**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA RICE RESEARCH BOARD**

**CROWLEY, LOUISIANA**

**June 28, 2012**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jackie Loewer, Richard Fontenot, Clarence Berken, Donald Berken, Dane Hebert, Johnny Hensgens, Sammy Noel, Brian Wild, Fred Zaunbrecher

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Damian Bollich, Robert Miller, Ronnie Sonnier

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  Carrie Castille, Paul Coreil, Frankie Gould, Keith Heinen, Chris Krielow, Dwight Landreneau, Carol LeDoux, Rogers Leonard, Steve Linscombe, John Russin, Mike Salassi, Bruce Schultz, Scott Soileau,

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Chairman Jackie Loewer opened the Louisiana Rice Research Board meeting at 12:30 pm. Mr. Loewer welcomed the guests, Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Mike Strain and Ms. Patricia Wilson with the Department of Agriculture. The minutes from the previous meetings (October 25, 2011 and January 23, 2012) were presented.

**ACTION #1** A motion was made by Sammy Noel and seconded by Johnny Hensgens to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**ACTION #2** A motion was made by Donald Berken and seconded by Fred Zaunbrecher to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Loewer then explained how and for what reasons the Louisiana Rice Research Board could go into executive session.

**ACTION #3** A motion was made by Richard Fontenot and seconded by Sammy Noel to go into executive session and include Commissioner Strain and the Attorney General Representative.

**ACTION #4** A motion was made by Richard Fontenot and seconded by Johnny Hensgens to conclude the executive session and begin the regular Louisiana Rice Research Board meeting.

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Chairman Jackie Loewer called the meeting to order. Mr. Loewer reviewed the agenda. Mr. Loewer then introduced Mr. Scott Soileau as the new accountant.

Mr. Scott Soileau asked for $1,600 per year for his services.

**ACTION #1** A motion was made by Sammy Noel and seconded by Clarence Berken to accept Mr. Soileau as the paid Certified Public Accountant for the Louisiana Rice Research Board at a cost of $1600 per year. Motion carried.

A collections report from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry as of May 31, 2012, was presented by Carrie Castille.

Mr. Scott Soileau reviewed the board financial report (per attached).

**ACTION #2** A motion was made by Johnny Hensgens and seconded by Donald Berken to accept Mr. Soileau’s report. Motion carried.

Chairman Loewer discussed ‘Columbia Export Trading Company.’

**ACTION #3** A motion was made by Brian Wild and seconded by Clarence Berken to support participation with Columbia ETCR. Motion carried.

**ACTION #4** A motion was made by Clarence Berken and seconded by Sammy Noel to allow Chairman Jackie Loewer to represent the Louisiana Rice Research Board as Director on the Columbia ETC.

**ACTION #5** A motion was made by Richard Fontenot and seconded by Brian Wild for appointment to be made annually for Director to the Columbia ETC. Motion carried.

A report was given by Frankie Gould on the production of the LRRB bulletin (copy of report attached).

A report was given by Bruce Schultz on upcoming articles that he will be working on.

Dr. Steve Linscombe reported that Dr. Natalie Hummel resigned from the LSU AgCenter and Dr. Mike Stout has taken over her LRRB project titled ‘Extension Program Development and Demonstration Trials for Improving Integrated Pest Management in Louisiana Rice Production.’

Richard Fontenot commented on a great Field Day and also mentioned that dates for Field Day should be coordinated with the Louisiana Farm Bureau meeting.

Chairman Loewer discussed the January 17, 2012 Research/Promotion Referendum voting results as follows: Research 357/For, 65/Against & Promotion 321/For, 107/Against.

**ACTION #6** A motion was made by Dane Hebert and seconded by Fred Zaunbrecher to certify the referendum vote count. Motion carried.

Richard Fontenot thanked Dr. Mike Salassi for his diligent work and reports regarding the Farm Bill, calculating various scenarios for proposed Farm Bill Programs among other activities.

Chairman Loewer stated that the USA Rice Foundation meeting will be in July.

Dr. Linscombe reported on the Blackbird Project – Allen Wilson put in time on this project. This was basically the only participation by USDA Wildlife Services. The program was successful. Dr. Linscombe also mentioned that Farmers Rice Mill donated & milled the rice – 300 to 400 barrels - for this project.

There was discussion on royalties by Dr. Steve Linscombe & Dr. John Russin.

The Louisiana Rice Research Board, led by Clarence Berken, considered ‘Election of Officers.’

**ACTION #7** A motion was made by Richard Fontenot and seconded by Johnny Hensgens that the present slate of officers remain as is – Jackie Lower Chairman, Clarence Berken Vice-Chairman and Richard Fontenot Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried.

The Louisiana Rice Research Board members agreed that the next meeting of the Board be held on October 30, 2012, beginning at 8am at the Rice Research Station, and that they follow same format as the 2011 meeting – presentations 8am to noon then establish funding levels and the budget in the afternoon.

**ACTION #8** A motion was made by Brian Wild and seconded by Sammy Noel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.