

LOUISIANA BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION

March 31, 2015

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. Jack Dailey at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Tonya Peairs.

Members present: Jack Dailey, Todd Parker (Representing Commissioner Strain), Tim White, David Kerns (Representing Chancellor Richardson), and Ben Guthrie

Members absent: Luke Sayes and George Lacour

Others present: Marc Bordelon, Tad Hardy, Nolan Adcock, Becky Wilkerson, John Dumas, Martin Close, Lindsey Hunter (Attorney), John Morris (Hearing Officer) and Ken Jones

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to discuss this item after new business to give Mr. Jones time to arrive. The motion was seconded by Mr. Guthrie. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bordelon updated the commission on fees collected and fees turned over to the Attorney General's office for collections. He also informed the commission that there were four producers that received warning letters in regards to stalk destruction. These producers had less than 1% of their stalks remaining after December 31, 2014 and therefore, did not warrant charges.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from the Commissioner

Mr. Parker informed the commission on estimated monies that may be available to be moved to the emergency fund.

Update from the Director

Mr. Bordelon informed the commission of the resignation of Danny Logan and Travis Walker. He is awaiting a list of replacement nominees from Louisiana Farm Bureau. Also, the Boll Weevil Eradication Program had one employee retire in February 2015.

An update on trap density was given. One trap per 300 acres will be implemented this year.

Technical Advisory Committee

At the December 9, 2014 commission meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was tasked by the commission to discuss and recommend continuing or discontinuing the stalk destruction policy. Dr. Kerns said that the committee recommended continuing stalk destruction practices until the boll weevil emergency fund had a sufficient amount of money available in case of a reinfestation. The Committee is also in agreement with the trap density recommendations.

USDA Report

There was no report from USDA.

Farm Bureau Oversight Committee Report

There was no report from Farm Bureau.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Mr. Ken Jones dba Little Brake Farms LLC, charged with 30 violations of LAC 7:XV.323 (B), which requires the destruction on cotton stalks on or before December 31 of the crop year. Mr. Jones was present and agreed to the allegations. He stipulated to the facts and pleaded his case, citing poor weather and mechanical failure.

Motion: A motion to accept the stipulation was made by Mr. Parker. Mr. Guthrie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Bordelon recommended a penalty of \$22,500.00 with \$19,375.00 suspended; making the \$3,125.00 unsuspended portion payable within 30 days of the Commissioner's signature accepting the stipulation or as soon as a payment arrangement can be agreed upon by both parties.

Motion: Mr. Guthrie made a motion to accept Mr. Bordelon's recommendations. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dailey adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.