

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

MINUTES

December 5, 2012

10:00 AM

Veterans Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

**Present:** Commissioner Strain, Ted Gauthier, William Hawkins, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., William Stutts, Calvin Viator, and Wilbert Waguespack

**Absent:** Richard Muller and Linda Zaunbrecher

Mrs. Tullier stated seven members were present and there was a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPOINT DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins to appoint René Simon as Director, and Pete Rudesill as Assistant Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stutts, and passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Strain asked the Authority members to review the minutes from the September 26, 2012, meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2012, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statement to the board and answered any questions the members may have had.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Rudesill updated the members on the status of the hardening of the main building. He stated that the project is nearing completion.
- Mr. Rudesill updated the members on the sewerage upgrade at Indian Creek. He is currently waiting on the engineer to develop a list of what supplies are needed. Once that is complete the bid process will begin.
- Mr. Simon updated the board on South Louisiana Rail Facility. Construction will begin on January 14, 2013 to install a turn-out to the rail.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Refinance debt from Lacassine Syrup Mill**

Commissioner Strain and Mr. Simon updated the board on the current status of the bonds. The closing is scheduled for December 14, 2012. They will be with Capital One Bank with a 1.95% fixed interest rate for ten (10) years with a five (5) year call option.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Marketing Strategy for Lacassine Syrup Mill**

Mr. Simon requested that the board do "Request for Qualifications" to find a qualified company to market Lacassine in an effective way. The LAFA board will need to develop a panel with expertise in the sugar industry to review the proposals.

Commissioner Strain appointed Calvin Viator to sit on the panel to represent the LAFA board.

### **Marketing Strategy for Roseland Saw Mill**

Mr. Simon updated the board on interested parties in the property in Roseland. He is in discussions with GOHSEP and the Louisiana National Guard to possibly lease the property. Plans are to sell the equipment that is currently located at the property by auction.

### **Short Term Lease of Lacassine Property to Andean Chemical**

Andean Chemical is interested in leasing the Lacassine property for a minimum of three (3) months to a maximum of six (6) months for \$40,000 per month. Mr. Simon stated that if the lease was not completed by January 8, 2013, LAFA will place a lien on the equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins to enter into a lease with Andean Chemical. Mr. Parker seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Stutts to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Hawkins and approved unanimously.

FINAL