**LOUISIANA SWEET POTATO ADVERTISING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**June 22, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**10:00 AM**

Dean Lee Research & Extension Station

LSUA

8105 Tom Bowman Dr.

Alexandria, LA 71302

TENTATIVE MINUTES-PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

\*\*Note: this is a draft of the minutes from the June 22, 2023, meeting of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission. A final version of these minutes will be made available after approval of the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

 Chairman Jason Ables called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present Members Absent**

Dr. Tara Smith Matt Garber

Melvin Chappel Zach Hankins

Jason Ables Charles Brown

Larry Fontenot

Pauline Kinnaird

Cindy Vead

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Rene Simon called roll and declared a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Mr. Fontenot to accept the minutes for the December 8, 2022, as presented. It was seconded by Mrs. Vead and passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to accept the Financial Report as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Fontenot and passed unanimously.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Planning the 2024 USSPC Annual meeting to be held in New Orleans.
* Attended the 2023 USSPC’s Annual meeting in Wilmington, NC in January.
* Participated in different American Sweet Potato Marketing Institute’s meetings.

**REPORT FROM THE GRAHAM GROUP**

 Candy Domengeaux updated the board on the current marketing strategies that Graham Group has implemented for the Sweet Potato Commission.

**OLD BUSINESS**

 **LSU AgCenter Update**

Dr. Tara Smith and Mr. Myrl Sistrunk gave an update on the status of the AgCenter, the Sweet Potato Station and Sweet Potato Research.

**LDAF Horticulture/Quarantine Program Update**

Ms. Tina Peltier, Director, LDAF Horticulture and Quarantine Program and Mr. Richard Miller, Administrative Coordinator, updated the Commission on issues related to the Guava Root Knot Nematode and sweet potato weevils.

**Louisiana is hosting the USSPC Convention in January 20-24, 2024**

The Commission and the Louisiana Sweet Potato Association will need assistance from staff and members to successfully host the convention.

**NEW BUSINESS**

 **Consideration of FY 2023/24 Budget**

 A motion was made by Mr. Fontenot to approve the budget as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Chappell and passed unanimously.

**Nominations of Board Members for the Commission**

 Mr. Fontenot nominated Mr. Jason Ables for a second term on the Commission. It was seconded by Dr. Smith and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

 **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. Fontenot to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by

Mrs. Vead and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.