**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2020 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, Steve Cagle, Clint Graham, and Richard Royal. Jake Halley, Todd DeMoss and Ken Myers were absent. Also present were Bill Carter and Neal DeForest.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Royal led the invocation and Steve Cagle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – Two people signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to approve the October 2020 Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

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

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

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

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest said that no progress with the remaining reimbursement has been made and there is nothing to report. He said that no one has been assigned to be the project closeout coordinator due to the recent weather events.
    2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest said that the beach area has more sand than he realized with little debris and it looks great. As to the bayou access road, he said that the previous contractor did work on the road to relieve percolating groundwater, but there is still an issue with standing groundwater. He suggested having Larry Kenly fix this since he already has equipment on site by constructing a french drain to divert the water. Bill Carter said this should be done by a change order to the existing contract. Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve a change order to allow Skylnek Contractor, L.L.C. to construct a french drain to redirect the water, for a price not to exceed $1,500.00. The motion passed unanimously.
    3. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest said that the right of way for the new powerline at the Rocky Branch Bridge has been acquired and the area needs to be cleared. He also said that a permit has to be obtained from the Union Parish Police Jury. Steve Cagle said that he talked with Larry Kenly about the clearing work and Mr. Kenly stated he would do that work as well as clear underbrush and trees from the Terral Island boat ramp for a total of $5,600.00. Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Steve Cagle to engage Skylnek Contractor, L.L.C. to perform the clearing work at the Rocky Branch Bridge for the lake level gauge and the clearing work at the Terral Island boat ramp for $5,600.00. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Lighting at Boat Launches – No action taken.
2. Boat Launch / Ramp / Sign Maintenance – Steve Cagle said that the signs at the Lincoln Parish ramps need the telephone number for the Sheriff changed. He said that he still has not contacted Rapid Signs to have the no swimming sings made. *See also discussion under Item 3 above regarding clearing work at the Terral Island boat ramp.*
3. Conveyance of Ramps and Roads by DOTD to Commission – Neal DeForest said that he, Jake Halley and Terry Morris met with Marshall Hill and Jeff Shapiro of DOTD about the conveyance of the ramps and the potential price DOTD would pay for the conveyance. He said that there was discussion about how much of the funds would be in cash to the Lake Commission and how much funding would be provided by DOTD for projects. Mr. DeForest said that Marshall Hill said that there is a high probability that the funding would all be in cash. He said that Mr. Hill is going to be getting some more information together and the Lake Commission needs to make a list of items that need to be improved at the sites that DOTD currently owns that will be conveyed to the Lake Commission, as well as the other boat launches that DOTD is not involved with. He said that this funding should be able to cover maintenance on the ramps for the next 15 years.
4. Lake Closure / No Wake Policy – Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance – No action taken.
5. Lake Drawdown – Bill Carter said that due to the recent hurricanes and subsequent higher lake levels, the drawdown should be extended an additional month. He said that the request will be sent to the Secretary of LDWF and they will coordinate with DOTD. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Clint Graham to request extension of the drawdown to December 15, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Sediment Erosion Near Mann Road/D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision (Prospective Litigation with Developers of D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision) – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to enter into executive session because this item potentially involves prospective litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

*[Executive Session]*

Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Richard Royal to authorize Bill Carter to send a demand letter to the developer of D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision to remove the sediment from the Lake. The motion passed unanimously.

John Steed, an adjacent landowner to D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision, addressed the Commission and said that the erosion into the Lake has been ongoing since the beginning of the development. He said that if this is not addressed, he will lose complete access to the Lake. Mr. Steed also said that he met with Mr. Lee about the erosion and Mr. Lee assured him that he would remove the sediment during the drawdown and place the dirt on a nearby landowner’s property.

1. FEMA Hurricane Claims – Neal DeForest said that he has looked at some of the damage, but it is hard for him to determine if the damage was caused by the most recent hurricane or from a previous storm. He said that he can make a list of his findings and present to the Commission at a future meeting.
2. Louisiana Watershed Initiative – Bill Carter said that funding for various projects is available through this program and Jake Halley and Neal DeForest have been added to the Region 3 mailing list to inform them of future meetings and potential funding the Lake Commission can apply for.
3. Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – No action taken.

H. Public Comment –

Jared Cook asked the Commission to give him a better idea of how long the drawdown would be. He said that this has been a difficult time because of COVID and the lumber shortage. Steve Cagle said that the drawdown is scheduled every four years beginning the day after Labor Day and ending November 15. He said that the drawdown was extended in 2016 by LDWF because of vegetation in the Lake and the drawdown is going to be extended this year because of the unanticipated rainfall stemming from multiple hurricanes and storms. Bill Carter said that there has to be a balance between lowering the Lake for the landowners and bringing it back up to preserve the biology of the Lake.

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