**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION & RESEARCH BOARD**

**November 6th, 2019**

**USGS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER**

**700 CAJUNDOME BLVD.**

**LAFAYETTE, LA**

**Call to Order:**

David Savoy called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

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

David Savoy Chandra Scarber

Robert Buller Ralph Babin

Wylie Jewell Kip Lastraps

Wayne Romig

Bill Pizzolato

Greg Faulk

Jody Meche

**Declaration of a Quorum:**

A quorum was declared with 7 members present and 3 members absent.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the August 21st, 2019 Board meeting were read.

**MOTION BY**: Bill Pizzolato seconded by Robert Buller to approve the minutes from the August 21st, 2019 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

**Collections & Financial Report:**

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

Greg Faulk contacted UBS Bank and is going to invite a representative to the next meeting to speak to the Board.

**MOTION BY:** Jody Meche seconded by Wylie Jewell to approve the financials. Motion Carried.

**Promotion & Research:**

Mr. Dallas Mitchell and Brent Muller graduate student workers with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette gave an update of the automated crawfish-peeling machine. The key phases are: labeling/collecting data for process monitoring, development of iterative learning controller using machine vision feedback, detailed analysis of forces during shell splitting/cutting, performance analysis of current system prototypes, development of head removal subsystem and the development of new tail-meat removal subsystem. The key point is not to design a system via trial and error to work once for one orientation and one size crawfish. They are designing a system using engineering principles to work for all crawfish all the time. In the next quarter, the head removal subsystem will be worked on in order to complete fabrication and to test and refine the design. Further subsystem development, fabrication and testing including revised tail-meat removal, orientation/feed mechanism and process monitoring.

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk seconded by Robert Buller to go into executive session. Motion Carried.

**MOTION BY:** Jody Meche seconded by Bill Pizzolato to go back into regular session of the board meeting. Motion Carried.

Dr. John Hawke, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, gave a proposal on the Management of White Spot Syndrome Virus in Louisiana. The main research objectives of this proposal are: 1.) Can we breed for resistance? 2.) Why are larger, more mature market-size crawfish more susceptible to infection, and is the virus transmitted to the offspring in the burrows?

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk seconded by Jody Meche to fund the White Spot Syndrome Virus research project for $41,820.00. Motion Carried.

Mr. Avery Davidson, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation next presented to the Board a sponsorship request of the “Field to Feast” segment featured on *This Week in Louisiana Agriculture (TWILA)*. This sponsorship provides the Board to the following: pre-segment and post-segment audio bumpers featuring the Board logo and the use of crawfish in segments as often as possible. This sponsorship will also include the weekly price check on crawfish, which will engage Louisiana residents in thinking about their weekend crawfish plans and promote the Louisiana crawfish industry.

**MOTION BY:** Jody Meche seconded by Greg Faulk to fund the TWILA “Field to Feast” segment and weekly price checks on crawfish for $7,000.00. Motion Carried.

Next, Mr. Donald Dartez gave the Board an update on the website.

Dr. Jacoby Carter, Wetlands Center, gave the Board a report on apple snails.

Mr. Patrick Fields, Fields Group, presented a proposal for 2020 TV and social media advertisement opportunities. These ads will run through March, April and May in targeted areas of the country.

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk seconded by Robert Buller to fund this proposal for $36,000.00. Motion Carried.

Jessica Lange gave a report on the billboard campaign. The Board discussed budget and location ideas for the 2020 billboard campaign. If the promotional grant by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture is approved the Board would like to use the $30,000.00 grant money towards the 2020 campaign for a total maximum amount of $75,000.00 - $80,000.00 allocated to the 2020 campaign.

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk seconded by Robert Buller to approve an up to amount of $80,000.00 including the $30,000.00 grant money if approved for the 2020 billboard campaign. Motion Carried.

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk seconded by Jody Meche to approve the renewal of Jessica Lange’s contract for 2020. Motion Carried.

**Board Business:**

The Board next discussed the crawfish season.

**No public comment**

The date for the next Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 15th, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette.

**MOTION BY:** Wylie Jewell and seconded by Bill Pizzolato to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.