**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 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 – Jake Halley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Jake Halley, Terry Morris, Todd DeMoss, Steve Cagle, and Richard Royal. Clint Graham and Ken Myers were absent. Also present were Bill Carter and Neal DeForest.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Todd DeMoss led the invocation and Terry Morris 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 Todd DeMoss to add an item under New Business for the use of ramp road for a fireworks display on New Year’s Eve by the Chamber of Commerce and to approve the November 2020 Agenda, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the minutes of the October 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

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

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest said that there is still no progress, but the representative from FEMA is checking on it and he should know more soon. Todd DeMoss asked if there was a deadline and Mr. DeForest said that the representative is trying to track down the close out specialist and has been responsive. Bill Carter asked how much reimbursement is remaining and Mr. Deforest said approximately $10,000.00 to $14,000.00.
    2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest said the change order work has been completed.
    3. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest said that the right of way for the new power line at the Rocky Branch bridge has been cleared and he would contact the Claiborne Electric representative regarding installation of the new line.

1. Lighting at Boat Launches – No action taken.
2. Boat Launch / Ramp / Sign Maintenance – Steve Cagle said that he has four signs that he needs to take to Rapid Signs. Neal Deforest said the clearing work at Terrell Island has not been done yet and he would get an estimated completion date. Jake Halley said that Read Lumber has completed the repairs at both boat ramps a ribbon cutting will be scheduled at Jake’s Landing. Terry Morris said that inmates are going to clean all of the brush and underbrush between Jake’s Landing and D’Arbonne Hotel. Jake Halley suggested having Skylnek remove some boulders at Jake’s Landing. Mr. Cagle said he would speak with Larry Kenly about it.

Steve Cagle said that there are three washouts at Ramp Road that need to be filled in. Mr. Cagle said Century Ready Mix has a product that works just like concrete and he is waiting for a representative from Century Ready Mix to give him a cost estimate. Mr. Cagle said Skylnek Construction could install the material. Richard Royal said there was money in the budget for ramp drawdown work.

Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to repair the washouts at Ramp Road for an amount not to exceed $5,000.00 including materials and labor. The motion passed unanimously.

Various commission members commented on conditions at various ramps. Jake Halley said there were no major issues to be addressed at this time.

Jake Halley said that the destroyed Outhouse Rentals Port A John at Highway 2 Ramp should be covered by insurance and the total replacement value is $525.00.

1. Conveyance of Ramps and Roads by DOTD to Commission – Jake Halley said that he should be getting a response from DOTD soon and when he does, he will let everyone know.
2. Lake Closure / No Wake Policy – Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance – No action taken.
3. Lake Drawdown – A lengthy discussion was held regarding the issues related to maintaining the targeted drawdown depth due to rainfall, some of which was attributable to the fall hurricanes. Points made during the discussion include (i) per Marshall Hill, the tainter gates were designed for flood control, not to maintain drawdown levels (ii) parameters of when the tainter gates can be opened and closed are controlled by the DOTD Operations and Procedures Manual (and charts) rather than the Opening and Closing Plan and the Manual will be followed until revised, (iii) the possible review and revision of the parameters in the Manual will be discussed with the DOTD, (iv) the DOTD will be requested to verify the accuracy of the elevations shown by the staff gauge behind the spillway and correlate that to the new gauge to be installed at the Rocky Branch bridge, (v) the drawdown policy of the Commission regarding possible drawdown below 75 feet to maintain the target drawdown level will be reviewed and discussed with the LDWF.

Jake Halley asked if the Commission could look at a couple more ramps to extend once the lake reaches 75 feet. Neal DeForest said that the lake level would need to be 70 feet to accomplish that.

Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to request an extension of the drawdown from LDWF to December 31, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Carter suggested calling Ryan Daniels of LDWF to inform him of the latest drawdown extension request and ask if he has an issue with it. He also said a letter requesting the extension would be sent to the LDWF Secretary.

Public Comment –

1. 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 Todd DeMoss 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 Todd DeMoss to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Terry Morris for Bill Carter to meet with the subdivision developer of D’Arbonne Bluffs Subdivision and his attorney and if that does not result in a resolution, to authorize Bill Carter to file a lawsuit against the developer. The motion passed unanimously.

1. FEMA Hurricane Claims – Neal DeForest said that he and Steve Cagle will make arrangements to look at the damaged channel markers in the lake.
2. Louisiana Watershed Initiative – No action taken.
3. December, 2020 Meeting – Bill Carter suggested a December meeting be held to adopt the 2021 budget and continue to maintain the drawdown. He also indicated that the budget for the following year should be adopted in December.

Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to have a special meeting on December 15, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – No action taken.
2. Request to use Road and Ramp by Union Parish Chamber of Commerce for New Year’s Eve Fireworks Display (Agenda Amendment) – Richard Royal said that since the Independence Day fireworks were cancelled, the Chamber of Commerce would like to do a New Year’s Eve fireworks display using Ramp Road.

Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to authorize an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce to allow the use of the Ramp Road area for a New Year’s Eve fireworks display from 11:00 p.m. December 30, 2020 to 11:00 p.m. December 31, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

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