

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

June 25, 2014

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 10:10 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

**Present:** Commissioner Strain, Ted Gauthier, William Hawkins, Richard Muller, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., William Stutts, Calvin Viator, and Linda Zaunbrecher

**Absent:** Wilbert Waguespack

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with eight 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 April 11, 2014, meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2014, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Muller, and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the status of the Lacassine Industrial Park/Porocel lease. He stated that he expects for the lease to be signed during the second week of July.
- He informed the board that Grupo Gloria should complete their work by August 6, 2014.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Discussion and Strategy on the Lawsuit Involving LAFA**

**Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, et al v. Lake Charles Cane – Lacassine Mill, LLC, 31<sup>st</sup> JDC, Jefferson Davis Parish, Docket No. C-356-13**

Mr. Simon notified the board that he has met with John Litchfield. He stated a letter regarding the equipment located at Lacassine Industrial Park has been sent, and a tax lawyer has been contacted.

### **Standardized Lease Rates for Rail Usage at Lacassine Industrial Park**

Mr. Simon and Mr. Viator updated the board on the actions of the subcommittee regarding the standardized lease rates.

Mr. Muller made a motion to allow Commissioner Strain and LAFA staff to engage a consultant, up to \$20,000, to establish the need of additional rail and proper rates. Mr. Stutts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Construction of Rail Spurs at Lacassine Industrial Park**

The board requested this topic be postponed until the consultation noted above is completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consideration of the FY 15 Budget**

Mrs. Irvin and Mr. Simon presented the board with the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget, and answered any questions the board had.

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

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

Mr. Viator made a motion to attempt to collect one more time from each individual, then turn the file over to the Office of Community Development. It was seconded by Mr. Hawkins and passed unanimously.

**Sale or Lease of the Winnsboro Office Building**

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to allow Commissioner Strain and LAFA staff to have an appraisal on the property completed. Mr. Stutts seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**City of Vidalia/Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act Program**

Mr. Simon notified the board that LAFA was assisting the City of Vidalia with the application process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jody Rusca with URS Corporation came before the board to request a chance to apply for the RFP process on the rail usage at Lacassine Industrial Park.

Mr. Jay Vanier came before the board to thank them for the opportunity to lease property at Lacassine.

Mr. Hawkins thanked Mr. Simon and Mr. Viator for their work on the subcommittee to develop standardized lease rates at Lacassine.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Zaunbrecher to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Strain and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.