

LOUISIANA BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION

January 15, 2021

9:00 a.m.

VIA ZOOM

Scott Research and Extension Center

212 Macon Ridge Road

Winnsboro, LA 71295

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jack Dailey at 9:03 a.m.

Before the roll call Mr. Marc Bordelon introduced newly appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences division of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. Ansel Rankins, and Mrs. Tina Peltier, newly appointed Director of the Horticulture and Quarantine Programs.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Tonya Peairs.

Members present: Jack Dailey, Tim White, Russ Ratcliff, Heath Herring, Ben Guthrie, Stephen Logan, Dr. Ansel Rankins (representing Commissioner Strain), Dr. Michael Salassi (representing Dr. Richardson), and Hank Jones.

Members absent: Luke Sayes.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Marc Bordelon, Kurt Moreau, Brian Breaux, Mike Turner, Sebe Brown, Tina Peltier, and Baleigh Olah.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting. Mr. White seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REQUEST FOR WAIVERS OF MAINTENANCE FEES

Carter Moberley – Carter Moberley Farms - Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 503 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

Chase Noland – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 580.70 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to rain and hail.

Richard Tiser II – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 179.82 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to flooding.

Rebecca LaPrairie – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 219.6 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to flooding.

Perritt Farms Partnership – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 350 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to flooding.

Joe Smetak Jr. – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 38.95 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to flooding.

Edward Reams – Edward Reams Farms – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 926.67 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

B & J Farms Partnership, Inc. – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 109 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

Varner Farms – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 685.89 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

V & V Farms – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 322.46 acres of cotton planted in 2019 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

E L & L Farms – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 214.57 acres of cotton planted in 2020 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

Joe Smetak Jr. – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 153.63 acres of cotton planted in 2020 that failed to get a stand.

Angeleah G. Simmons – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 180.95 acres of cotton planted in 2020 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

Robert Dalton Fortenberry – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees on 403 acres of cotton planted in 2020 that failed due to excessive rainfall.

There was a discussion about how much work, if any, had been performed on these fields before the failure of the crop.

Motion: A motion to refund each requestor 100% of all maintenance fees paid on failed acres due to varying circumstances was made by Mr. White. Dr. Rankins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon informed the commission, Department of Agriculture and Forestry personnel will attempt make contact with Mr. George Max Evans Jr., case no. 18BW01 that was granted a continuance before the 2019 adjudicatory hearing. If contact is made, the hearing will resume at the next meeting date, which will be determined by all parties.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from the Commissioner

There was no update from the Commissioner.

Update from the Director

Mr. Bordelon and Mrs. Peltier presented the commission with a resolution for delegation of authority by the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission relative to the prevention of sexual harassment.

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Herring seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Dailey signed the resolution via docuSign.

Mr. Bordelon updated the commission on the current financial status of the Boll Weevil Emergency Fund, maintenance inspection fees collected, and maintenance inspection fees remaining unpaid for the 2019 and 2020 crop years.

Mr. Bordelon and Mr. Brown gave the commission an update regarding a request from the Acadian Brown Cotton organization to use an alternative insecticide in order to maintain organic status.

Technical Advisory Committee

There was no update from the Technical Advisory Committee.

Farm Bureau Oversight Committee Report

Mr. Breaux stated that cotton producers continue to support the work of the Boll Weevil Eradication program statewide.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. White. Dr. Rankins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Dailey adjourned the meeting at 9:41 am.