**MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2024 RESCHEDULED 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, Todd DeMoss, Steve Cagle, and Steve Adams. Ken Myers was absent. Bill Carter and Neal DeForest were 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 Todd DeMoss to approve the Agenda of January 2024 Rescheduled Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Adams and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the minutes of November 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve November and December 2023 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the November and December 2023 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve November and December 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the November and December 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve November and December 2023 Financial Report – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the November and December 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Adopt 2023 Actual Budget – A spreadsheet showing the actual 2023 Income and Expenses was provided to the Board members. Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to amend the 2023 Budget to reflect the 2023 actual figures. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Steve Cagle stated that concrete still needed to be poured at Ramp Road. Neal DeForest informed the Commissioners that the sign at Gills Ferry is missing. Steve Adams said that only one light is working under the bridge and Steve Cagle said he would install new lights.
2. Boat Launch Fees - Status - Richard Royal said that to date for 2023, $57,608.70 was collected in daily launch fees and permit sales and to date for 2024, $3,219.77 has been collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
3. Fish Stocking Program – Terry Morris said that he attempted to speak to the representative at American Sport Fish Hatchery in Montgomery, Alabama before the meeting, but he was unavailable and said that the last time he did speak to him, he informed Mr. Morris that the hatchery will have the fish ready in March or April and the hatchery would not need to know how many fish the Commission orders until the day of purchase.
4. Lake Drawdown – Richard Royal said that Ryan Daniel of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries will attend the March meeting to discuss the conditions of the lake and the drawdown. Terry Morris said that he spoke to Mr. Daniel, and he informed Mr. Morris that he is still in favor of the drawdown, but he wants to do a survey of the vegetation before making the determination for his recommendation. Steve Cagle said the level for the drawdown needs to be changed to 75.20 feet and Neal DeForest said that he remembered discussing the issue and would follow up on it. Several of the Commission members discussed a scheduled fishing tournament in September and how the drawdown would affect that, including possible delaying the drawdown for a short period.
5. Ryan Willis Agreement – Bill Carter said that he previously sent an email to the Commissioners regarding developments about this issue. He stated that an adjacent landowner who was not aware of the Agreement between the Commission and Ryan Willis has expressed his objections to the Willis development and the use of the Access Road and both parties have hired attorneys to determine the ownership of the Access Road. Mr. Carter indicated that he would continue to monitor the situation.
6. Chase Sanson Property Use Claim – Bill Carter said that he previously sent an email to the Commissioners about this issue and a meeting regarding this issue will be scheduled in the future.
7. Select Date, Time and Place of 2024 Regular Meetings – Richard Royal suggested keeping the regular meetings on the third Tuesday of the month but reducing the number of meetings to every other month. Bill Carter said that he needs to check the statutes regulating the Commission and would let the Commissioners know the outcome.

Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Todd DeMoss to schedule each regular meeting in 2024 on the third Tuesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. at the Union Parish Courthouse Annex, subject to the results of Bill Carter’s research. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Elect 2024 Officers – Bill Carter opened the floor for nominations for President. Steve Adams nominated Terry Morris. There were no other nominations. Terry Morris was elected President unanimously.

Mr. Carter opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Steve Cagle nominated Richard Royal. There were no other nominations. Richard Royal was elected Vice-President unanimously.

Mr. Carter opened the floor for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. Richard Royal nominated Todd DeMoss. There were no other nominations. Todd DeMoss was elected Secretary-Treasurer 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 – Larry Reeves thanked the Commissioners for installing the port-a-john at Hog Pen Landing and informed the Commissioners that there are duck hunters using the ramp that do not have a permit or pay the daily fee. He also asked about the sign regarding mercury at Corney Creek. The Commissioners suggested he reach out to LDWF.

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