

Minutes

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

May 30, 2018

9:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Robert Hanks called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Commission Members Present

Mr. Robert Hanks
Mr. Donald Berken
Mr. Ronald Petree
Mr. Ryan Ellington
Mr. Tom Russell
Mr. Kevin Webb
Mr. Elliott Ater

Absent Members

Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain
Mr. Stephen Logan
Mr. Donald Zaunbrecher

There was a quorum of seven (7) members present.

Staff Members Present

Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Agro Consumer Services, Steve Sessums
Director, Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission, Kyra Fitzgerald
Assistant Director, Louisiana Department of Weights and Measures, Paul Floyd
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Accountant Admin 3, Mark Ott
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Jeff Fabre
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Billy Benton
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Crystal Bobb
Administrative Coordinator IV, Nicole Robino

III. Adoption of Minutes – February 6, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Donald Berken and seconded by Mr. Ryan Ellington to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Comment:

Mr. Robert Hanks asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

V. Old Business

1. GCIF and SIF Balances

Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the balance of the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund is \$4,949,184 and the Self-Insurance Fund is \$930,224. Mrs. Fitzgerald reminded the board that the cap for collection of the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund is \$6 million dollars at which time collection would stop. Collection of the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund wouldn't restart again until the balance reached below \$3 million.

**VI. Consideration of License Applications for Approval:
(Renewals)**

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to go into Executive Session to discuss the financial information of each of the applicants for licensure as a warehouse, cotton merchant and/or grain dealer. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Webb and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Cotton Merchant and Grain Dealer

1. Cargill, Inc.
2. Louis Dreyfus Commodities, LLC

A motion was made by Mr. Donald Berken and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to approve the cotton merchant and grain dealer license applications, Cargill, Inc. and Louis Dreyfus Commodities, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Cotton Merchant

1. Carolina's Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc.
2. Dale Hitt Cotton Co., LLC
3. The Seam, LLC

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Elliot Ater to approve the cotton merchant license applications; Carolina's Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc., Dale Hitt Cotton Co. LLC, and The Seam, LLC. The motion carried.

B. Grain Dealer

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Webb and seconded by Mr. Donald Berken to approve the following grain dealer applications with Mr. Tom Russell abstaining from voting on Bunge North America, Inc.

1. Archer-Daniels-Midland Company
2. Beaumont Rice Mills, Inc.
3. BU Growers, LTD
4. Bunge North America, Inc.
5. Commodity Specialists Company
6. Erwin Keith, LLC
7. Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc.
8. Feather Crest Farms, Inc.
9. Gulf Rice Milling, Inc.
10. Hansen-Mueller Company
11. Harvest Rice, Inc.
12. Lansing Louisiana
13. Lansing Trade Group, LLC
14. Louisiana Farm Bureau Marketing Association, Inc.
15. Miller-Bowie Supply
16. Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
17. Pointe Coupee Farmers Elevator, Inc.
18. Producers Rice Mill, Inc.
19. Ragan & Massey, Inc.
20. Red River Grain
21. The Scoular Company

The motion carried.

C. Warehouses

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Donald Berken to approve the following Warehouse license applications with Mr. Donald Berken abstaining from voting on Vermilion Farmers Coop Association, Inc.

1. Crowley Rice Drier Co-Op, Inc.
2. Producers Rice Drier
3. Tri-Parish Rice Drier
4. Vermilion Farmers Coop Association, Inc.

The motion carried.

D. Warehouses & Grain Dealers

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to approve the following warehouse and grain dealer applications with Mr. Donald Berken and Mr. Kevin Webb abstaining from voting on Fenton Rice Cooperative and Mr. Robert Hanks abstaining from voting on Supreme Rice, LLC

1. Crowley Grain Drier, Inc.
2. Fenton Rice Cooperative
3. Kaplan Rice Drier, Inc.
4. Kennedy Rice Dryers, LLC
5. Mamou Rice Drier and Warehouses, Inc.
6. Supreme Rice, LLC
7. Third Crop, LLC
8. Thornwell Warehouse Association
9. Victory Supply, Inc.

The motion carried.

VII. New Business

2018 Legislative Session Update - Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that House Bill 313 by Representative Andy Anders has now become Act 8. House Bill 313 changes the number of meetings per year from four to three. Mrs. Fitzgerald also stated that Senate Bill 1 by Senator Allain from the 2018 Second Extraordinary Session provides for the transfer, deposit and use of monies among state funds. Assistant Commissioner for the office of Agro Consumer Services, Steve Sessums spoke about the current laws stating that once the projected budget is one percent less than the one last year they can tap into any dedicated funds to the amount of five percent and this amount shall be available. The new bill states that the amount shall be transferred and deposited in the State General Fund. After some discussion among the board members stating strong opposition regarding the sweeping of statutorily dedicated funds from both the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund and the Self-Insurance Fund, it was decided and voted upon that a letter be sent to all legislators, written and sent by the board members, opposing the sweeping of any funds from statutorily dedicated funds. A motion was made by Mr. Donald Berken and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Public Comment

Mr. Hanks asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

IX. Date for Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be June 27, 2018 at 9:30am.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Donald Petree and seconded by Mr. Kevin Webb to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Hanks", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Robert Hanks, Chairman