few days to determine where we are. He has not heard from Baton Rouge. To award the base bid, we need $64,000. He is pretty confident we will not do the alternate bids. There is a discussion about the difference between his numbers and their numbers. They said they have $400,000 for construction. Ron believes we have $65,000 more, but they may have some expenses that he doesn't know about.

4. State Park Lake Level Gauge – Update – Ron Riley stated that they were going to put the gauge in last Tuesday, and they tried again this morning but were unable to do it. They will try next week. The problem is getting everyone together at the same time. For instance, Steve needs to bring his pontoon boat, the electrician needs to be there, and they need the people with the equipment to get there at the same time. Even if we install the gauge in the next week or so, it would be impossible to calibrate it right now. He believes last week the state park was an inch or so higher than the spillway. Mr. Cagle asked about calibrating it backwards and Ron said they tried, but it is such a tiny difference that any wave action (if you are shooting the crest of the water) makes it a guess. In July when the spillway quits running over, we should be able to calibrate.

5. Designate Official Names for Boat Launches – Danny Smith, the 911 coordinator, spoke to the Board. From an emergency provider standpoint, they know the names of the ramps but there are visitors on the lake and they don't know the ramp names. So he spoke with Terri Towns and Bill Carter about this. Mr. Cagle said the Board hasn't discussed names for each ramp as a group yet. The two on Highway 2 are the only ones he put a name to because the rest have traditional names. Mr. Smith would like to take the list of names provided to him and make sure none are confusing with other names. He said an address would be good to go along with the name of each landing. That way, if an emergency occurs, they can call it in and provide the name and the address to emergency provider. He even suggested installing 911 yard signs. They often disappear but they can try putting 911 yard signs to see how they work. He spoke with Jeff Shapiro and he also called for Marshall Hill today to discuss this. The DOTD is somewhat involved in the landings and he wanted to get them on board to make sure everything goes smoothly. He will get several people to look at them and assign addresses. Mr. Cagle suggested also putting coordinates. Mr. Smith agreed that is a good idea because sometimes addresses are not always accurate on GPS. Bill Carter said the names on this list are just suggestions from Mr. Cagle. Most are names that traditionally were attached to the ramps. The Highway 2 ramps need to be addressed. Terri Towns said we don't want two Ramp Roads because it would be confusing. Mr. Cagle said they should put Ramp Road on the Highway 2 ramp because the Mega Ramp will probably be renamed once it is built. Mr. Cagle and Ms. Towns are okay with the names but she is worried about East and West because people may be confused since some people don't know direction. Mr. Cagle suggested metal posts and signs printed with names. He has a number of signs they can use and paint over that Marshall Hill's predecessor gave him. Ron Riley asked whether the Police Jury would put the signs up. Mr. Smith stated that he has a part-time employee, Charles Niggard. He picks the signs up from their Police Jury office almost every Wednesday morning and places them. Mr. Smith makes the signs for the parish and the towns of Bernice and Marion, and they used to make the signs for Farmerville. They buy the material and sell the signs to the Police Jury for about $20 each. Charles Niggard then puts them up. Mr. Lee suggested on that the ramp on Highway 2 West be called D'Arbonne Village since some people get mixed up on East and West and North and South. Mr. Hampton was not in favor of using a commercial name for the landings. Mr. Cagle agreed because someone coming from Monroe may not know where Darbonne Village is. Mr. Lee said Jake's Landing, Terral Island, etc., are landmarks. Mr. Hampton said they are not named after businesses, though. Mr. Smith said whatever they do, they will bring it back and let the Board review at the next meeting. Mr. Smith also agreed that having coordinates is a good idea because sometimes there are two street names that are identical and it may lead the emergency provider elsewhere. Mr. Cagle stated that he will get the signs to Mr. Smith, and they can print them out. Someone questioned whether the names are subject to DOTD approval. Mr. Smith responded that is the reason he called for Marshall Hill, but he has not heard from him yet. Mr. Cagle said we have the grant and we have a list of names. He suggested that the Board think about the names (especially North Spillway and South Spillway, Highway 33 Ramp Road and both Highway 2s) and let's discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Cagle said we have to realize that some ramps are in Lincoln Parish, but he feels they will appreciate the names and addresses, as well.

1. Public Comment: There were no public comments.
2. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Edward Lee and seconded by David Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously.