

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
LOUISIANA AQUATIC CHELONIAN RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD  
APRIL 10, 2014, 10:00 A.M.  
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM  
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70806  
Proceeding

Sharla Morace was sworn in by Christopher Mora, LDAF General Counsel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Brent Robbins at 10:08 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Robbins led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Stacy Welch.

**Members Present:** Dr. Robbins representing Commissioner Strain, Keith Boudreaux, George White, Jr. Howard Spann, Roy Nugent, Sharla Morace, and Kenny Davis.

**Members Absent:** None.

Stacy Welch declared a quorum was met.

Dr. Robbins introduced the new board member Sharla Morace.

**Guest Present**

Dr. Jonathon Roberts (LDAF), Parrish Foote (LDAF), Dr. Mark Scurria (LDAF), Dr. Daniel Myrick (LDAF), Curtis Colsen (LSU Ag), Mr. Morace (Guest), Dr. Greg Lutz (LSU Ag), Dr. Elzer (LSU Ag), Dr. Diana Coulon (LSU Ag), Sue Hagijs (Researcher), Christopher Mora (General Counsel, LDAF), Liz Wilcox (LDAF), Dr. Diane Stacy (Assistant State Veterinarian, LDAF), John Walther (Assistant Commissioner, LDAF) and Ted Gauthier (LSU Ag).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Howard Spann made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2013 board meeting. Keith Boudreaux seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

John Walther gave an update on the department and introduced the new Licensed Turtle Farm Routine Inspection Form. He talked about a multi-state salmonella outbreak linked to pet turtles. He stated LDAF Veterinary Health Division spent many hours investigating and researching in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Disease Control (CDC) investigation.

Dr. Stacy talked in depth about the Louisiana turtle farm investigations final update.

Financial statements were presented to the board members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The LSU Ag Center gave an update on the turtle research. The Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board have agreed to support a three-part research study conducted by LSU AgCenter scientists to answer questions important to their industry. The yearlong study includes experiments testing the effect of a lytic peptide-ligand conjugate on the reproductive development of hatchlings and more mature turtles; evaluating simulated transport trials to determine the effects of different densities, container materials, and packing methods on turtle hatchling survival; and studying probiotic treatments, both commercial and laboratory derived, to see if natural microflora can be replaced with a more beneficial one. This project runs from June 1, 2013, through May 31, 2014.

Mr. White discussed the ability to ship day old chicks but not turtles. He said he would like to have a protocol to be able to ship baby turtles to and from Pet Shop/Wholesale.

### **MOTION**

Howard Spann made a motion for the LSU Ag Center to have an extension for the \$16,000.00 in the account to finish their research. Motion was seconded by Keith Boudreaux. Motion passed.

### **Motion**

Keith Boudreaux made a motion for Curtis Colsen to use the remaining \$10,000.00 to finish work he has started for research. Motion was seconded by George White. Motion Passed.

### **MOTION**

Howard Spann made a motion for George White to be Spokesperson and the voice for the turtle industry. Motion was seconded by Keith Boudreaux. Motion Passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Lutz suggested the board get someone with authority from the FDA to come for a visit. Dr. Lutz stated he would volunteer his time to work and show the FDA the research the LSU Ag Center was doing.

### **MOTION**

George White made a motion to form a committee to host a FDA visit. Howard Spann seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

The Committee will consist of Curtis Colsen (LSU Ag), Dr. Stacy (LDAF), John Walther (LDAF), Dr. Greg Lutz (LSU AG), and Keith Boudreaux (Board Member).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** George White made a motion to adjourn. Howard Spann seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting dismissed at 12:15 a.m.