**MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2020 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 – Jake Halley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Jake Halley, Terry Morris, Steve Cagle, Todd DeMoss, and Richard Royal. Clint Graham was absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest, Byron Avery, Danielle Harkins and Jon McKinnie.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Terry Morris led the invocation and Richard Royal led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comment Registration – One person signed up for public comment.
4. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Terry Morris to amend the Agenda to discuss the budget and to approve the July 2020 Agenda, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the minutes of the June 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve June 2020 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the June 2020 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve June 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation - Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Richard Royal to approve the June 2020 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve June 2020 Financial Report – Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Steve Cagle to approve the June 2020 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Amend 2020 Budget - Richard Royal reported that the 2020 budget needed to be amended. He said that $65,000 is budgeted for franchise fees and needs to be reduced to $60,000. He also suggested increasing engineering fees from $12,000 to $24,000 and increasing attorney fees from $12,000 to $37,000. Bill Carter pointed out that $13,000 of those fees represented work done in 2019. Motion was made by Richard Royal and seconded by Terry Morris to adopt the amendments to the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Old and New Business:

* + 1. Channel Markers Project - Reimbursement – Neal DeForest reported that the project is now in the pre-closeout review stage with FEMA. He said that a closeout coordinator has to be assigned and once that has taken place, the remaining reimbursement of $15,000 - $20,000 will be processed. Jake Halley asked if there were any outstanding engineering fees associated with the project and Mr. DeForest said no. He said that he thinks the engineering fees will actually be less than initially anticipated. He said that a large portion of the engineering fees associated with this project were incurred from Riley Company. Richard Royal asked how much was left to be reimbursed by FEMA. Mr. DeForest said thus far, the Commission has received approximately $100,000 and FEMAs project coverage was $119,000. He said that there will be no reimbursements processed until a project closeout coordinator is assigned. After that has taken place, he said the remaining reimbursement amount due to the Commission is approximately $15,000 to $17,000.
		2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements/Spillway Bayou Access Road Improvements – Neal DeForest said that the last part of this project is placing rock on the Bayou Access Road. He said that there was previous discussion about using the same contractor that did the previous work on the project to spread the rock but he suggested contracting with another contractor to facilitate that because the previous contractor is not available. Jake Halley suggested engaging Larry Kenly and asked Steve Cagle to follow up with Mr. Kenly. Motion was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Richard Royal to authorize Steve Cagle to communicate with Larry Kenly about spreading the rock for the project. The motion carried unanimously.

Neal DeForest said that Phase II is upcoming, and he spoke with Steve Cagle about obtaining the sand, cable, buoys and signage, etc. simultaneously. He suggested the commission doing the sand recovery from the lake during the drawdown and having the remaining items done next spring. Bill Carter asked Neal DeForest what the estimate of the machinery needed for the sand recovery would be and Mr. DeForest said he could only roughly estimate one week with a trackhoe. Steve Cagle said that the Commission could get a quote from Larry Kenly and Randy Branch. Neal DeForest suggested also getting a quote from Jake Haddox. Steve Cagle said C&L may be interested in submitting a quote as well. Steve Cagle said that he would contact all of these individuals to see if they are interested. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to allow Neal DeForest to being drafting the scope of work and prepare and send out Requests for Quotes to potential contractors for the sand retrieval from the lake. The motion passed unanimously.

* + 1. Lake Level Gauges – Neal DeForest reported that an estimate of $3,700.00 was received from Ben Humphries of Delta Process to relocate the gauge. Bill Carter said that the Commission was waiting to see what the estimate was before making a decision. Steve Cagle said that Ben Humphries’ quote would be in addition to the $3,000 estimate of Claiborne Electric to run electricity to the gauge. Jake Halley said that he checked with USGS and their gauge would be roughly $15,000 to $20,000 annually and the Commission does not have a budget large enough for this cost. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to approve up to $7,000 to relocate the existing gauge. The motion passed unanimously.
		2. Communications Re Tainter Gate Opening / Other Information (Facebook / Website) – Jake Halley said that he Facebook page is currently active.
1. Lighting at Boat Launches – Steve Cagle said that he sent out a list to all of the Commissioners of the condition of the lights at all of the boat launches. He said that the light at the north side of the Spillway is an old streetlamp style light. He suggested changing the light to an LED flood light. He said that Terrel Island has the same old streetlamp style light and also suggested that light be changed to an LED flood light. He said that Jake’s Landing and Ramp Road have light but Stowe Creek, Ramp Road on Highway 2 and Hog Pen do not. He said Stowe Creek does not have any electricity so there would have to be a solar light installed.
2. Boat Launch / Ramp / Sign Maintenance – Steve Cagle said that the sign has been moved at Gills Ferry. He said that the no swimming signs at each of the boat ramps is too far from the actual boat launch to read. He suggested having new signs made to post at each boat launch area. Mr. Cagle asked Bill Carter if swimming at the boat launch would be a violation that the Commission could ask the Sheriff to enforce. Mr. Carter said that there is already an Ordinance prohibiting swimming at the boat launches and the Sheriff can enforce it. Mr. Carter said that the fine is up to $500 and 30 days in jail, but the judge makes that determination for the violation. Jake Halley said that additional signage can be added during the drawdown. Todd DeMoss suggested compiling a spreadsheet reflecting what each ramp needed. Jake Halley said that he also would like to see some additional projects taking place, including adding bumper structures on the corners of piers as well as rubber matting for the launch area. He suggested the Commissioners contact him with any other ideas for projects to improve boat launch areas.
3. Lake Closure / No Wake Policy – Union Parish Police Jury Ordinance – Jake Halley said that he plans to contact other Police Jury Members on this matter and has nothing to report at this time.
4. Lake Drawdown – Jake Halley said everything is in order to open the tainter gates as scheduled on September 8, 2020. Steve Cagle said in the past, he reached out to LDWF regarding enforcement of fish limits during the drawdown and he would like to see that happen for this drawdown. Jake Halley said that he would be in touch with Bill Carter to get a letter drafted to facilitate that request.
5. Joby Dendy Boathouse Removal – Steve Cagle said that half of the structure has been removed and the remaining portion should be removed within a few days. Mr. Cagle suggesting attempting to recover the amount the Commission has paid for the removal of the boathouse from Joby Dendy, either in a Judgment or an offset from any work he may perform for the Commission. Mr. Carter said that the right of recovery is provided in the new Ordinance, but that Mr. Dendy would have to agree to that on any specific work for the Commission. Mr. Cagle said that the cost of the project at Hog Pen Landing is approximately $1,200 and Mr. Dendy could work off a portion of the amount on that project.
6. Obstructions in Lake – Jake Halley said that there is a community effort among local fishermen to remove obstructions in the lake during the drawdown. He told the Commissioners to let everyone know and see if anyone else would be interested in helping out.
7. Annual Financial Disclosure (Due May 15) – No action taken.

H. Public Comment – Blake Simpson, General Manager of Read Lumber Company, said he appreciated the business the Lake Commission has given Read Lumber over the years and Jake’s Landing and Ramp Road are the two busiest ramps and have been neglected. He said Read Lumber would like to completely repair the piers. He indicated that the piers would be stripped all the way to the poles and rebuilt, with the cost being completely covered by Read Lumber. Motion was made by Steve Cagle and seconded by Terry Morris to accept the offer presented by Read Lumber. The motion passed unanimously.

Bevelyn Hunter, Mayoral Candidate, introduced herself and spoke to the Commission about her background in Union Parish as a teacher. She said that she is in full support of the Commission and Lake D’Arbonne.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Morris and seconded by Richard Royal. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.