**MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 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 – Richard Royal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Richard Royal, Todd DeMoss, Steve Cagle and Steve Adams. Terry Morris, Clint Graham and Ken Myers were absent. Neal DeForest was also present.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Todd DeMoss 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 Steve Cagle and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the August 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023, Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve July 2023 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Steve Adams and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the July 2023 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve July 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Steve Adams to approve the minutes of the July 2023 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve July 2023 Financial Report – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the July 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Boat Launch Areas - General Maintenance / Improvements – Richard Royal said that there is no update.
2. Boat Launch Fees - Status – Richard Royal said that to date for 2023, $40,132.02 has been collected in daily launch fees and permit sales.
3. Channel Markers – Neal DeForest said that the lights have been received and are being installed.
4. Tainter Gate Report – Richard Royal said that Terry Morris spoke with DOTD and reiterated to the Commission members and the citizens attending the meeting that the south gate gear box is in Houston being rebuilt.
5. Fish Stocking Program – Richard Royal said that last month the Commission approved the expenditure of $5,000.00 for fish stocking. He indicated that the Commission also received donations of $2,500.00 from Ludwig Marine, $2,000.00 from Union Parish Tourist Commission, $2,000.00 from Union Parish Chamber of Commerce, $2,000.00 from the Town of Farmerville, $500.00 from Marion State Bank, $500.00 from Cooter’s, $500.00 from Rougarou Tackle, $500.00 from DeForest Engineering and Consultants, $500.00 from Louisiana from Louisiana Team Trail, $425.00 from Jacques Young, and an anonymous donation of $425.00, representing donations of $11,850 in addition to the $5,000 expenditure of the Commission.

Mr. Royal said that the order for 6 to 8 inch advanced fingerling bass will be placed in August and the Commission will plan to do so annually.

1. Request to Use Ramp Road by Union Parish Chamber of Commerce for September 2nd Fireworks Display – Richard Royal said this is the same fireworks show as the Independence Day fireworks display. The ramp would be closed at midnight on September 1, 2023, and would reopen September 3, 2023.

Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Steve Cagle to authorize an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce to allow the use of the Ramp Road area for a Labor Day fireworks display from September 1, 2023, to September 3, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Ryan Willis Project No Opposition Request – Ryan Willis was invited to speak to the Commission members to inform them of his request. Mr. Willis indicated that he is interested in purchasing a tract of land owned by the Baughman Estate, and it is not accessible by land. He said that he is working on a permit and the Corps of Engineers requested that he put in a recommendation of how to access the land and still allow boat traffic. He said that the Corps of Engineers informed him that it is not a requirement, but they have indicated that they would like the approval of the Commission. The Commissioners indicated that they would discuss the issue with Bill Carter and have a recommendation soon.
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 – Larry Reeves from the Evergreen Committee in Union Parish asked the Commission members if more channel markers could be installed at Hog Pen Land through the Walnut Tree area.

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