**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017, REGULAR MEETING**

**Board of Commissioners of**

**Bayou D’Arbonne Lake Watershed District Regular Meeting**

Union Parish Courthouse Annex

303 East Water Street

Farmerville, LA 71241

1. Roll Call – President Bruce Hampton called the meeting to order. Commission members present were Bruce Hampton, David Hopkins, Steve Cagle, Cary Brown, and Trotter Hunt. Terri Towns was absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Ron Riley and Robert Lemoine.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Cary Brown led the invocation, and Trotter Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – No one signed up to make a public comment.
4. Agenda Approval – Steve Cagle made a motion and Trotter Hunt seconded the motion to approve the February 2017 Agenda as posted. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by David Hopkins to approve the minutes of the January 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Reports – David Hopkins made a motion to adjust the 2016 Budget to the actual expenses for 2016. Steve Cagle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

David Hopkins also made a motion to approve the January 2017 Treasurer’s Report, and the motion was seconded by Trotter Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Carter asked about a possible new audit procedure and the need for monthly reconciliations. David Hopkins stated that he and Janet Cowart will be meeting with the state auditor at the Argent conference room in Ruston on March 16, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., and she will explain what they need to do on a monthly basis in regards to reconciliation. He stated that they will need some kind of form because it will have to be “signed off.” They will know more after that meeting. Mr. Hopkins further stated that any Board members may also attend that meeting.

1. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers – (a) FEMA Claims, and (b) Repair Status – Ron Riley emailed everyone a detailed explanation of the work to be done that lists the money wherein the Board agreed to put up to $40,000. Mr. Riley stated that the total cost for repairs is $159,992.56 and the Board will have to pay one-fourth of that, which is just under our agreed upon $40,000. He stated that he will send this in tomorrow. Mr. Riley also has to sign a document testifying as to the accuracy of the project. He was told to send all this in by March 1 and stated that we should obtain approval of the offer in April which means we should get the funds in May. However, he will be surprised if we get the funds by summertime. Once they authorize it, it will go to public bid. FEMA outlined what they will pay for, e.g., $122,000 for channel markers. There also are funds for staff gauges, admin costs, engineering, construction and inspection. FEMA will pay 75% of those costs.

Mr. Hampton stated that Bill Carter prepared a contract for Jared Cook to straighten the poles as previously discussed, and Mr. Cook may come in to sign tomorrow. Steve Cagle stated that he went with Mr. Cook to the lake to make sure they could straighten the poles. They tested a pole and it did work, so they will be able to straighten a lot of poles. He stated that Mr. Cook is planning to do many more than he had promised to do.

Mr. Riley reiterated that none of the Federal money may be used to repay the Commission. Mr. Riley further stated that he used GPS to mark each pole that needs to be replaced, and the only thing he does not have is the depth of the poles.

Mr. Riley stated that there was $10,000 or $12,000 remaining in the budget after the tainter gate was built, so the DOTD is trying to get permission to use that money for other repairs, like the cyclone fence, the pile of dirt and the staff gauges, so we may not have to pay for that.

2. 2016 Drawdown –Update – Ron Riley stated that the drawdown is over.

3. Commission Website – Update – Mr. Hampton said the Committee (Trotter Hunt, Bruce Hampton, and Cary Brown) met and they made some progress on the website. Robert Lemoine stated that he has taken all the notes and is putting everything into place. He has not moved as fast as he hoped but he should have a very good skeleton of the website up this weekend and he should be able to present something to the Commission soon.

New Lake Maps (Not on Agenda) – Steve Cagle asked for permission to work with Robert Lemoine to sell the back of the lake maps sold by the Commission to advertisers to pay for new lake maps. Mr. Hampton stated that he has no problem with that, but we have to be careful to whom we sell ads. Bill Carter agreed and stated that no Commission members or family members can buy ads, but ads could be sold to sporting goods stores, banks, etc. Mr. Cagle stated that they have about 400 maps left and they go out 25 at a time. He stated that we need to re-do the map and add things to it, perhaps like fishing holes. Mr. Riley stated that Farmerville city limits have changed significantly out Highway 2 across the lake, but they haven’t done anything towards Sterlington or up Highway 33 North, but have out Highway 15 North to the Chip Mill Road and up Highway 549. Mr. Riley said we at least should do that sort of thing. Steve Cagle wants to go into the map and get fisherman to give him coordinates and make a list of fishing spots so if someone from out of state comes in, they can see “community holes” to fish in. Mr. Cagle pointed out areas of the map that could be sold to advertisers and suggested that the maps be folded so that the Lake Commission’s web page and D’Arbonne State Park will show up in the center, and we may be able to sell that to the State Park. State Cagle agreed to handle this project. Bruce Hampton stated that once Mr. Cagle has something together, he can bring it to the Lake Commission for approval before we have anything printed. David Hopkins stated that there is a cost in buying the maps, and then we will sell ads and maps, so there will need to be some accountability. Bill Carter stated that he could see no problem with that as long as there are no conflicts of interest. Mr. Carter suggested a committee consisting of Steve Cagle (as Chairman) with Terri Towns and Bruce Hampton to help since they are local, and Mr. Hampton appointed those persons to the Committee.

4. City of Farmerville Old Highway 15 Request – Update – Neither Mr. Hampton nor Mr. Riley has heard anything else and had no additional information to add.

5. Discussion by Chamber of Commerce Representative Regarding Regulating and Organizing Lake Activities in Conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce – No one from the Chamber showed up to discuss this.

H. Public Comment – None.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Cary Brown and seconded by David Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.