**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION & RESEARCH BOARD**

**February 4th, 2016**

**USGS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER**

**700 CAJUNDOME BLVD.**

**LAFAYETTE, LA**

**Call to Order:**

Ralph Babin, Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

**Roll Call:**

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

Ralph Babin Mike Bienvenu

Chandra Scarber Greg Benhard

Greg Faulk Bill Pizzolato

Kip Lastraps Wayne Romig

Robert Buller Jody Meche

Wylie Jewell

David Savoy

**Declaration of a Quorum:**

 Ralph Babin declared the presence of a quorum with 7 members present and 5 member absent.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 12th, 2015 Board meeting were read.

**MOTION BY**: Kip Lastraps and seconded by Robert Buller to approve the minutes from the November 12th, 2015 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

**Collections & Financial Report:**

Ralph Babin called on Ron Harrell to present the collections and financial reports. He reported to the Board the current condition of accounts. Ron was asked by the Board at the November meeting to check with Whitney Bank on the status of the Board’s accounts. Since the accounts are considered public funds federal law requires the bank to secure the Board’s funds dollar for dollar.

**MOTION BY:** David Savoy seconded by Wylie Jewell to accept the financial report as presented. Motion Carried.

**Promotion & Research:**

Holly Clegg gave a presentation to the Board regarding her recent projects on behalf of the Board. She showed her most recent video featuring Louisiana crawfish. She also worked with the Food Channel. They are going to put Holly’s cooking video’s on their website [www.foodchannel.com](http://www.foodchannel.com). She has been working on multiple Louisiana crawfish videos which get a great response and more exposure for Louisiana crawfish. She next discussed a meeting with Dr. Greg Lutz, LSU AgCenter. Ron Harrell, Jessica Lange and Holly were in attendance. Kean Miller contacted Holly to do a cookbook that went out to 5,000 people with many recipes featuring Louisiana crawfish. She is also working on her new version of “Eating Well through Cancer” cookbook which will also feature recipes with Louisiana crawfish. Holly next discussed the idea of traveling to one of the cities that our out-of-state billboard campaign is at and doing some promotional activities there.

Stephen Dufreche with the University of Lafayette presented to the Board the status and results of Phase II of the automated processing machine project. UL needs more time to complete Phase II. Another no-cost extension was requested by UL to extend the completion date of Phase II of the automated processing machine project to June 15th, 2016.

**MOTION BY:** David Savoy and seconded by Kip Lastraps to approve the no-cost extension request to extend the completion date of Phase II of the automated processing machine project to June 15th, 2016. Motion Carried.

Jessica Lange presented the Board with an update to the billboard campaign. The billboards will run from the beginning of March until the end of May. There will be 3 billboards in San Antonio, 3 in Memphis, 3 in Atlanta and 1 in Jacksonville, FL.

The next topic that was discussed was the Board’s website changes and updates. Some changes include: “Why Louisiana Crawfish” section that will include crawfish fun facts, picture changes, supplier page changes, menu changes and a Holly Clegg section. A proposal was given out to the Board for $1,700.00 in order for RAD Consulting Group to complete the website changes.

**MOTION BY:** Greg Faulk and seconded by Chandra Scarber to approve $1,700.00 to RAD Consulting Group for the Board’s website changes. Motion Carried.

**Board Business:**

The Board next discussed restructuring the requirements of R.S. 556.3 the statute that created the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board.

The Board agreed it would be best to modify the present law by reducing the size of the Board from 13 members to 11 members. 6 out of 11 members will need to be present to make a quorum. The Board also agreed to remove the requirement that one of the crawfish farmers appointed to the Board has to be engaged with crawfish farming north of U.S. Highway 190. The Board recommended a reduction of the number of appointed members who engage in harvesting wild crawfish from 4 members to 3 members and repeal the 1 member who is a landowner engaged in commercial crawfish leasing.

Jessica Lange will send a letter to John Walther, LDAF, with the recommendations the Board has agreed upon regarding the restructuring of the Board. The recommendation for the restructuring of the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research Board is as follows:

3 members from the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association.

1 member from the Louisiana Restaurant Association.

1 member from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

1 member who is an owner or operator of a facility which produces artificial crawfish bait.

1 member who is an owner or operator of a facility which processes crawfish.

3 members engaged in harvesting wild crawfish.

1 member appointed who owns or operates a retail crawfish-seafood facility, appointed from the state at large.

**No public comment**

**Next Board Meeting Date:**

The date for the next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 15th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette.

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