**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION & RESEARCH BOARD**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

**USGS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER**

**700 CAJUNDOME BLVD.**

**LAFAYETTE, LA**

**Call to Order:**

Ralph Babin, Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ralph Babin Mike Bienvenu

Chandra Scarber Greg Benhard

Jody Meche Bill Pizzolato

Greg Faulk Wayne Romig

Kip Lastraps Wylie Jewell

Robert Buller David Savoy

**Declaration of a Quorum:**

Ralph Babin declared the presence of 6 members present and 6 member absent. A quorum could not be declared.

**Minutes:**

The Board read over the minutes from the June 3, 2015 meeting. No corrections were made.

**Collections & Financial Report:**

Ralph Babin called on Ron Harrell to present the collections and financial reports. He reported to the Board the current condition of accounts.

The annual audit compilation was passed out to the Board.

**Promotion & Research:**

Dr. Mark Zappi and Mr. Stephen Dufreche next presented about the Phase II results of the automated crawfish processing machine. Mr. Dufreche reported that they are working on ways to remove the crawfish tails. Tails must be precut and must be hand loaded. Further optimization is needed in the positioning of the blade. The current progress of the continuation of Phase II is as follows: UL designed a multi-roller feed and cut system, rollers alone can’t accurately position tails for cut, a muti-roller system could not perform repeatable cuts. Belt-fed tails offer better handling and positioning of the shells. Dr. Zappi would like to continue with the belt tweaking and find better ways to get the crawfish shell cut properly. He feels that they are not ready for Phase III yet which is the actual building of the automated processing machine. Chairman Babin asked that Dr. Zappi return to the next meeting in October when the Board has a quorum so the Board can decide how they would like to proceed with this project.

Next, Mrs. Holly Clegg presented to the Board her proposal regarding her $40,000.00 contract to serve as the promotional voice of Louisiana crawfish. She will have her own section on the crawfish.org website with pictures, recipes and videos. She will also use social media in order to increase traffic to the crawfish.org site. On her website, blogs, Youtube channel and any other opportunities that come up, she will feature Louisiana crawfish and reference the Board’s website every time “Louisiana crawfish” is used. One of her main goals is to promote Louisiana crawfish year round. She will also promote Louisiana crawfish to various restaurants and chains in other states.

Mrs. Dee Scallan asked the Board if she could present at the next Board meeting since there was not a quorum and no motions could be made. The Board agreed and they will hear her presentation at the October meeting.

Ms. Jessica Lange also agreed that she should wait until the October Board meeting to give her presentation on the billboard campaign.

**No public comment**

**Next Board Meeting Date:**

The date for the next Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette.