**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 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 Richard Royal, Steve Cagle, Ken Myers and Steve Adams. Clint Graham and Todd DeMoss were absent. Bill Carter and Neal DeForest were also present.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Royal led the invocation and Steve Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – No one signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Ken Myers to approve the September 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the minutes of the August 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve August 2023 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the August 2023 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve August 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the August 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve August 2023 Financial Report – Richard Royal indicated two line items were indexed incorrectly but that the bookkeeper would be amending those and sending out a revised Financial Report. Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the August 2023 Financial Report with the amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Richard Royal said that the last trash receptacles were placed at the Spillway and Terral Island boat launches and all of the picnic tables have been installed. Steve Adams stated that the roadbed on ramp road needs to be repaired.
2. Boat Launch Fees - Status – Richard Royal said that to date for 2023, $45,582.02 has been collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
3. Channel Markers – Terry Morris said the light installation on the channel markers is now complete.
4. Tainter Gate Report – Terry Morris said there is no update.
5. Fish Stocking Program – Terry Morris said that the purchase from Dunn’s Fish Farm is not going to be possible because of a lack of inventory of the desired size of 6” to 8”. He said that the only other company that he’s found that can provide the Commission with the desired size of Florida Bass based on Ryan Daniel’s recommendation is in Alabama, but the price is double that of Dunn’s Fish Farm. He suggested waiting to purchase the fish until Dunn’s can provide them, but in the meantime, he is going to reach out to the Claiborne Lake Commission and see where they get their fish.
6. Ryan Willis Project No Opposition Request – Bill Carter reiterated Mr. Willis’ request and indicated that the installation of a ten-foot diameter tank car culvert may not provide long-term continuing boat access through the existing channel. He indicated that it is the responsibility of the Commission to protect boat access and the approval of Mr. Willis’ request may adversely affect access.

Neal Deforest said that the water level on the lake fluctuates and therefore would be difficult for a tank car culvert to provide the same access during those fluctuations.

Ryan Willis said that the proposal of the tank car culvert was the recommendation of an employee of the Corps of Engineers and spoke about his desire for the property and his willingness to conform to any regulation imposed by the Commission. Several of the Commission members and Mr. Willis discussed the dilemma and potential options to provide access to the property and maintain boat access.

Neal Deforest said that the size of the culvert is only one component of the equation and said that the elevation of the bottom of the culvert would be another critical factor. He also spoke about other challenges including emergency vehicle access and said that he would need to see an engineering design plan including elevations to determine if the proposal would be feasible.

Mr. Carter reiterated that the only proposal before the Commission at this time was the installation of a ten-foot tank culvert at the specified location.

Motion was made by Steve Adams and seconded by Steve Cagle to postpone this item until Mr. Willis can hire an engineer and surveyor and provide the Commission and the Commission engineer with an engineering plan. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Reminders: (a) Louisiana Annual Ethics Training (Due December 31), and (b) Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – Terry reminded everyone about the Ethics training and Financial Disclosure filing.

H. Public Comment – No one signed up for public comment.

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