**MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 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 Terry Morris, Richard Royal, Steve Cagle, Clint Graham, Ken Myers, and Steve Adams. Todd DeMoss was absent. Also present were Bill Carter and Neal DeForest.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Clint Graham led the invocation and Richard Royal 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 Clint Graham to approve the April 2023 Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Clint Graham and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve March 2023 Bank Account Summary – This item was tabled.
2. Approve March 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation - This item was tabled.
3. Approve March 2023 Financial Report – This item was tabled.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Steve Cagle said that not all of the lights were installed due to the gates being opened. Richard Royal said that trash can receptacles have been installed at Jake’s and Highway 33 Ramp Road. Clint Graham asked about the foundation for the Port-A-Johns and Terry Morris said that James Gatson is planning to install those in the near future.

Steve Cagle said that he received a quote from Southern Steel Fabricators for a pipe gate that could be installed at the Stowe Creek ramp to prevent passage during high water events. He said that the quote did not include installation but that the cost to install should be minimal. He indicated that he has asked another welder for a quote as well and that the two quotes can be compared at the May meeting.

Steve Cagle said he has a pole for the solar light needed to be installed at Highway 2 East ramp and that Mitch Ludwig said he would donate a battery for the light. He indicated that it could be installed behind the launch fee collection box.

1. Boat Launch Fees - Status – Richard Royal said that to date for 2023, $19,066.37 has been collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
2. Channel Markers – Neal DeForest said that the final reimbursement has been received and deposited. He also said that the new buoys and lights have been received and will be installed soon.
3. Lake Drawdown Schedule – Terry Morris reiterated Ryan Daniel’s thoughts and recommendations for the drawdown schedule. He said that the four-year drawdowns will stay in place and that the Commission can evaluate the necessity for a drawdown before the drawdown is scheduled. Seeding during drawdowns and potentially purchasing larger fingerling bass were also discussed. Clint Graham asked if these items would qualify for funding under Louisiana tourism and Terry Morris said that he believed they would and discussed reaching out to various entities for potential funding.
4. Tainter Gate Report - Terry Morris said that the DOTD posted a report on their website indicating that the mechanisms will be ready for pick up in Houston in late May and he anticipates installation in June.
5. Ramp Mowing Contract – Terry Morris said that Felix’s Lawn Care is still interested in continuing the mowing contract for the same price, but Terral Island needs to be included as the Town of Farmerville was providing the mowing maintenance but is no longer doing so. Mr. Morris said that Felix agreed to also mow Terral Island for $85.00 per cut. Bill Carter said that he would prepare the new contract.

Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to add Terral Island to the mowing contact with Felix Lawn Care and authorize the President to execute the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Request to Use Ramp Road by Union Parish Chamber of Commerce for July 4th Fireworks Display - Richard Royal said that the July 4th fireworks show will be on Saturday, July 1, 2023, and the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce is requesting to close Ramp Road from midnight June 30, 2023, to midnight on July 1, 2023. Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Clint Graham to close Ramp Road from midnight June 30, 2023, to midnight on July 1, 2023, and authorize the President to execute an Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. The motion passed unanimously.
2. 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 public comment.

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