

LOUISIANA RICE RESEARCH BOARD

Crowley, Louisiana
June 29, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jackie Loewer, Richard Fontenot, Donald Berken, Clarence Berken, Brian Wild, Fred Zaunbrecher, Dane Hebert, Damian Bollich, Jude Doise, Ronnie Sonnier, Benjy Rayburn for LDAF Commissioner Mike Strain, Michael Fruge, Jason Waller and Phillip Lamartiniere

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sammy Noel

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Linscombe, Kyle McCann, Bruce Schultz, Rogers Leonard, Scott Soileau, Eric Webster, Frankie Gould and LJ Hymel

Chairman, Jackie Loewer called the business meeting to order. Chairman Loewer asked members to review the agenda.

ACTION #1 A motion was made by Dane Hebert, seconded and carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

The next agenda item was the consideration of an executive session.

ACTION #2 A motion was made by Clarence Berken, seconded and carried, to go into a joint executive session with the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board to consider pending litigation against both Boards.

ACTION #3 A motion was made by Richard Fontenot, seconded and carried, to go out of the joint executive session.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed out and were next considered.

ACTION #4 A motion was made by Donald Berken, seconded by Benjy Rayburn and carried, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Chairman, Jackie Loewer then commented on Dr. Suzan McCouch's remarks made during the field day and her impression of the Station.

Next, Kyle McCann presented the LDAF May 2016 assessment collections report. For the month assessment collections were \$96,860.34. The year to date assessment collections were \$1,424,629.59 and year to date refunds were \$82,026.11

for a rate of 5.75%.

ACTION #5 A motion was made by Phillip Lamartiniere, seconded and carried, to receive and file the collections report.

Scott Soileau then reviewed the May 31, 2016 financial operating report and discussed the current financial position of the Board. The Board discussed their financial position and the current fund balances by type.

ACTION #6 A motion was made by Dane Hebert, seconded by Michael Fruge and carried, to receive and file the May 31, 2016 financial report.

Next, Frankie Gould reviewed the timeline for the annual report and asked for input from the Board regarding the report. She reviewed a list of the articles to be included. The Board expressed their thanks to her and Bruce Shultz for the efforts in putting this publication together.

Chairman Loewer then reported on the Col-Rice ETC activities. The Col-Rice ETC is a tax exempt entity that administers the Col-Rice TRQ. Their next meeting will be held August 8, 2016. Representation is from both the US (50%) and Columbia interests (50%) with each having 8 votes. Three auctions are held annually (February, June and October) and audited by the company and the certificate prices reflect the market conditions. Louisiana receives approximately 13% of the income from the U.S. share. More information on the entire process is available at <http://col-rice.org>. Chairman Loewer currently serves as the director representing Louisiana. The Board then considered the Col-Rice ETC director for Louisiana.

ACTION #7 A motion was made by Clarence Berken, seconded by Phillip Lamartiniere and carried, that Jackie Loewer serve as the Col-Rice ETC director for Louisiana.

ACTION #8 A motion was made by Ronnie Sonnier, seconded and carried, that the nominations be closed and that Jackie Loewer be nominated by acclamation.

Clarence Berken then reported on Louisiana's use of Col-Rice funds. While most funds spent have been for infrastructure improvements, the Board has allocated \$1 million for the endowment of a chair with LSU through the LSU Foundation. Members were asked for their input on additional infrastructure items to be considered during this funding cycle.

The endowed chair proposal is at the Attorney General's office awaiting approval. While the Board has approved this item and is seeking approval from the AG's office a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) between the Board and the Foundation may be needed. The CEA would delineate how the program would operate and who would be responsible for what and would help the AG's office understand how this effort would work.

ACTION #9 A motion was made by Ronnie Sonnier, seconded by Donald Berken and carried, that the Board pursue a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement regarding the endowed chair with the LSU Foundation.

A southwest regional director report was then presented. Steve Linscombe reported on the Rice Research Station activities and the efforts of the scientists. He also discussed the AV-1011 issue as well as the Black Bird Control Program with Wildlife Services that utilizes DRC-1339. LDAF is committed to supporting the DRC 1339 program. He also discussed efforts to get other materials labeled.

Chairman Loewer then gave a brief legal issues update. Essentially the Louisiana Supreme Court will be considering the case at some point in the future.

Chairman Loewer then gave a USA Rice Farmers Association report. He reviewed the China protocol issues, trade with Cuba, the TPP agreement and the PLC projected payment. He also discussed the farm bill ramp up for 2018 and some of the issues that will be addressed.

Chairman Loewer then briefly reported on the Rice Foundation activities. He reported on the arsenic research and the quick test study and development.

Richard Fontenot next presented the Intellectual Property committee report. He indicated that the committee will meet before the next meeting. He hoped for more conversations with BASF and the LSU AgCenter. There was also some mention of Rice Tech.

Michael Fruge then reported on a branding task force initiative. The initiative is looking at a group of varieties that would meet a standard they set so that the quality of Louisiana rice would receive a premium based upon branding efforts. Some are trying to IP for various markets.

Next Kyle McCann provided a handout and reviewed the required education and training on ethics for Board members as required by the State of Louisiana. He then updated the Board on the process to have the USDA CCC collect assessments when rice is placed into their loan program. The MOA is currently at USDA and should be approved in the near future.

The election of officers was next considered.

ACTION #10 A motion was made by Fred Zaunbrecher, seconded and carried, that the current slate of officers be nominated and approved. Jackie Loewer-Chairman, Clarence Berken- Vice-Chairman, Richard Fontenot- Sec. Treasurer.

The Board then discussed the next meeting. The tentative date selected was November 2, 2016 and the same format as last year would be used.

ACTION #11 A motion was made by Phillip Lamartiniere, seconded and carried, that the next meeting be held on November 2, 2016 utilizing the previous

year's all day format.

There was no other business

The public comment period was then conducted. Red rice and Golden rice were mentioned.

ACTION A motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Sonnier, seconded and carried.
#12

The meeting was adjourned.