

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

MINUTES

March 4, 2015

10:00 AM

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Strain, Ted Gauthier, William "Skip" Hawkins, H. Marcell Parker, Jr. (entered at 10:06 AM), Calvin Viator, Wilbert "Bill" Waguespack, Linda Zaunbrecher

Absent: William Stutts

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with seven members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the November 17, 2014, meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2014, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the status of the Lacassine Industrial Park. Porocel is occupying the mill site and has made about two million in improvements to the site. LAFA has made about \$700,000 in improvements to the electrical system and water system at the industrial park.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to accept the Commissioner's Report. It was seconded by Mr. Muller, and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Lacassine Industrial Park Rail Consultant – Via Rail Logistics, LLC

Mr. Simon introduced Mr. Ben Guido and Ms. Jean Arndt from Via Rail Logistics, LLC. Mr. Guido and Ms. Arndt presented their report, "Rail Port Commercial Review and Master Planning", to the board and answered the members' questions.

Sale of the Winnsboro Office Building

Mrs. Dupree stated that the sale is pending for the Winnsboro property with a sale price of \$212,500. The closing is scheduled for March 9, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

Sale of LAFA properties (Oberlin Nursery, Deridder Nursery, Ringgold (Superior Ostrich Plant), and Newton County, TX, Nursery)

A resolution was presented by Mr. Hawkins that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as chairman of LAFA, be and is hereby authorized to sell the Newton County, Texas, property for an amount that is, in his opinion, a fair market value, reserving mineral rights, and on such other conditions or terms as he deems necessary or proper. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

A resolution was presented by Mrs. Zaunbrecher that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as chairman of LAFA, be and is hereby authorized to sell the Oberlin property for an amount that is, in his opinion, a fair market value, reserving mineral rights, and on such other conditions or terms as he deems necessary or proper. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

A resolution was presented by Mr. Gauthier that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as chairman of LAFA, be and is hereby authorized to sell the Deridder property for an amount that is, in his opinion, a fair market value, reserving mineral rights, and on such other conditions or terms as he deems necessary or proper. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

A resolution was presented by Mr. Waguespack that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as chairman of LAFA, be and is hereby authorized to sell the Ringgold property for an amount that is, in his opinion, a fair market value, reserving mineral rights, and on such other conditions or terms as he deems necessary or proper. It was seconded by Mrs. Zaunbrecher, and passed unanimously.

Annual Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Form and Code of Ethics Training

Mrs. Tullier reminded the board that it is time to complete the annual disclosure form, and ethics training.

Change to Agenda

A motion was presented by Mr. Muller to expand the agenda to discuss a change to the LAFA statute. It was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

A motion was presented by Mr. Viator to change the LAFA statute to allow the Authority to establish, administer, and supervise programs to promote the purchase of Louisiana products. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Strain adjourned the meeting at 12:31 PM.