**MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2019 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 – Trotter Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Trotter Hunt, Steve Cagle, Jake Halley, Todd DeMoss and Terry Morris. Also present were Bill Carter and Jon McKinnie.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - Jake Halley 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 Jake Halley to amend the Agenda to add an item as No. 7 under G. Old and New Business regarding Boat Launch Fees. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Jake Halley to approve the Agenda, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd Demoss to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve June and July 2019 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Jake Halley to approve the June and July 2019 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve June and July 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd Demoss to approve the June and July 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve June and July 2019 Financial Report – Motion was made by Todd Demoss and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the June and July 2019 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project – Steve Cagle stated that he spoke with Neal DeForest, who was not present, and Mr. DeForest indicated that the project is complete. Mr. Cagle said that the two remaining items for the project, dirt work and the repair of a cyclone fence near the spillway, were complete. Trotter Hunt said that the first reimbursement check from FEMA was erroneously mailed to an incorrect post office box and that check had been reissued and should be forthcoming. Bill Carter informed the new members that FEMA will reimburse the Commission 75% of the total project cost and that process is ongoing. Steve Cagle said that the one channel marker that the District approved to repair for $1,500 is completely broken. Mr. Cagle indicated that he is planning to place a buoy on the pole until the repair can be made. Bill Carter said that the channel markers are a necessity to help people navigate the lake. He said that there were more lost in the last high water than can be replaced due to the cost. He said that 44 were replaced this time. Steve Cagle said that the decals purchased from RHTC should be in soon and he will be taking those to the Sheriff’s Department to have them build the markers.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements Project – Steve Cagle said that requests for quotes were sent out and there was no response from any potential contractors. Mr. Cagle said that he and Neal DeForest discussed breaking the project down into smaller phases. He said that the final phase of the project could not take place until September 2020 when the lake is lower, and the sand can be collected from the lake. Bill Carter said that at least eight (8) contractors were identified that had performance bonds and a state contractor’s license. Jon McKinnie said that in a conversation he had with a representative with the State Parks office in Baton Rouge, he suggested that they dredge out and create a sand beach at the State Park. Tim Washam, who manages the local State Park, suggested that a beach area be constructed behind the Visitor’s Center. Mr. McKinnie asked the Commission if they could redirect the project to the State Park if no bids are received for the spillway area. Steve Cagle said that the project will be restructured, and he is confident there will be bids.
3. Sediment Erosion Near Mann Road/D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision – Bill Carter said that the plan is to pursue silt removal during the 2020 drawdown.
4. Dock Maintenance (Gills Ferry) / Gills Ferry Sign Repair ­– Steve Cagle said that the dock repair is complete, but the sign has been damaged when someone backed over it. He indicated that he has a quote from John Gates of $150 to repair the sign. Steve Cagle made a motion seconded by Jake Halley to spend a maximum of $200.00 to repair the sign at Gills Ferry. The motion passed unanimously.

Gills Ferry / Ken’s Landing Signage

Bill Carter said that Cary Brown was contacted by Randy Roberson, President of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury inquiring about the signage at Gills Ferry and Ken’s Landing, both of which are in Lincoln Parish. Mr. Roberson indicated to Mr. Brown that the signs direct persons to contact the Union Parish Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Carter suggested that one of the members look at the sign to see if it is possible to add the Lincoln Parish Sheriff’s Department under the current information. Steve Cagle said that issue can be corrected by placing a label with the Lincoln Parish Sheriff’s Department information over the current Union Parish information.

1. Tainter Gate Opening and Closing Plan – Trotter Hunt noted that after much discussion and a public meeting with representatives of DOTD, LDWF, and the Police Jury, that the Commission voted in June to recommend no change to the opening level of the tainter gate which is 82.25 feet and change the closing level to from 81.5 to 81 feet. Bill Carter said that he would send the revised Opening and Closing Plan to Marshall Hill for signature. Trotter Hunt informed the new members of the proactive approach prior to a potential flood event as it pertains to the gates and DOTD’s role. Mr. Hunt said that a day or two ahead of predicted heavy rainfall, the Commission requests DOTD to go ahead and open the gates. Bill Carter told the new members that a copy of the Plan will be in the binders created for them.
2. James Watts Structure – Bill Carter said that this problem was now resolved but the item was placed on the Agenda to inform the new members of the situation. He stated that Mr. Watts was recently committed by the coroner and his son came and dismantled the structure. He said that although the issue is now resolved, the Ordinances in place which regulate a number of things including metal in the lake, docks, piers, etc., did address the situation.

Steve Cagle said that if the Ordinances of the Commission are adopted by the Union Parish Police Jury, it gives the Sheriff more authority to enforce the Ordinances. Bill Carter said that he would send all of the Ordinances to Jerry Taylor of the Union Parish Police Jury. Bill Carter said the statute creating the Commission specifically gives the Commission the right to adopt regulations regarding the lake, and it also gives the Commission the right to determine who would enforce the regulations. In the case of Mr. Watts, the Ordinance regulating the use of boat ramps was sent to Sheriff Gates and provided the Union Parish Sheriff as the enforcing authority. Mr. Carter indicated that Sheriff Gates acknowledged the authority of the Sheriff to enforce the Ordinance and pursuant to that authority, the next day the Sheriff’s Office served Mr. Watts with a summons.

1. Boat Launch Fees – Jake Halley said that he and a few other Commission members have discussed the possibility of implementing boat launch fees on the lake. He said that he has spoken with various persons who use the lake and the majority are in agreement with the fees as long as the money is used for maintenance and upgrades on facilities. Mr. Halley said that D’Arbonne is one of the few lakes that does not have boat launch fees and the Commission is losing a lot of revenue during tournaments because of that.

Steve Cagle discussed the use of collection boxes and constables to write tickets to persons who do not pay the launch fee. He also suggested allowing persons to buy an annual permit but allowing the Union Parish residents a permit free of charge.

Mr. Carter asked the Commission members if any of the other lakes charge for use of public ramps. Mr. Cagle said that Lake Claiborne does not. Jake Halley said that he thought Caney Lake charges for all of their ramps. Mr. Carter brought up potential issues with enforcement of tickets issued, namely complaints of non-uniform enforcement, the mechanism to collect fines, etc. Mr. Carter suggested discussing various aspects of launch fees before proceeding and before attempting to issue and enforce citations.

Steve Cagle asked if a committee of three people could be formed to research all matters regarding boat launch fees. Trotter Hunt said that would not be a problem.

H. Public Comment – Jon McKinnie stated that the Chamber and Ludwig Marine put on the drag boat races and made a profit of $2,500.00. He said that the Chamber Board agreed to donate the money to the Commission for the Channel Marker Project or any Project it sees fit.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd Demoss. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.