

LOUISIANA RICE PROMOTION BOARD
DRAFT Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes

LSU Rice Research Station, Crowley, LA
Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Call to order, opening comments and certification of quorum.

Chairman Kane Fontenot called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm and welcomed members and guests. Quorum was certified. Board Members 11 Present 0 Absent

Agenda review and approval of February 28, 2023, minutes

Chairman Fontenot presented the agenda and the minutes for consideration.

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To accept agenda as amended (see attachment #1)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Kent Brown
To accept the February 28, 2023, minutes as submitted
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Joint presentation with Louisiana Rice Research Board

An update on Lawsuit was provided to the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board and Louisiana Rice Research Board.

Louisiana Rice Promotion Board resumed meeting at 2:02 pm

Dr. Mike Strain addressed the Board about the Referendum and its history over the last forty years since its passage.

LRPB Financial Reports

Nicole D. Broussard, CPA presented the current financial report noting that Assessments to-date for the current fiscal year was \$742,781.34 with refunds to-date of \$43,123.72.

Chairman Fontenot asked the Board to review the financial reports including the general ledger. All questions from the Board concerning the financial reports were answered.

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Mark Pousson

To approve financials reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified LA Grant Update

Jennifer Marsh with LA Radio Network updated the Board on the Certified LA Campaign with a power point presentation. The Board used the additional funds available to fund a statewide radio campaign with LA Radio Network from 04/10/2023 – 05/26/2023 in the amount of \$14,600 and an electronic digital billboard campaign in north Louisiana with LAMAR from 04/10/2023 – 06/25/2023 in the amount of \$9,928.50 for a total of \$24,528.50.

Mark Pousson updated the Board on the use of funds to attend conference.

Kelly Ransome, Nicholas Cole, and Todd Parker with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry were also in attendance. Nicholas informed the Board; they would be receiving \$20,000 for the upcoming LDAF Certified LA Campaign.

In-state, Board-Directed Promotion Projects Update

Kane Webb updated the Board on recent Rice Promotion Projects. Ms. Broussard advised that invoices have not been received from Ag Expo, Ag Magic, and TWILA. Mr. Webb noted the board will not be receiving any invoices from Ag Expo and he would follow up with Ag Magic and TWILA.

Funding Requests Presentations

- USA Rice Council - Betsy Ward, Sara Maron & Michael Klein
- LA Radio Network – LA Rice Report - Jennifer Marsh

Act on Funding Requests

MOTION by Kent Brown; **SECOND** by Christian Richard
To accept funding of Ag Magic in the amount of \$1,000.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To accept funding of LA Radio Network Campaign in the amount of \$13,675.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Christian Richard; **SECOND** by Mark Pousson
To accept funding of LA Farm Bureau (TWILA) in the amount of \$5,000.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mark Pousson; **SECOND** by Trevor Hair
To accept funding of NELA Rice Growers -- Ag Expo in the amount of \$3,850.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Paul Zaunbrecher; **SECOND** by Mark Frey
To accept funding of US Rice Farmer's Group not to exceed \$20,000.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Christian Richard; **SECOND** by Scott Franklin
To accept funding of Kathryn Shea Duncan, LLC in the amount of \$14,950.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Kent Brown; **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To accept funding of USA Rice Council at the minimum amount of \$400,000 but not to exceed \$1,000,000.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Act on Contracts

Nicole D. Broussard, CPA LLC

MOTION by Mark Frey; **SECOND** by Mark Pousson
To approve the contract with Nicole D. Broussard, CPA LLC for professional accounting services for an annual fee of \$5,075.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vincent & Heard Law Offices, APLC

MOTION by Christian Richard; **SECOND** by Trevor Hair
To approve the contract with Vincent & Heard Law Offices, APLC for professional legal services for an annual fee of \$2,000.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

USA Rice Council

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Mark Frey
To approve the contract with USA Rice Council.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

USA Rice Farmer's Group

MOTION by Mark Frey; **SECOND** by Kent Brown
To approve the contract with USA Rice Farmer's Group.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kathryn Shea Duncan, LLC

MOTION by Trevor Hair; **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To approve the contract with Kathryn Shea Duncan, LLC.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amended Budget and New Budget

2022 – 2023 Amended Budget

MOTION by Mark Pousson; **SECOND** by Christian Richard
To approve the 2022 – 2023 Amended Budget. (Attachment #2)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2023 – 2024 Budget

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Trevor Hair
To approve the 2023 – 2024 Amended Budget. (Attachment #3)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Election of Officers

Election of Officers

Chairman Fontenot requested nominations for the Officers.

MOTION by Christian Richard, **SECOND** by Mark Frey
To nominate Kane Fontenot as Chairman, Scott Franklin as Vice-Chairman and Tommy Faulk as Secretary/Treasurer and Tommy Faulk, Christian Richard, and Paul Zaunbrecher as signatories on the checking account.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appointments

MOTION by Scott Franklin , **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To appoint Dylan Heard as the Board’s Education Liaison on Ethics.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Paul Zaunbrecher
To reappoint Christian Richard as the board’s representative to Louisiana Rice Procedure’s Group.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Reminder for all board members to complete their Financial Disclosures, Ethics and Sexual Harassment Prevention requirements.

Plaques were presented to Paul Johnson for 8 years of service and John Owen for 8 years of service to the Louisiana Rice Promotion Board and the rice industry.

Public Comments

Chairman Fontenot called for public comments. Former Chairman John Owen commended Chairman Fontenot on conducting an orderly meeting and doing a great job.

Executive Session

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Tommy Faulk

To move into Executive Session with John Owen and Betsy Ward requested to remain at 4:11 pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Mark Pousson

To close Executive Session and resume regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

MOTION by Scott Franklin; **SECOND** by Mark Pousson

To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting at was adjourned at 4:36 pm.