

TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL)

MEETING OF THE

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PESTICIDES

JANUARY 28, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA**

NOTE: THESE ARE TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 28, 2026 MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PESTICIDES. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Billy Guthrie at 9:34 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Billy Guthrie, Mr. George Bragg, Dr. Blaine Viator, Ms. Jenny Buller, Mr. Johnny Landry, Mr. Floyd Fowler, Mr. Roby Shields, and Ms. Rebecca Triche

Members absent: Mr. Scotty Meador

A quorum was present.

Others present: Tanika Starks – Hearing Officer, Tabitha Irvin – LDAF Executive Counsel, Angela Jackson – LDAF Attorney, Lyndon Leonards – LDAF, Kiara Moore – LDAF, Joe Ingrao – LDAF, Ashley LaBorde – LDAF, Bethany Gonzales – LDAF Attorney, Jade Saunders – LDAF Attorney, Brian Gueltig – LSU AG Center, Mary Sexton – LSU AG Center and Jason Starns – LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion: Mr. George Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes with changes from the August 27, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roby Shields and passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Mr. Billy Guthrie confirmed with Mr. Lyndon Leonards the future meeting date of August 19, 2026.

ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

Hearing Officer Ms. Tanika Starks conducted the adjudicatory hearings. LDAF Attorney, Ms. Angela Jackson, presented the following matters:

STIPULATED CASES

Case No. 26-ACP-0101 Zachary LaHaye

4472 Vidrine Road
Ville Platte, LA 70586

The Department charged Mr. LaHaye with:

One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3252(A)(18); Specifically LAC 7:XXIII.1101(I)

The stipulation was presented by Ms. Angela Jackson.

Mr. LaHaye was not present. The department and Mr. LaHaye entered a stipulation in which Respondent admits to the allegations and agrees to pay the penalty of \$1,000.00 within 30-days after receipt of the Commissioner's acceptance. The stipulation was signed by all parties.

Ms. Starks admitted LDAF Exhibits 1 and 2 into the record.

Motion: Mr. Johnny Landry made a motion to accept the facts set forth in the stipulation and that the penalty be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mr. George Bragg and passed unanimously.

Case No. 26-ACP-0104 Earnest Baker

9 Baker Lane
Rayville, LA 71269

The Department charged Mr. McCollam with:

One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3252(A)(2) and One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3252(A)(6)

The stipulation was presented by Ms. Angela Jackson.

Mr. Baker was not present. The department and Mr. Baker entered a stipulation in which Respondent admits to the allegations and agrees to pay the penalty of \$1,250.00 within 30-days after receipt of the Commissioner's acceptance. The stipulation was signed by all parties.

Ms. Starks admitted LDAF Exhibits 1 and 2 into the record.

Motion: Mr. Roby Shields made a motion to accept the facts set forth in the stipulation and that the penalty be accepted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Blaine Viator and passed unanimously.

LDAF Attorney, Ms. Jade Saunders, presented the following matters:

Case No. 26-ACP-0105 James Hodge

130 Kiowa Street
Monroe, LA 71203

The Department charged Mr. Hodge with:

One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3252(A)(18); Specifically LAC 7:XXIII.1101(I) and One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3252(A)(2)

The stipulation was presented by Ms. Jade Saunders.

Mr. Hodge was not present. The department and Mr. Hodge entered a stipulation in which Respondent admits to the allegations and agrees to pay the penalty of \$1,000.00 with \$250.00 being suspended if paid within 30-days after receipt of the Commissioner's acceptance. The stipulation was signed by all parties.

Ms. Starks admitted LDAF Exhibits 1 and 2 into the record.

Motion: Dr. Blaine Viator made a motion to accept the facts set forth in the stipulation and that the penalty be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Landry and passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF AG CONSULTANT EXAM APPLICATIONS

Mr. Joe Ingrao presented to the commission the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Advisory Commission on Pesticides for Agriculture Consultant Exam Applications:

Kenneth Carter Banks – (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agricultural Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control, (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management, (4b) Agricultural Soil, Water & Tissue Analysis, (4c) Agricultural Soil Reclamation, (4d) Agricultural Water Management

Motion: Mr. George Bragg made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to deny the application for Agricultural Consultant Examinations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jenny Buller and passed unanimously.

Hager Fortenberry – (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control

Motion: Ms. Rebecca Triche made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to approve the application for Agricultural Consultant Examinations for (1a) Agricultural Entomology and deny the application for examination for (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology and (3a) Agricultural Weed Control. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Landry and passed unanimously.

Jacob Broussard – (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control, (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management

Motion: Mr. Floyd Fowler made a motion to approve the recommendation of the AD Hoc Committee to approve the application for Agricultural Consultant Examinations for (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control, and (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. George Bragg and passed unanimously.

Andrew Tyler Bonaventure - (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control

Motion: Mr. George Bragg made a motion to approve the recommendation of the AD Hoc Committee to approve the application for Agricultural Consultant Examinations for (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control and (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roby Shields and passed unanimously.

Cole Jude Lacombe – (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agricultural Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control, (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management, (4b) Agricultural Soil, Water & Tissue Analysis.

Motion: Ms. Jenny Buller made a motion to approve the recommendation of the AD Hoc Committee to approve the application for Agricultural Consultant Examinations for (1a) Agricultural Entomology, (2a) Agriculture Plant Pathology, (3a) Agricultural Weed Control and (4a) Agricultural Field Soil Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny Landry and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Gilpin with Gulf States Clean Guard addressed the commission regarding businesses providing services without certifications and business licenses.

LDAF REPORT:

Mr. Lyndon Leonards discussed staffing updates. Pesticide Registration Coordinator position is currently vacant. There are currently ten vacant inspector positions statewide.

Mr. Leonards updated the commission on the Unwanted Pesticide Program. The last pesticide pick-up disposal event was held on February 18, 2025. There were no additional events in 2025 and there are not any currently scheduled for 2026.

Mr. Leonards discussed registration updates for Section 18 requests.

Mr. Leonards discussed updated certification and training rules and regulations to meet new EPA certification and training plan requirements and currently working on updating the licensing program database updated to reflect the updated rules.

Mr. Leonards updated the commission on the new online certification testing system that was launched in November 2025.

Mr. Leonards reported that LDAF investigated 346 pesticide complaints and 2,700 routine inspections during 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Jenny Buller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. George Bragg and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Chairman Signature

Printed Name