**MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2024 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 – Terry Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Terry Morris, Richard Royal, Steve Cagle, Ken Myers and Steve Adams. Todd Demoss was absent. Bill Carter was also present.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Royal led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – One person signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the Agenda with the amendment of moving Item G. 5 to below Item H. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the minutes of January 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve January and February 2024 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the January and February 2024 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve January and February 2024 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the January and February 2024 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve January and February 2024 Financial Report – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the January and February 2024 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Steve Cagle said he would install new lights under the bridge when the water goes down. Steve Adams said that there is rock installed on ramp road but that it still needs concrete. He also said that there are issues with parking on both sides of the road due to the narrowness of the road. Several of the Commission members discussed placing signage on the road to prevent parking on one side of the road. Mr. Adams also indicated that Jake’s and Terral Island need additional rock. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Ken Myers to buy two loads of rock, one for Jake’s and one for Terral Island. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Boat Launch Fees - Status - Richard Royal said that to date for 2024, $7,272.82 was collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
3. Fish Stocking Program – Terry Morris said that Shawn McNulty at American Sport Fish Hatchery in Montgomery, Alabama informed Mr. Morris that the hatchery just got their eggs for the new hatch and will have fish ready in June. Mr. Morris said that the Commission will spend $20,000 and purchase 2” fingerling Tiger Bass. Steve Adams reiterated that the bass would be distributed by anglers either during a bass tournament or a scheduled gathering which would increase the chance of survival.
4. Lake Drawdown – Terry Morris said that the Commission would not be voting on the drawdown at this meeting as someone had erroneously posted on social media. He said that Ryan Daniel with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (“LDWF”) indicated that LDWF would be performing a study on vegetation and related matters and Mr. Daniel will be attending the May 21 Commission meeting with the information from the study and suggestions on the drawdown schedule. Mr. Morris said that the Commission will most likely have the regularly scheduled drawdown this year, and then a plan would be put in place for future drawdowns.
5. Chase Sanson Property Use Claim – Bill Carter said that there is no report at this time.
6. Ramp Mowing Contract – Terry Morris said that he spoke with Felix Castro who the Commission has contracted with for the past two years and he has agreed to continue the mowing at the same cost. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Richard Royal to enter into a Contract with Felix Castro for mowing for 2024.
7. Reminders: (a) Louisiana Annual Ethics Training (Due December 31), and (b) Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – Terry Morris reminded everyone about the Ethics training and Financial Disclosure filing.

H. Public Comment – John McKinney with the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce said that the fireworks for Independence Day are scheduled for July 6, 2024. Richard Royal said that the Commission would add the use of ramp road by the Chamber for the fireworks display to the Agenda for the May Commission meeting.

G.5. Ryan Willis Agreement / Project – Bill Carter stated that a lawsuit had been filed in connection with this item to which the Watershed District was made a party and recommended entering into executive session to discuss it. Motion was made by Ken Myers and seconded by Steve Cagle to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation represented by the lawsuit entitled “Timothy Hicks and Jennifer K. Autry Hicks v. Ryan Matthew Willis, Jonie Horton Willis and Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District”, filed in the Third Judicial District Court, Union Parish, Louisiana. The motion passed unanimously.

[Discussion in Executive Session]

Motion was made by Steve Adams and seconded by Ken Myers to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ken Myers and seconded by Steve Adams to authorize the Commission’s legal counsel to respond on behalf of the District to the pending litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.