



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



December 11, 2009

10:00 A.M.

Scott Research & Extension Education Center
212 Macon Ridge Rd.
Winnsboro, LA 71295

Minutes

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 10:05 A.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Commissioner Mike Strain DVM, Dr. Roger Leonard, Danny Logan, Jack Dailey, Boyd Holley, Travis Walker and Dan Turner.

Members absent: George LaCour

Others present: Gregory Booth, cotton producer; LDAF employees Todd Parker, Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, John Dumas, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Vernon Thomas, and Eva Wales; Brian Breaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Dailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2009 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Booth was present and addressed the Commission regarding his failed cotton and the decision rendered at the September 3, 2009 meeting. Mr. Booth stated that he initially had a good stand of cotton; however a hail storm on May 10 caused major damage and he failed all 266.9 acres on May 25. He stated that he destroyed all cotton plants and monitored for re-growth. He asked the Commission to waive the assessment on all 266.9 acres.

After review, it was the consensus of the Commission that the original decision to waive the assessment on half (133.45 acres) of the failed cotton should be upheld because expenses were incurred with mapping and trapping the cotton early in the season. The Commission thanked Mr. Booth for his support of the program and his diligence in destroying his failed cotton.

REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER STRAIN

Dr. Strain expressed appreciation to program personnel, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Commission members and everyone involved for a very successful year resulting in a 98% reduction in weevil numbers. He called attention to a press release (copy on file) stressing the impact of the cotton industry to the economic stability of the state and the importance of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program to the cotton industry. He stated that legislators need to be made aware of the importance of the program and the necessity of continued funding to complete boll weevil eradication in Louisiana.

Dr. Strain gave a brief update on program funding, stating that he has asked for \$3.6 million for next year to finish the program. He added that the governor's executive budget will be out by January 15.

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bordelon gave an update on 2009 acreage and assessments as follows: 225,094 certified acres; \$1,342,579 collected to date; 10 liens in place totaling \$13,381.

Mr. Bordelon gave a report on the status of supplies for 2010 as follows:

- Trapping supplies - kill strips and bamboo have been ordered at last year's prices; traps and lure will be bid through state purchasing
- Malathion - we expect 5% price increase next year; we purchased 15 totes after the end of the season at 3% discount; we currently have 24 totes in inventory

There was a discussion regarding aerial application next year. Dr. Leonard stated that we should definitely see a reduction in the number of acres sprayed; however, we need to continue aggressive spraying in problem areas. Mr. Bordelon stated that he expects only a few applications after pin-head square.

Mr. Bordelon gave a slide presentation of program activities this year (copies on file):

- 1) Cumulative Acres Sprayed 2007, 2008 & 2009 – 2007/507,503; 2008/641,466; 2009/99,865
- 2) Acres Sprayed by Week 2008 vs 2009 – noted decreased spaying in 2008 due to hurricanes
- 3) TAC Goals for LA BWEP – 90% reduction in weevil population annually (compare using total trap catch after 8/1 of the two years in comparison)
- 4) Trap Catch by Week Thru 11/16 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/14,731; 2009/302 (97.9% reduction).
- 5) Full Year Reduction 2007 vs 2008 – 2007/93,360; 2008/14,731 (84% reduction)
- 6) Full Year Reduction 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/14,731; 2009/302 (97.9% reduction)
- 7) Fall Reduction 2007 vs 2008 – 2007/89,855; 2008/11,488 (87% reduction)
- 8) Fall Reduction 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/11,488/89,855; 2009/113 (99% reduction)
- 9) Total Year Reduction Jonesville Unit (5/4-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/5974; 2009/65 (98.9%)
- 10) Fall Reduction Jonesville Unit (8/3-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/4602; 2009/1 (99.9%)
- 11) Total Year Reduction Winnsboro Unit (5/4-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/4900; 2009/80 (98.4%)
- 12) Fall Reduction Winnsboro Unit (8/3-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/3500; 2009/54 (98.5%)
- 13) Total Year Reduction Monroe Unit (5/4-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/2543; 2009/106 (95.8%)
- 14) Fall Reduction Monroe Unit (8/3-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/2284; 2009/27 (98.8%)
- 15) Total Year Reduction Oak Grove Unit (5/4-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/1314; 2009/51 (96.1%)
- 16) Fall Reduction Oak Grove Unit (8/3-11/16) 2008 vs 2009 – 2008/1102; 2009/31 (97.2%)
- 17) TAC Goals for LA BWEP - 75% functionally eradicated after completion of the 2009 growing season (functionally eradicated is defined as no evidence of boll weevil reproduction combined with an average trap catch of less than 0.001 weevils per trap inspection)
- 18) Percent of Fields Functionally Eradicated (0.001 weevils per acre per week) 2007 vs 2008
 - Jonesville – Fall 2007/40%; Full Year 2008/69%; Fall 2008/76%
 - Winnsboro – Fall 2007/46%; Full Year 2008/77%; Fall 2008/80%
 - Monroe – Fall 2007/51%; Full Year 2008/72%; Fall 2008/69%
 - Oak Grove – Fall 2007/48%; Full Year 2008/75%; Fall 2008/75%
- 19) Percent of Fields Functionally Eradicated (0.001 weevils per acre per week) 2008 vs 2009
 - Jonesville - Fall 2008/76%; Full Year 2009/98%; Fall 2009/100%
 - Winnsboro - Fall 2008/80%; Full Year 2009/97%; Fall 2009/98%
 - Monroe - Fall 2008/69%; Full Year 2009/96%; Fall 2009/98%
 - Oak Grove - Fall 2008/75%; Full Year 2009/97%; Fall 2009/97%

Mr. Bordelon stated that overwintering traps will be left on fields where weevils were caught after August 1, as well as any field within one mile. Traps will be run through the winter as weather permits.

TECHANICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Dr. Leonard stated that the TAC will meet in early March. The committee will review program guidelines and information submitted by Mr. Bordelon, and will work to implement protocol changes if indicated. He reported that an interview and seminar have been scheduled on December 15 at the Franklin Parish Media Center for the Cotton Specialist position. He invited Commission members to participate.

FARM BUREAU OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Breaux stated that he polled farmers from all but one cotton-growing area. He reported that comments were very positive. Producers were pleased with program activities this year and had no problems associated with the reduction in personnel. He stated that producers are concerned about stalk destruction compliance because of extremely wet field conditions.

ADDITIONAL BUISNESS

A brief report of stalk destruction was given for each office. Program personnel are closely monitoring fields with stalks remaining. Discussion followed regarding the potential effect of uncut stalks this year. It was noted that most of the remaining stalks are on fields where no weevils were caught after August 1. Any problem areas will be monitored closely.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 P.M.