

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting of Board of Commissioners of**  
**Bayou D'Arbonne Lake Watershed District**

Union Parish Courthouse Annex  
303 East Water Street  
Farmerville, LA 71241

- A. Roll Call – President Steve Cagle called the meeting to order. Commission members present were Steve Cagle, David Hopkins, Edward Lee, Bruce Hampton, Terri Towns, Cary Brown, and Trotter Hunt. Also present were Bill Carter, Ron Riley, Tracy Ambrose, Keith Jeselink and Senator Mike Walsworth.
- B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Bruce Hampton led the invocation, and Edward Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Public Comment Registration – Keith Jeselink signed up to speak.
- D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by David Hopkins and seconded by Terri Towns to approve the July agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Bruce Hampton and seconded by David Hopkins to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Treasurer's Report – The July 2015 Treasurer's report was presented. Motion was made to approve the report by Edward Lee and seconded by Terri Towns. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. Old and New Business:
  - 1. Boat Ramp Rules/New Signs – Trotter Hunt previously emailed pictures of the new sign to everyone, and reported that the Sign Committee (Trotter Hunt, Bruce Hampton and Cary Brown) and Bill Carter met and took the Ordinance and made sure all pertinent rules were captured and differentiated between safety and other rules to be enforced. All members stated the sign looked good. Mr. Cagle stated he got a quote on materials for the signs (Acubonds) of \$3/square foot or \$106 per sheet. He just needs the lettering and requested that Trotter to send him an email of the sign so he can send off for lettering prices. Mr. Hopkins also spoke with a company out of Shreveport who made the sign on the levee. He got a quote for lettering and everything, depending on the size, of \$400-\$500 per sign out of metal, but the posts and installation would be at our cost. Both companies will be priced. Mr. Cagle said Coggins Welding is going to give us a price on the frame for three inch square poles down four foot into the ground with a track and angle iron frame on the inside

so the sign will not come out. Signs will be placed at the ten landings and two entrances for a total of 12 signs. Bruce Hampton asked that we put new signs everywhere so they are all consistent. The signs will have the same back as the old signs, but the entrance signs do not need the wording on the back of the signs. Mr. Carter asked Mr. Hunt to send a photo of the back of the sign on another sheet so they could be sent for bids. Mr. Carter also suggested that we get two quotes on the welding of the signs. Mr. Cagle agreed to get another bid from Kenny Guinn.

2. Channel Markers – Update/Budget Increase – Ron Riley said we are taking bids at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning on the channel markers. Mr. Riley asked if he had permission to award it if the bids are within the budget. He was given authority to do so under previous action by the Commission. Mr. Riley has one bid in the office and he anticipates more. Mr. Carter stated that the bid could be accepted if it was a valid, responsive, responsible bid and met requirements.
3. Mega Ramp – Update – Ron Riley said Senator Walsworth did the impossible this year in setting a first year project in Priority 2. He stated that Mark Moses of Facility Planning sent a letter indicating there is a 50/50 chance to get the funding this year. They asked the Board to submit application for a line of credit and he asked that the Board to authorize the President to submit that application. That way, when the time comes to obtain funds, they will do so. Otherwise, they will move it to next year. There is a good chance to get funding next year if not this year. He asked if Mr. Cagle wanted to send the application in. Mr. Riley said the project stated in capital outlay is \$1.825 million. We need 25% match. We applied but we have not received that funding. If we do not get it this year, he wants to visit with Facility Planning and maybe take Senator Walsworth with him. Things have happened since the capital outlay request was made last fall. The only land we had control of was the ramp. The part under water was DOTD right of way but the DOTD gave up all claims two months ago so the Commission now owns 100% of the land under water. Mr. Riley wants to consider the possibility that the land has a value, particularly when raised, and get a new appraisal and get funding based on that. A motion was made by David Hopkins to apply for a line of credit through the Bonding Commission for the Mega Ramp project and to allow President Steve Cagle to sign the paperwork. The motion was second by Terri Towns, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Riley stated that the Board has been communicating with the Corps of Engineers for some time for a permit, and it looks like it is coming. All we need for the permit is to do the mitigation. This has been postponed because the Board didn't think they had a chance of getting the funding. Mr. Riley asked whether the Board wanted to do this now. Mr. Carter asked when the State would require the permit and whether they would require it before

funding was obtained. Mr. Riley did not know. He feels comfortable that this is a project and we should do the mitigation now before there is an increase in cost.

Bruce Hampton asked how long it would take to have it done. Mr. Riley stated that the Corps has contacted him three or four times asking when it would be done. Mr. Riley also said there is \$180K in Priority 2 funding and the remainder of the \$1.8 million is in Priority 5. Bruce Hampton was concerned that if the Board spent the money on the mitigation and then did not get it, then the money is wasted. They do not know if they can sell the credits back. David Hopkins stated that he was not in a hurry. Mr. Carter said if anything happens, we can call a special meeting and pull the trigger. Mr. Riley said the last time he did it, it was a 60-day process. He does not know about the Corps approval process. Mr. Riley feels the credits are tied to this specific property so the credits are probably not assignable. Mr. Riley is going to obtain information about the credits and it was agreed that they would discuss this further next month. Mr. Riley also stated that the Board got the water quality certification.

4. Spillway Repairs – Update – Ron Riley said the last time we got permission to close the ramp on the Farmerville side for construction, it was closed for two days. We got the pile in but not the sign. The pile is 40 feet in the ground and 10 feet above and is filled with concrete and we are waiting for them to come in and weld it on top. They will have to close it again, probably another two days, to put the sign in. He doesn't know when they will get the sign. It is a 13' x 13" sign. The gate is unlocked and people are using the ramp. The project is underway, and they are going to open the gallery on Thursday. The contractor is coming from Baton Rouge to mark what needs to be done inside the gallery. The apron on downstream side is dry so they can start repairing joints and inspecting old gates. They have already widened the low water crossing, and the project is coming along.
5. State Park Lake Level Gauge – Update – Ron Riley said it is installed and been in operating two or three months. It is calibrated to best of his ability. He asked if anyone has used the gauge or had any trouble with it. David Hopkins said he tried to pull it up and said you have to go online to pull it up. David Hopkins asked if we should make it public. Mr. Riley said everyone has to have a separate user name and password. Bruce Hampton asked if there would be any additional cost to do that. Mr. Riley said it was just his time in setting it up. He said they are paid up in airtime for two years. Riley said he sends out an initial password and you go in and change it to your own password. If you give it someone and they change the password, you lose it.
6. Designate Official Names for Boat Launches - Update – Mr. Cagle said we handled this last month. Mr. Carter said GPS coordinates were sent to Mr. Smith of the 911 Commission.

7. Maricopa Island Project – Mr. Riley said this is a project that first started in 2012 with the Corps of Engineers. The Corps pulled the project and it never went to public hearing. It has been revived. Since five of the current Board members were not on the Board in 2012, Mr. Riley distributed some paperwork to show what the developer is asking. The first sheet is a view of the lake at the Mixing Hole. The second sheet shows the actual location of what he is proposing to construct an earthen fill across the channel that has two 36-inch pipes in it which will eliminate boat traffic going up that channel. The red number (area 86) is the highest point of the island. None of this is above 100 foot. The last drawing is a picture of the FEMA flood plain map. The island is under water. To build anything on the island, at the north end, it is 92 feet; at the west end, it is 93 feet. You would have to build it that high, plus according to parish ordinance, another 1½ feet. He is proposing to build this at 87 feet. He is not asking what he asked for in 2012. He has not mentioned that he wants to build a subdivision. Mr. Cagle said in 2012 the Lake Commission started the process of sending a letter, but the project was pulled before the letters were sent because of their concerns of the Federal Wildlife & Fisheries, the State Wildlife & Fisheries, meeting Union Parish building standards and boat traffic. This is flowing water and boats go through there every day. That was their concern back then so they asked that the Corps hold a public hearing. Mr. Cagle believes that is still what they need to do. He said the general public who lives there is upset about it because it will cause grass problems on south side if you stop water flow to a lot of residents. We will have to stop boat traffic completely. He doesn't want to say no to a project, but it needs a bridge. His permit says a bridge but his drawings say a culvert. It needs a bridge, not a culvert. He said the road is at 93-feet, where it needs to be, but the parish has building standards for this, and we need to ask if it meets that. Mr. Riley said the July 2012 letter from Wildlife & Fisheries is very negative for this project. In the letter, the developer listed a lot of things they wanted to be done. The developer asked for a public hearing because they were planning a sewer system back then and the lots don't allow individual sewer systems on an island with the highest point being 86 feet and you have to build it at 93½ feet. He said the manholes would be chimneys. Issues like this need to be understood. The Public Service Commission oversight is required on sewer systems, too. In his permit notification, U.S. Wildlife & Fisheries mentioned red headed woodpeckers. The State Wildlife & Fisheries mentioned bald eagles, ospreys, bats, etc. Mr. Riley said he is giving you background information, and it is up to you if you want to request a hearing. They sent a letter asking for your comment. Mr. Carter said Keith Jeselink asked to make public comment on this. Mr. Jeselink addressed the board and mentioned that he owns the property adjacent to this site. There is daily boat traffic for all the residents. During the spring and fall, kayaks and canoe tours at state park every week. If that bridge is built the way it is proposed, it will stop flow of water and have an adverse effect on their property. He wrote letter to the Corps of Engineers and sent them an email and spoke with Kristy Hall of the Corps of Engineers. He

addressed the human factor and the wildlife factor (ospreys), home to large turkey vulture roost, which is a protected species. He is opposed to this. Several neighbors are, as well. His request for hearing was sent by mail, email and phone. He encouraged everyone else to attend the hearing, too. Mr. Riley said public comments are due no later than August 31. If we are going to do something, we need to do it. A motion as made by Cary Brown to authorize President Cagle to draft letter to address these issues (with the help of Ron Riley and Bill Carter). Terri Towns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- H. Public Comment: Senator Walsworth thanked the commission members for serving on the Board. He stated that Lake D'Arbonne is one of the best lakes in the south and he offered his assistance.
- I. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Trotter Hunt. The motion passed unanimously.