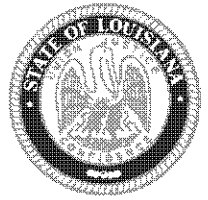


# LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN DVM

COMMISSIONER



March 25, 2010

10:00 A.M.

Scott Research & Extension Education Center  
212 Macon Ridge Rd.  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

## Minutes

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### Agro-Consumer Services

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### Animal Health Services

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### Soil & Water Conservation

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### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 10:10 A.M.

### ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Todd Parker (representing Commissioner Strain) Dr. Roger Leonard, Danny Logan, Jack Dailey, Boyd Holley and George LaCour.

Members absent: Dan Turner

Others present: LDAF employees Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, Kurt Moreau, Dan Tullos, John Dumas, Nathan Oliver, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Vernon Thomas, and Eva Wales; John Kruse, LSU Ag Center; Brian Breaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau and Jess Barr, Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2009 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Holley and passed unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon gave a brief report on 2009 assessments as follows: \$1,355,821.32 collected for 2009; all producers paid assessments.

### REPORT FOR COMMISSIONER STRAIN

Mr. Parker gave a brief update on program funding, stating that the proposed state budget for the new fiscal year has approximately \$2.5 state general funds for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. He reported that he met recently with the House Appropriations Committee to answer questions regarding the program. He noted that one of the committee's major concerns was a timeline for completion of the program. Mr. Parker stated that he re-affirmed to them that after next fiscal year we will no longer need state general funds; the program will operate solely on assessments.

### UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bordelon gave a report on supplies for this year. All trapping supplies have been delivered at a total cost of \$200,410. Lure, bamboo and kill strips were ordered at 2009 prices; traps were slightly less than last year's price. He added that we ordered only yellow traps. Mr. Bordelon reported that we purchased 15 totes of Malathion at the end of 2009 at a 2% discount. Considering the anticipated price increase this year, we saved \$2.21 per gallon by purchasing early. Mr. Bordelon stated that we have 21 totes in inventory, which should spray 70,000 acres; approximately 99,000 acres were sprayed last year.

Discussion followed regarding the length of time that Malathion can be stored without degradation. Dr. Leonard stated that with proper storage, it should be good for at least three years. There was a discussion regarding a request for Malathion ULV exemption for plant bugs, etc., with Dr. Leonard stating that requests must be renewed yearly. Mr. Parker stated that he will follow up on this.

Mr. Bordelon then gave a brief report of employee numbers, stating that we expect to hire 17 seasonal employees this year compared to 59 last year. This is the result of increased trap spacing and full-time employees taking on trapping duties.

Mr. Bordelon stated that beginning this year assessments can no longer be collected at parish Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices. He reviewed the updated Cotton Acreage Reporting Form and Payment Form, stating that one of these will be mailed to all 2009 producers. This form, along with a copy of the FSA producer print and assessment payment, will be mailed directly to our office. Once certification is complete, FSA will send us electronic data for comparison. Discussion followed. It was suggested that copies of this form be available at FSA offices.

Mr. Bordelon presented the 2010 Operational Plan (copy on file) pointing out that four pin head square applications will be made on any field within one mile of 2009 fields where a single weevil was caught between August 3 and November 20. He presented the 2010 Trapping Protocol (copy on file), noting that 2009 weevil free areas will be trapped this year at 1 trap per 20 acres, with traps being run every three weeks. Trap density will be greater on areas where even a single weevil was caught last year and traps will be run weekly.

Discussion followed regarding the number of single weevil catches last year. Dr. Leonard stated that in his opinion, these weevils are coming from a source field, not the point of capture. Further discussion followed regarding mechanical movement of weevils. Dr. Leonard stated that Mr. Bordelon has redrawn lines to isolate trappers within hot spots so they aren't traveling into weevil free areas.

#### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT**

Dr. Leonard reported that the TAC met March 22, at which time Mr. Bordelon presented his 2010 Operational Plan and Trapping Protocol. These were reviewed and accepted by the TAC. Dr. Leonard submitted key notes and actions items from the meeting (copy of file). He stated that the TAC also recommends that we begin working on a post-reaction plan to be in place by 2011.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to support the recommendations of the TAC. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lacour and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dailey left the meeting at this point. Mr. Walker replaced him as alternate member.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding stalk destruction protocol as related to the wet field conditions last year. Mr. Montgomery stated that according to the law, regulations must be applicable to everyone within the category defined. He stressed the necessity for consistency in enforcement.

**Motion:** Mr. Lacour made a motion requesting that Commissioner Strain send a letter to all producers who received non-compliance notices informing them that the notice serves as a penalty for violating Boll Weevil regulations and that as a penalty, it may be used for a period of three years to affect any future penalty(s) in the event the producer is found to be in violation. The producer has the opportunity to contest the notice of non-compliance by a written request filed within 30 days of the Commissioner's letter. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

Further discussion followed regarding producers who still have stalks standing at this time.

**Motion:** Mr. Lacour made a motion requesting that Commissioner Strain send a letter to all producers who received non-compliance notices informing them that if stalks are not destroyed by April 30, 2010, they will be charged with violating Boll Weevil regulations and may be called to an adjudicatory hearing. This motion was seconded by Travis Walker and passed unanimously.

#### **FARM BUREAU OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Breaux presented a report of comments from producers who were surveyed (copy of file). The major areas addressed included program operation, 2010 cotton acres and stalk destruction. He stated that producers surveyed had positive feedback on the overall operation and success of the program.

#### **ADDITIONAL BUISNESS**

There was no additional business.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.