**MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2016**

**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. Absent was Terri Towns. Also present were Bill Carter, Ron Riley, Robert Lemoine, Tracy Ambrose, Jerry Taylor, Charles Sawyer and Jay Kavanaugh.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Cary Brown led the invocation, and Trotter Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – None.
4. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Cary Brown and seconded by Steve Cagle to amend the March 2016 agenda to include a discussion on the use of a portion of the Terrell Island boat ramp site by the Police Jury for a temporary collection site from properties damaged by flood waters. There was no public objection to the amendment. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by David Hopkins and seconded by Steve Cagle to adopt the March 2016 agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Trotter Hunt to approve the minutes of the February 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Treasurer's Reports – The February 2016 treasurer’s report was presented. Motion was made to approve the report by David Hopkins and seconded by Steve Cagle. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Old and New Business:

1. Resolution to Legislative Delegation Requesting Assistance to Persons Displaced or Suffering – Mr. Hampton received a text on March 14 from Rob Shadoin who indicated he would be asking for relief and as much money as possible for flood relief in Union Parish. Mr. Hampton thought it would be helpful to approve a resolution to send to our legislative delegation, including our federal legislative delegation, being Rep. Fleming, Sen. Cassidy, Sen. Vitter and Rep. Abraham. Steve Cagle made a motion and Cary Brown seconded the motion to prepare the resolution with authorization for Mr. Hampton to sign the resolution and send it. The motion passed unanimously.

1A. Discuss and Take Action by the Police Jury to Use a Portion of Terrell Island for Temporary Collection Site – Mr. Hampton stated that Jerry Taylor from Police Jury was at this meeting and he opened the floor to Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor stated that with all the people who have been flooded and to avoid having people dump debris on the highway, they wanted to get some drop sites for debris close to the major flooding areas. This would allow them a short run to drop off building materials, furniture and appliances, and the Police Jury could do daily pickup at that site rather than having to run to multiple other sites. The Police Jury liked the Terrell Island boat ramp site, but he was not sure if it would work, but the Police Jury needs the Board’s permission first before they try to get the DEQ to approve it. Since there are power lines and the lake nearby, he was not sure it would work but, if so, it would be ideal for homeowners in the Bear Creek area to drop off materials. Mr. Hopkins asked whether the debris would be in containers or on the ground. Mr. Taylor said there would be no containers. He stated that the Police Jury is geared towards only household trash; they do not have any construction type dumpsters. He said if they put a small dumpster out there, it would fill up too quickly. So this would require trash being on the ground for a period of time and then the Police Jury would clean it up. Mr. Cagle suggested the higher property near the spillway rather than Bear Creek that would not be affected by water and there would be more room and they would not have to worry about the trash getting into the lake if the wind blows. Mr. Taylor said by the time people on Terrell Island drive all the way to the spillway they could be at the dump by then. Mr. Brown asked if there has been any opposition to this by anyone who were not adversely affected. Mr. Taylor assured the Board that the trash will not be left there and that there would be daily pickup. He stated that they could establish these same areas to open sites in the event of future flooding or tornado problems. Mr. Hampton asked how long it would be used as a temporary site, but Mr. Taylor did not know. Charles Sawyer, President of the Police Jury, stated that they are trying to get some roll off containers and trucks and put a request in for ten of them but they don’t know yet whether it will be approved. Mr. Hampton suggested that everyone on the Board is favorable to allowing this, but they need something in writing to protect the Lake Commission with respect to the site being used. He also stated that Ron Riley should have some say in the exact position of it and how it operates. Bill Carter agreed and suggested that the Board enter into a written agreement to deal with liability and indemnification. He also suggested that the boat launch remain open during the time it would be used as a temporary collection site since it is a public boat launch. Mr. Hampton did not believe that would be a problem. Mr. Hopkins suggested putting a culvert on the road near the grassy area and that would leave the boat lane open but Mr. Taylor said the power line might be a problem. Mr. Taylor stated that the state has agreed to help us. Mr. Hopkins also had some concern that some of the houses might have some asbestos tile or siding that might be a problem. Mr. Sawyer stated that is why DEQ will inspect it. Mr. Hampton stated that our written agreement should be included that the Police Jury will assume liability for any trash. Mr. Carter asked whether the agreement would be with the Police Jury, and Mr. Taylor said yes. Mr. Taylor suggested it may be needed for two months and he believes the majority of the trash will be deposited within 30 days. Cary Brown made a motion that Lake Commission authorize the Union Parish Police Jury to utilize the Terrell Island boat launch area for purposes of removal of waste for the next 60 days, subject to a written agreement between the Lake Commission and the Police Jury concerning liability and indemnification and subject to approval and use by Ron Riley as to how the layout and where the location will be and subject to DEQ requirements. The motion was second by David Hopkins, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Tainter Gate Operation During Recent Flooding – Ron Riley said they opened the gate on Monday before the rain started on Tuesday which got the water level down about six inches or so. As soon as it started raining on Tuesday morning, the gate was wide open. He is convinced it would have been much worse if they had not had the gate opened. He stated that the DOTD has gone the second mile to help us. The first day Jeff Shapiro was up 24 hours before he went home. Mr. Cagle stated that the lake would have been way above the 91 foot mark if not for the gate. Mr. Riley went to the spillway on Friday afternoon and he stated that the downstream was higher than 80 feet. Mr. Cagle stated that we lost the gauge at the State Park, and Mr. Riley agreed. Mr. Riley stated that he has been trying to get in touch with the park manager, but he has been unable to reach anyone. Mr. Riley stated that the power is off, but he is not sure if it is because Claiborne is down or if the gauge flooded. Mr. Cagle stated that the power is off in that area, but he agreed to go check the gauge in the morning. Mr. Riley stated that the gauge at the spillway is broken and is under water so they cannot repair it until the water goes down.

3. 2016 Drawdown – Bill Carter said there is a written document regarding the drawdown that they have been trying to find. Mr. Cagle said he will find it for the next meeting. Mr. Cagle stated that it was prepared in 2004. He stated that there was a flood mitigation committee and they set the schedule, and it is all in writing. Mr. Riley stated that they basically start drawing it down the day after Labor Day and draw it down to 76 feet. Mr. Carter stated that they will leave it on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Lake Information Pamphlet – Mr. Carter stated that we would leave this on the agenda for the next meeting since Terri Towns was not in attendance at this meeting.

5. Boat Ramp Rules/New Signs – Update – Ron Riley stated that Trotter Hunt got tied up last week and could not finish because Mr. Riley got involved and changed some things. Mr. Riley handed out pictures of two-color, aluminum signs with aluminum posts. The last sign Mr. Riley was involved with on the lake was at the spillway three years ago, and the sign itself cost $1,000. This new sign was discounted to $950 plus tax. Mr. Riley said if the district buys the signs directly, he believes they may be tax exempt. This would save us almost $1000 which would almost pay for the installation. The installation will be post hole concrete four feet in ground. Trotter Hunt stated that he was under the impression it was $198 for installation. Mr. Riley agreed it was under $200 per sign, but this is based this on 11 signs. Steve Cagle and David Hopkins agreed to take responsibility for telling them where the signs are to be located. Mr. Riley asked who would be responsible for obtaining the GPS coordinates for the signs, and it was agreed that Danny Smith would provide those. Mr. Hampton asked whether the signs would hold up to the winds, and Mr. Riley said yes, as these signs are as sturdy as the ones on top of the spillway and they are using automobile paint on the signs. Steve Cagle recommended that the Lake Commission not purchase extra signs at this time, and everyone agreed. A motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Cary Brown to proceed with the boat ramp signs as distributed by Mr. Riley and to purchase them from Rapid Signs in Ruston, Louisiana, and have them installed. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Riley informed Mr. Hampton that the Rapid Signs wanted an acceptance form signed by Mr. Hampton, and he agreed to send it to Mr. Hampton.

6. Mega Ramp Update – Ron Riley stated that not much has changed. We were told the last time that we were only lacking the SHIPO comment. He stated that they were told last Monday that the Lake Commission would have them no later than last Tuesday, but they have not yet received it. Once we receive the letter, we will send it to Baton Rouge, let them review the application and, if it looks in order, we will finish it and the President will sign it.

7. Maricopa Island Project – Update – Bill Carter passed out a draft of a response to some comments that the applicant made to a report by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. The Corps asked us to respond to the comments of the applicant. The landowner has taken issue with several conclusions by the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. The second part is Permit Evaluation Factors which is the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers in making a decision. Basically, they are concerned about fish habitat, access, whether this road would preclude access through that particular route and environmental issues. Mr. Carter asked that everyone look this over and, if okay, we will send it in.

H. Public Comment – None.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Trotter Hunt and seconded by David Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously.