

HORTICULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
February 19, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Tentative Minutes – Pending Board Approval

Note: this is a draft of the minutes from February 19th, 2025, meeting of the Horticulture 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

The hearing was called to order by Todd Parker at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Davis

Members present: Rob Barry, Cole Sims, Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Mitch Mayes, Cathy Sonnier, Rebekah O'Quin, Chad Danos, Todd Parker, Dr. Ansel Rankins, Dr. Ed Bush.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Assistant Attorney General Olivia Boudreaux, Hearing Officer; Angela Jackson, LDAF Legal Counsel; Tina Peltier, LDAF; Marsha Dugas, LDAF; and Tiara Davis, LDAF.

Mr. Parker made a motion to amend the agenda and insert continued case 24-HORT-012, Jobe Bourgeois. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Irvin, addressed the commission, reminding all to take their Ethics training as well as their Sexual Harassment trainings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Danos made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024, meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be July 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Mr. Grant Estrade requested to have his landscape horticulturist license reinstated.

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to allow reinstatement of Mr. Estrade's license.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Dugas addressed the commission, with an update on a previous complaint that Representative Emile "Peppi" Bruneau and Ms. Val Cupit presented to the commission at the November 21, 2024, meeting pertaining to Mckenzie Tree Enterprises.

At 9:40 a.m. the meeting was turned over to the hearing officer.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

CONTINUED CASES

Jobe Bourgeois

D/B/A JB Landscaping & Pressure Washing, LLC

43406 N. Pinecrest Street

Gonzales, La., 70737

Case No. 24-HORT-012

Two violations of R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising in regulated professions (landscape horticulturist, landscape irrigation contractor) without proper licenses. One violation of R.S. 3:3810A (2) for violating a written stop order in regulated professions (landscape horticulturist, landscape irrigation contractor) without proper licenses.

This case was granted continuance to the next scheduled meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Mrs. Peltier gave a staffing update that included the promotion of Bobbee Jones to Administrative Coordinator IV and AES inspector vacancies for the Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Opelousas districts. An update was given on the renewal progress of all permits and licenses. The Horticulture Law, Rules & Regulations have been finalized to reflect the new law changes from the 2024 legislative session. The Louisiana Arborist Association, The Southern University Ag and Extension Center, LSU AgCenter, and LDAF have scheduled a meeting for March 13, 2025, to discuss the revisions to the Arborist and Utility Arborist examinations. For fiscal year 2025, LDAF has been awarded funding for Sudden Oak Death, Solanaceous, National Honeybee, and Forest Pest. Mrs. Peltier gave a summary of the items discussed at the National CAPS Committee annual meeting she attended February 10-13, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona, as the Southern Plant Board SPRO representative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 a.m.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

TENTATIVE