

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

MINUTES

June 19, 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 10:04 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Strain, Ted Gauthier, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., William Stutts, and Calvin Viator

Absent: William "Skip" Hawkins, Richard Muller, Wilbert "Bill" Waguespack, and Linda Zaunbrecher

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with five 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 March 4, 2015, meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the March, 4, 2015, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Gauthier, 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. Stutts to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Simon notified the board that Sugar & Power, the company hired by Gloria to dismantle the Lacassine Syrup Mill, has placed a lien on the property. Mr. Simon also stated that it is illegal to place a lien on state property, and that LAFA has not needed to seek legal counsel. Louisiana Chemical Equipment Company, LLC, will defend LAFA against any liens as per the contract.
- Commissioner Strain notified the board that the change in legislation to allow LAFA to do promotional programs passed.
- Commissioner Strain notified the board that LAFA will now be partnering with the Office of Community Development to administer the Healthy Foods Retail Act of 2009. The purpose of the program is to build food stores in “food deserts”.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Lacassine Industrial Park Rail

Mr. Simon requested that the board be prepared to decide how to proceed with rail expansion proposed by ViaRail Logistics at the next board meeting. The estimated cost for the proposed project is 2.4 to 2.5 million dollars.

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

Mr. Simon stated that he is currently awaiting the appraisals on the properties. The properties have all been cleaned and are expected to be for sale by the end of the calendar year.

Commissioner Strain added that the lease with the Louisiana National Guard for the Roseland property has been extended.

Review of passed legislation

Commissioner Strain stated that there were seventeen bills passed. He also stated that a mid-term budget cut is expected.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to accept Old Business. It was seconded by Mr. Gauthier, and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of the FY 16 Budget

Mrs. Irvin and Mr. Simon presented the board with the proposed fiscal year 2016 budget, and answered any questions the board may have had.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to accept the budget. It was seconded by Mr. Stutts, and passed unanimously.

Replacement of the roof at the Opelousas property

A motion was made by Mr Viator to allow Commissioner Strain and his staff the authority to spend up to \$450,000 to repair and replace the roof. It was seconded by Mr. Gauthier, and passed unanimously.

Entergy's use of the Lacassine Industrial Park as an Emergency Operation Center

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to allow Entergy to use the Lacassine Industrial Park as an Emergency Operation Center. It was seconded by Mr. Gauthier, and passed unanimously.

Delinquent payments owed to LAFA from Louisiana Farm and Agribusiness Loan and Grant Recovery Program recipients

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to defer any default actions on the loans until after the September board meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Stutts, and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Strain adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.