

**LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)
MINUTES**

February 18, 2021

10:00 AM

Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82030031264?pwd=cTA3NVl1MksyUUFPL0xhaHd3NFU3Zz09>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:01 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Strain, Hugh Andre, Kent Brown, Devin Davis, Jennifer Hill, Ronald Petree, Katie R. Sistrunk, Rep. Christopher Turner, and Bill Wageuspack

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with nine members present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Wageuspack, and passed unanimously.

V. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strain to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

VI. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- LAFA's assets are currently being analyzed to determine if any site is able to assist with possible storage of vaccine and other medical supplies.

- Repairing damage sustained during the hurricanes at the Lacassine Industrial Park. Also making improvements to prevent catastrophic power and pump failure.
- The winter storm caused impacted to many producers with collapse of buildings, loss of power, and loss of winter forage. We are in the process of examining all of LAFA's properties for any damages and repair as necessary.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Indian Creek Update

The upgraded sewer and new sites at the Indian Creek Campground should be completed by March 17, 2021. Construction on the fishing pier has begun and should be completed within 120 days.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of rice facility at Lacassine Industrial Park

Ronald Petree and Mark Pousson came before the board on behalf of the South Louisiana Rail Facility (SLRF) to ask for a \$2.4 million dollar loan from LAFA to fund a rice facility at the Lacassine Industrial Park.

SLRF will provide \$240,000, Louisiana Economic Development has committed \$1.6 million, and SLRF is seeking a loan from LAFA for \$2.4 million to construct a building to house the proposed rice facility. The building will be mortgaged with LAFA holding the first mortgage. The existing building will be put up as collateral to secure the loan. The monies encumbered from the new facility as well as those from SLRF to guarantee payment of the loan. Postlewaite & Netterville will be contracted to review the financials of SLRF.

The terms of the proposed loan are \$2.4 million plus all associated cost with a 20 year note without prepayment penalties with an interest rate between 2.5-3%.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sistrunk to give Commissioner Strain permission to proceed in establishing a loan to the South Louisiana Rail Facility pending the analysis by Postlewaite & Netterville based on discussed parameters. It was seconded by Mr. Andre, and passed unanimously with Mr. Petree abstaining from the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Strain to set the interest rate at 2.5% without prepayment penalties. It was seconded by Mr. Andre, and passed unanimously with Mr. Petree abstaining from the vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sistrunk to authorize Commissioner Strain to contract with outside legal and financial counsel. It was seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed unanimously with Mr. Petree abstaining from the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously at 10:40 AM.