

LOUISIANA RICE PROMOTION BOARD
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes
LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station, Crowley, LA
Monday, December 21, 2015

Officers and Members Present: Kevin Berken, Tommy Faulk, Jeff Durand, Jimmy Hoppe, Christian Richard, John Owens

Officers and Members Not Present: Ronald Habetz, Glendon Marceaux, and John Compton

Staff Present: Michelle Libera, and Julie Richard

Others Present: Randy Jemison, Nicole Broussard, Scott Privat, and Kent Brown

Call to order, certification of a quorum, agenda review, approval of June 20, 2011 minutes and opening comments.

Chairman Berken called the meeting to order at 11:05 and welcomed members and guests.

Julie Richard certified that a quorum was present.

Chairman Berken welcomed Michelle Ribera who is attending on behalf of Commissioner Strain.

Chairman Berken also stated that it was brought to his attention that the authority to appoint a replacement member to the board fell under the chairman. Chairman Berken introduced Kent Brown as his appointment from the Farm Bureau nominations to fill the seat vacated by Wayne Zaunbrecher.

Chairman Berken presented the agenda for consideration. The agenda was accepted as presented by consensus.

MOTION by Jeff; **Second** by John

To accept the minutes of the July 1, 2015 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial Reports

Current Financial Report

It was discussed that the 2015 NASS acreage reported was 415,000. Nicole Broussard provided the current financial report to members and noted that total revenue to date was \$86,640.53.

Dues collection has decreased from previous years past by \$83,000- \$100,000. The Department of Ag was asked to check on the issuance of 1099s for refunds provided.

MOTION by Tommy, **Second** by Jeff

To accept the financials report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Update on In-state Promotion Projects

Randy Jemison presented an update on the status of in-state projects noting in-part that:

- The September radio campaign was successful and resulted in extra air time for the Rice Radio Campaign due to other advertisements falling through.
- The Cooking Segment sponsorship with TWILA/ Farm Bureau continues to receive high ratings
- Rice Run sponsorship for the current year was paid

Billboards for La Grown Rice placed in urban areas was discussed. Ducks Unlimited has offered to split costs for a Billboard promoting Rice. John will visit with James Calicutt and report back to the board.

Other Business

Kevin discussed ordering shirts for new members of the board.

Kevin announced that Julie will be resigning as the staff person for the board and that a search for a new person is in process. Jimmy asked that a stipend of \$500 be given to Julie.

MOTION by Jimmy, **Second** by John

To present \$500 to Julie for her assistance to the board over the past 5 years.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Scott Privat gave an update on the issues with the Office of Contractual Review. All issues are now corrected and finalized with help from a legislator.

As of this meeting time, there has been no Opinion from the Attorney General on the MOU action.

May 15th is the date Financial Disclosures are due. An email containing the link to the Ethics Training will be sent for members of the board to complete before the end of the year if not previously completed.

An update on the lawsuit was given by Mr. Privat. The judge vacated both opinions and ruled. Both sides are currently waiting on Clarification.

Discussion about the seat held by John Compton and questions about his ability to serve due to his new employment duties.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

MOTION by Tommy, **Second** by Christian

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY