**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA RICE RESEARCH BOARD**

**CROWLEY, LOUISIANA**

**June 25, 2014**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jackie Loewer, Clarence Berken, Donald Berken, Damian Bollich, Dane Hebert, Johnny Hensgens, Robert Miller, Sammy Noel, Ronnie Sonnier, Jason Waller, Brian Wild, Fred Zaunbrecher

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Fontenot

**OTHERS PRESENT:**  Carrie Castille, Luke Doise, Carl Krielow, Carol LeDoux, Rogers Leonard, Jim Lingo, Steve Linscombe, Mark Mayer, Benjy Rayburn, Bruce Schultz, Scott Soileau

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 Chairman Jackie Loewer opened the Louisiana Rice Research Board meeting at 12:30 pm. Mr. Loewer welcomed the guests.

**ACTION #1** A motion was made by Robert Miller that the Board enter into Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Fred Zaunbrecher. Motion carried.

**ACTION #2** A motion was made by Donald Berken and seconded by Dane Hebert to conclude the executive session and begin the regular Louisiana Rice Research Board meeting.

Chairman Jackie Loewer called the meeting back to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Mr. Loewer stated that the minutes from October 29, 2013 meeting were emailed and mailed to the Board members.

**ACTION #3** A motion was made by Sammy Noel and seconded by Damian Bollich to approve and adopt the minutes of the October 29, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Loewer then reviewed the meeting agenda stating that agenda items USA Rice Producers Group and USA Rice Foundation would be discussed first. Mr. Bob Cummings presented information on the Farm Bill, conservation proposal to NRCS, food safety-arsenic safety, and domestic promotion-benefits of rice in diet. Mr. Cummings stated that the USA Federation supports the Louisiana Rice Research Board and their legislation efforts with the on-going lawsuit. The USA Rice Foundation continues work on rice leadership and development. Bob Cummings also made the LRRB aware that the US Columbia Trade agreement is being worked on.

Carrie Castille, LDAF, presented a collections report with references to the LRRB Income Statement and Balance Sheet (copies attached).

Scott Soileau presented the May 31, 2014 Operating Report (copy attached) and reviewed the current financial position of the Board. Questions were raised on amounts being lower and discussions on this subject continued. Mr. Soileau stated that TRQ funds had increased. There was a discussion on refunds.

Jackie Loewer said that Legislature has stated that the financial audit is not required annually. It is required bi-annually and will begin in 2015. Mr. Loewer stated that the LRRB is very much in agreement with being audited. Jackie Loewer also commended Scott Soileau on the good job he is doing and the clarity of the financial reports that he presents.

**ACTION #4** A motion was made by Ronnie Sonnier and seconded by Brian Wild to accept the financial report as presented by Mr. Soileau. Motion carried.

Chairman Loewer began a discussion of the Colombia Export Trading Company. Discussion was made on ‘Use of Funds’ for Colombia ETCR. He stated that the funds received from Colombia ETCR are to be used for research.

**ACTION #5** A motion was made by Fred Zaunbrecher and seconded by Robert Miller for Chairman Jackie Loewer to continue to represent the Louisiana Rice Research Board as Director on the Colombia ETCR. Motion carried.

Regarding ‘Revised Check-off Legislation’ – Mr. Loewer mentioned that Mr. Jack Montoucet was honored for all of his help in this area.

LSU AgCenter update – Steve Linscombe expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support. He stated that Field Day was very successful and that he was very appreciative of the LRRB members for attending Field Day. Also, he stated how much the Board members are appreciated for all of the recent check-off funds work. Dr. Rogers Leonard stated that the LSU AgCenter was very much appreciative of the work of the Board supporting the LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station project funding.

Jackie Loewer asked Dr. Linscombe about the blackbird meeting held at the Rice Research Station. Dr. Linscombe discussed AV-1011 and other blackbird issues and stated that Arkion Life Science will apply for Section 3 by the end of the year. There is also work in progress on a headed rice label which won’t be presented for 3 to 4 years.

Steve Linscombe presented Frankie Gould’s report (copy attached) on the timeline for the 2015 LRRB publication. Suggestions for articles will be appreciated.

Legal Issues – Chairman Loewer stated that no decisions needed to be made per discussion in Executive Session.

Intellectual Property Rights & Royalty – Dr. Rogers Leonard discussed that Dr. Richardson has agreed to provide extra funds to the Board from royalties. Dr. Linscombe stated that he would contribute funds from the Rice Research Station royalties. These funds would be used for rice research on projects recommended by the Board.

**ACTION #6** A motion was made by Dane Hebert and seconded by Clarence Berken that Dr. William Richardson be sent a thank-you letter from the Board thanking him for the support funds. All were in favor – motion carried.

Public Servant Ethics Training – Jackie Loewer stated as a reminder, that the Board is required to complete the ‘Public Servant Ethics Training’ on a yearly basis.

The Louisiana Rice Research Board considered ‘Election of Officers.’

**ACTION #7** A motion was made by Fred Zaunbrecher and seconded by Donald Berken that the present slate of officers remain as is – Jackie Loewer, Chairman, Clarence Berken, Vice-Chairman and Richard Fontenot, Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried.

Chairman Loewer discussed the date, time, and format for the next meeting and asked Dr. Linscombe for his input. Steve Linscombe proposed that the next meeting date be November 4, 2014, beginning at 8am at the Rice Research Station, and that they follow the same format as the 2013 meeting which was presentations from 8am to noon, then establish funding levels and the budget in the afternoon. The Louisiana Rice Research Board members were all in agreement.

**ACTION #8** A motion was made by Johnny Hensgens that the next meeting date be November 4, 2014, and this motion was seconded by Ronald Sonnier. Motion carried.

Dr. Rogers Leonard stated that there will be a Listening Session with EPA, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the LSU AgCenter on proposed regulations that the EPA has made on “Waters of the U.S” on July 9, 2014, at 11:30 am at the LSU AgCenter’s Acadia Parish Extension Office in Crowley. Members were urged to attend this important meeting. The title of the discussion is ‘Waters of the United States’ (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA)- (copy of handout attached). Dr. Linscombe agreed to provide background material on the issues of this meeting in advance of the meeting.

Jackie Loewer asked for ‘Public Comments.’ There were none.

**ACTION #9** A motion was made by Sammy Noel and seconded by Fred Zaunbrecher to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.