

LOUISIANA BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION

December 6, 2012

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. Danny Logan at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Tonya Peairs.

Members present: Danny Logan, George Lacour, Jack Dailey, Boyd Holley, Dr. Rogers Leonard (representing Chancellor Richardson), Tim White and Todd Parker (representing Commissioner Strain).

Others present: Marc Bordelon, Kurt Moreau, Becky Wilkerson, John Dumas, Chad Price, Martin Close, Vernon Thomas, Tad Hardy, Nolan Adcock, Travis Walker, Ben Guthrie, Dr. David Kerns, Sebe Brown and Tonya Peairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holley and passed unanimously.

FAILED ACRES/WAIVER OF ASSESSMENT REQUEST

There was a discussion regarding Mr. Drew Lefler requesting a waiver of his 2012 cotton assessment, due to poor germination because of dry conditions. Becky Wilkerson assured the crop had been properly destroyed.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to waive the assessment on 50% of the failed acreage. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Report for the Commissioner

Mr. Parker updated the commission on three Boll Weevil employees being transferred to various other departments within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry because of the reduction in cotton acreage.

Update from the Director

Mr. Bordelon gave an update on program activities including the recent auction of used equipment in the Monroe office. The auction was a success and netted the Boll Weevil Program approximately \$104,000.00. He also spoke on monies deposited into the Boll Weevil Emergency Fund in July, in the amount of \$269,025.00. This brings the amount in the fund to a total of \$669,834.71. Mr. Bordelon gave an update on assessments collected and still pending. There has been 225,226.28 acres of cotton certified through FSA for 2012 and 226,078.42 acres mapped by Boll Weevil personnel. One hundred fifty five (155) acres of cotton have not been picked and 525 acres have not been destroyed as of this meeting date. Mr. Bordelon then informed the commission members that they are required to take one hour of education and training on the ethics code annually (pursuant to LA R.S 42:1170(A)). The training is available online for their convenience.

Technical Advisory Committee

Dr. Leonard recommended Dr. David Kerns of the LSU Ag Center, Macon Ridge Research Station as chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to appoint Dr. Kerns as chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour. A request for public comment was made and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding stalk destruction. Dr. Kerns spoke about other states not requiring farmers to destroy their stalks after harvest is complete.

Motion: Mr. Holley made a motion to have the Technical Advisory Committee make a recommendation on stalk destruction going forward. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey. A request for public comment was made and there was none. Motion passed unanimously.

USDA Report

There was no report from USDA.

Farm Bureau Oversight Committee Report

There was no report from the Farm Bureau Oversight Committee.

Discussion of proposed National Boll Weevil Protection Fund

There was a discussion on the proposed National Boll Weevil Protection Fund. Dr. Leonard acknowledged the challenges facing the areas where eradication must still be accomplished and specifically addressed the difficulties regarding areas in South Texas, mainly in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Logan reported on the Boll Weevil Action Committee meeting held in Dallas recently and spoke about that Committee's decision to support the concept of each state's Foundation or Commission setting aside up to \$0.75 on every acre planted to help with eradication efforts along the southern Texas border with Mexico.

Motion: Mr. Lacour made a motion for the Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Commission to support the concept of helping the South Texas eradication effort and

asked that Commissioner Strain evaluate the feasibility of financially supporting the proposed Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dailey and passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

Mr. Logan adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.