**MINUTES OF March 16, 2021 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 – Jake Halley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Jake Halley, Terry Morris, Steve Cagle, Clint Graham, Richard Royal and Ken Myers. Todd DeMoss was absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest, Byron Avery and various members of the public.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Terry Morris led the invocation and Clint Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – Several persons signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the March 2021 Agenda after designating Item G. as Public Comment and designating Item H. as Old and New Business. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the minutes of the February 2021 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve February 2021 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the February 2021 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve February 2021 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Ken Myers to approve the February 2021 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve February 2021 Financial Report – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the February 2021 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Public Comment – Jake Halley and Steve Cagle responded to various comments made by the public as well as rain events and action stage for the lake.

1. Dennis Bratton asked the Lake Commission about the policy regarding building living quarters over the water. Steve Cagle said that the policy says that no habitable dwellings can be built on the water. Bill Carter said he could provide Mr. Bratton with the Ordinance. Mr. Bratton said that Tommy Smith was planning to build five condos over the water near Ludwig Marine. Bill Carter said that he had just received the plans from Mr. Smith and Mr. Smith will be contacted in the near future to discuss the plans and make sure he follows the regulations of the Commission.
2. John LeBlanc said that he worked for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries for 37 years and chose Lake D’Arbonne to retire on. Mr. LeBlanc asked about protocols for the Lake coming down. Jake Halley said that while the water is coming down the tainter gates are closed and 80.5 feet, then the Spillway takes over and brings it back to pool stage.
3. Roy Frasier asked the Commission to clarify that 4 inches a day was the maximum amount that the lake would be lowered at a time and Jake Halley said that is the case which is to avoid trapping fish and creating excessive pore pressures.

1. John Schultz asked that if the downstream levels allowed full opening of the tainter gates, would that keep the water level at 83 feet no matter how much rainfall there is, and the Commissioners said no.

H. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest said that there is no change from the last update, but he should have more information in a week or two.
    2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest said that quotes for Phase IV are due the following day at 2:00 p.m. and he would forward those to the Commissioners once received. Motion was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Steve Cagle to authorize the Commission to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible, responsive quoter, based on the qualifications set forth in the Scope of Work, with a contract amount not to exceed $25,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.
    3. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest said that Claiborne Electric still needs to set the pole for the electricity, but the water has been too high to facilitate that. He said that the product has been ordered from Delta Process for the new gauge and as soon as the pole has been set, the gauge can be installed.
    4. Lighting at Boat Launches – Jake Halley said that Entergy has installed the lights at Terral Island as well as the Spillway.
    5. Boat Launch / Ramp / Sign Maintenance – Steve Cagle said that the $1,500 quote for ramp road maintenance only covers 3 yards of concrete and said that a truckload of concrete would be more beneficial to cover more than just the asphalt holes.

Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to increase the authorized amount for the work at ramp road from $1,500 to $2,500. The motion passed unanimously.

* + 1. Conveyance of Ramps and Roads by DOTD to Commission / Consider Resolution to Accept Ownership from DOTD of Designated Ramps and Approaches in Exchange for Improvements and Project and Maintain Costs – Bill Carter reiterated the purpose of the Resolution and said that after the Resolution approving the transfer is approved by the Commission, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Watershed District and the DOTD will be signed conveying the property rights. Motion was made Steve Cagle and seconded by Richard Royal to adopt the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.
    2. Lake Closure / No Wake Policy – Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance – No action taken.
    3. Lake Drawdown Policy Revisions – No action taken.
    4. Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – No action taken.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Motion and seconded by Steve Cagle. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.