**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2019 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 – Steve Cagle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commission members present were Steve Cagle, Jake Halley, Todd DeMoss, and Terry Morris. Trotter Hunt and Clint Graham were absent. Also present were Bill Carter, Neal DeForest, Byron Avery and several members of the public.
2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance – Jake Halley led the invocation and Terry Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comment Registration – Billy Shankle and Dig Gorman signed up for public comment.

D. Agenda Approval – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Terry Morris to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Todd DeMoss and seconded by Jake Halley to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Financial Reports/Budget/Audit:

1. Approve October, 2019 Bank Account Summary – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the October, 2019 Bank Account Summary. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve October, 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the October, 2019 Bank Statement Reconciliation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve October, 2019 Financial Report – Motion was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd DeMoss to approve the October, 2019 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Discuss 2020 Budget – Bill Carter said that the goal is to adopt the 2020 budget before the end of the year. He indicated that Trotter Hunt had prepared an initial draft of a proposed budget which he passed out to each commission member. Mr. Carter asked Jake Halley if he would like to discuss the additional items Mr. Hunt included on the initial draft of the proposed budget and Mr. Halley said that the majority of the additional items were in reference to the anticipated reimbursements from FEMA. He said that there are approximately $106,000 in reimbursements outstanding. Mr. Halley said that the other additional item includes the projected cost for the Spillway Beach Project which is approximately $40,000. Steve Cagle said that 2020 is a drawdown year and $1,000 is typically included in the budget for maintenance at the nine ramps for any work needed when the water is drawn down.

G. Old and New Business:

1. Channel Markers Project – Neal DeForest reported that the federal contribution for the project is just under $120,000. He said thus far the Commission has received approximately $13,000 in reimbursements. He said that the pending reimbursement requests made to FEMA are approximately $90,000 and an additional reimbursement request of $15,000 I still to be made. Mr. DeForest said that there was one final payment due to the contractor for the retainage and that is being processed. He said that once the payment has been made to the contractor, and the check has cleared, that the request for reimbursement can be made which will encompass all of the anticipated reimbursements.
2. Spillway Beach Area Improvements Project (and Spillway Bayou Access Road) – Neal DeForest reported that he has prepared preliminary plans and provided those to the Commission members. Mr. DeForest stated that what was originally referred to as Phase 2 of the Beach Project is now broken down into several phases. Mr. DeForest said that the first phase will also include the work to address erosion problems on the access road to D’Arbonne Bayou at the Spillway (Agenda Item 7. Spillway Bayou Access Road – Repairs/Mitigation). He said that the first phase will include tree cutting, regrading and then relocating power poles at the beach area. He said that the power poles will be concreted in instead of being pile driven and that should be a significant cost reduction. He said a berm will also be installed to redirect water flow.

Mr. DeForest said that there is a washout on the access road behind the Spillway. He stated that the road is steep and there is a lot of water that is funneling into it that has created a channel. He said that several berms are included in the preliminary plans to redirect the water and a few ditches will be reestablished. He also said that an 18 inch pipe will also be included to get direct water to the woods and away from the road.

Mr. DeForest asked if the Commission should set a budget for this phase of the Project and Mr. Carter noted Mr. DeForest’s cost estimate of $40,000 and recommended that a request for quotes be prepared and sent to contractors.

Jake Halley made a motion seconded by Terry Morris to allow Neal DeForest to proceed with issuing requests for quotes for the project including the beach area and road improvements at the Spillway, after approval of the President. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Gills Ferry Sign Repair/Gill Ferry and Ken’s Landing Sign Revision – Steve Cagle reported that the Gills Ferry sign has been repaired and the decals for the Ken’s Landing sign reflecting the correct sheriff’s department number are forthcoming.
2. Litter Awareness Signs on Boat Ramps – Jake Halley reported that everything has been approved through DOTD and the library is waiting on funding to purchase the signs and have them installed.
3. Stowe Creek Ramp Road – Bill Carter said that Terry Morris recently spoke with Jerry Taylor and Mr. Carter asked Mr. Morris if he could follow up with Mr. Taylor.
4. Lake Level Gauges – Steve Cagle indicated that he was going to speak with Ben Humphries of Delta Process, which installed the existing gauges, but he has not done that yet. Bill Carter said that he forwarded an email from Jeff Shapiro and Sam Hodge with DOTD in reference to the repair of the downstream gauge behind the Spillway.

Mr. Shapiro indicated that if the Commission wanted to discuss the downstream gauge and placing a new gauge upstream, he would set up a meeting with Mr. Humphries. Mr. Carter said that Mr. Shapiro sent some photographs showing the downstream gauge. He said that Mr. Shapiro thought DOTD was paying for the gauge, but the Commission is paying for it. Mr. Carter said that he asked Jeff Shapiro how helpful the gauge is and how much DOTD relied on the gauge and Mr. Shapiro indicated that it is very helpful because they can check the downstream water level electronically before leaving the office.

Steve Cagle said that at the last meeting there was discussion about moving the gauge at the state park to another location. Neal DeForest asked why the decision was made to put the gauge at the state park and Mr. Cagle said because there was electricity there. Mr. DeForest asked if there was electricity at another upstream location that would be convenient and Mr. Cagle said no, but that it could probably be arranged.

1. Spillway Bayou Access Road – Repairs/Mitigation – Discussed under Spillway Beach Improvements Project above.
2. Discuss 2020 Officers – Bill Carter said that the goal is to elect the 2020 officers by the end of the year. He said that Jake Halley or he have had conversations with all of the Commission members about the new officers. Mr. Carter stated that Jake Halley was the longest tenured member who has not served as President and thought it would be logical that he move into the position of President. Mr. Carter stated that the new members came on at about the same time. He said that Clint Graham and Terry Morris both are willing to serve as Vice-President and Terry Morris volunteered for 2020 at the meeting. Mr. Carter said that the newest member, Todd DeMoss, is willing to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. He said that all of these are suggestions and the Commission will make the final decision on each of the officers.

H. Public Comment – Billy Shankle, 701 Piney Point Road, Farmerville, Louisiana spoke about a problem with vegetation. He said that he and his neighbor, Sig Gorman, have tried to control the vegetation to no avail. Mr. Shankle said that he spoke with Steve Cagle who suggested he call Ryan Daniels with LDWF. Mr. Shankle did get in touch with Mr. Daniels who had the area sprayed but he indicated that the vegetation is still rampant. Mr. Shankle urged the Commission to help him with this issue and also provided photographs of the area. Steve Cagle said that he would contact Mr. Daniels to request them to address the situation.

I. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Jake Halley and seconded by Todd DeMoss. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.