

LOUISIANA BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION

March 20, 2019

10:00 a.m.

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 10:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Tonya Peairs.

Members present: Jack Dailey, Tim White, Heath Herring, Ben Guthrie, Benjy Rayburn (representing Commissioner Strain), Dr. Dan Fromme (representing Dr. Richardson).

Members absent: Travis Vallee, Luke Sayes.

Others present: Marc Bordelon, Ansel Rankins, Kurt Moreau, Ronald Williams, Nolan Adcock, Brian Breaux, Mike Turner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting. Mr. Guthrie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REQUEST FOR WAIVERS OF MAINTENANCE FEES

Vernon Mathews-Mathews Farms - Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 107.72 acres of cotton that was planted and failed to get a stand.

Ellis Erwin-Erwin Farms Partnership – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 608.78 acres of cotton that was planted and failed to get a stand.

John David Frith-Frith Farms Partnership – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 109.59 acres of cotton that was planted and failed due to excessive rainfall.

Paul C. Harris – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 609.07 acres of cotton that was planted and failed to get a stand.

Joel Lee Mathews-Mathews Cattle Co. – Requested a waiver of maintenance fees paid on 40.15 acres of cotton planted and failed to get a stand.

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. Guthrie. Mr. Herring seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon informed the commission that the hearing officer for the Department of Agriculture & Forestry had granted a continuance of the adjudicatory hearing. The continuance was requested by Mr. George Max Evans Sr., on behalf of his son, George Max Evans Jr., case no. 18BW01. After a brief discussion, the commission agreed to hear this case at a later date to be determined and agreed upon by all parties.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from the Commissioner

Mr. Rayburn gave an update on the upcoming legislative session at the capitol.

Update from the Director

Mr. Bordelon updated the commission on the financial status of the Boll Weevil Emergency Fund, maintenance inspection fees collected, and maintenance inspection fees remaining unpaid. He also updated them on the 2019 crop year standard operational plan (SOP), trapping protocol, and continuing inspections of harvest equipment.

Mr. Bordelon reminded the commission that because of excessive rainfall throughout the state, stalks were left standing after the December 31st deadline. 72 producers were sent letters reminding them of the importance of stalk destruction, but under the circumstances no action would be taken against them at this time.

Mr. Bordelon presented to the commission with a resolution for the adoption of changes to be made to the program regulations, decreasing the maintenance inspection fee from \$5/planted acre to \$4/planted acre.

Motion: Mr. Guthrie made a motion to approve the regulation changes being proposed. Mr. White seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mr. Dailey signed the resolution.

Technical Advisory Committee

Dr. Dan Fromme stated that the Technical Advisory Committee had not met, but approved of the SOP.

Farm Bureau Oversight Committee Report

Mr. Brian Breaux stated that each producer that he polled continues to be pleased with the Boll Weevil Eradication program. Several producers expressed their concerns over the stalks still remaining in some fields. He also gave a report on funds paid to the National Boll Weevil Emergency Protection Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Rankins gave an update of the Guava Root Knot Nematode quarantine.

ADJOURN

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Herring. Mr. Guthrie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Dailey adjourned the meeting at 10:52am.