**MINUTES OF April 21, 2020 REGULAR MEETING**

**Board of Commissioners of**

**Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District**

**BY ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORM**

**April 21, 2020**

**6:30 p.m.**

1. Roll Call – Jake Halley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Halley stated that the Notice of the meeting provided that any comment on an Agenda item by the public could be made by email prior to the meeting or verbally during the meeting at the appropriate time through a Go to Meeting access phone number. Mr. Halley then called the roll of the Board. Commission members participating by Zoom videoconference were Jake Halley, Terry Morris, Todd DeMoss, Steve Cagle, Clint Graham, and Richard Royal. Also participating were Bill Carter and Neal DeForest.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Todd DeMoss led the invocation and Terry Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – No one requested to make a public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the minutes of the February 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve February 2020 and March 2020 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the February 2020 and March 2020 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve February 2020 and March 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the February 2020 and March 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve February 2020 and March 2020 Financial Report – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the February 2020 and March 2020 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest stated that he has submitted the fourth reimbursement request which will be approximately $11,000. The total reimbursement amount from the state after receiving the fourth reimbursement recently submitted will be approximately $114,000. He said that $6,000 will still need to be reimbursed and that he will initiate that reimbursement at the end of the April.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest stated that he met with the contractor a week ago and that the contractor indicated he was waiting on a piece of equipment to become available before beginning the work. He said that he has visited the Bayou access road area three times and each time the entire area has been occupied with boats and boat trailers. He asked if a plan could be put in place so that the contractor can get to the site. Jake Halley said that the gates need to be closed so that the work can begin. He asked the members if they recommended placing a sign up and Bill Carter suggested that a sign be placed as soon as possible so the public has plenty of notice. Steve Cagle suggested only closing the gates while the access road area was under construction. Neal DeForest said that he would speak to the contractor on when to anticipate work to begin and then he would send an email to all the commissioners with that information.
3. Stowe Creek Ramp Road – There were no updates and no action was taken.
4. Lake Level Gauges – There were no updates and no action was taken. Bill Carter suggested appointing a committee and then set up a meeting with Jeff Shapiro, Marshall Hill, and Ben Humphries. Jake Halley said that USGS would need to get involved as well. He also said that he spoke with Ben Humphries about the gauge below the spillway and the gauge at the state park and he is waiting to hear back about the upgrades to those gauges.
5. Communications Relating to Rain Events/Tainter Gate Opening – Jake Halley said that the Facebook page has not been created yet but that when it is created, the page will have standard information such as current information on commission members, links to DOTD gate operations, National Weather Service river gauge forecasts and a link to the state plan regarding operations of the lake. He said that he is looking into having an executive committee to serve as administrators for the page. He said that he spoke to Bert Green, a Union Parish Sheriff’s Deputy, about being an administrator of the Commission’s Facebook page because he is familiar with the process as he handles some of the content for the Sheriff’s Department’s Facebook page. Bill Carter said that Commission’s webpage has become obsolete and that the regulations on the webpage can be transferred to the Facebook page and that is where citizens can also be provided with current information about the tainter gate opening and closing. Todd DeMoss expressed concerns about the public posting negative comments on the Facebook page and asked if there was a better way to negate that issue.
6. Lighting at Boat Launches – Jake Halley said that he has not been able to install the light at Terral Island but other than that, he has nothing to report.
7. Boat Launch/Ramp Maintenance (Terral Island) – Neal DeForest said that the work included grading and installation of new rock as well as repair to the culvert has been completed. Jake Halley said it all looked good and that payment has been approved to the contractor.
8. Lake Closure Policy – Bill Carter said that he has provided a rough draft of closure policies to the Commission members and he needs input. He asked if anyone was willing to work with him on the policies and present something back to the Commission. Steve Cagle, Jake Halley, Clint Graham and Neal DeForest offered to participate. Mr. Carter also said that the proposed policies would have to be reviewed and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
9. Lake Drawdown – Bill Carter referred to the current drawdown policy which has been in place and includes information about the drawdown process. He said that if anyone has suggestions to modify the drawdown policy, those could be discussed. He also stated that the drawdown schedule is every four years and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development are involved in the process.
10. Ramps Mowing Contract – Bill Carter said that Mark Bryan has done a good job the past two years and has agreed to continue the mowing for the same amount as last year. A motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the mowing contract with Mark Bryan with the same stipulations as last year for April 2020 through October 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Annual Financial Disclosure – Bill Carter said the Financial Disclosures are due May 15, 2020. He said that he has not seen where the deadline has been extended but he would check on it and send an email.

H. Public Comment – No one requested to make a public comment.

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