

MINUTES

LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION & RESEARCH BOARD

May 2nd, 2023

Alumni Center

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Call to Order:

David Savoy called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Savoy
Greg Faulk
Kip Lastrapes
Ralph Babin
Chandra Scarber
Robert Buller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bill Pizzolato

Declaration of a Quorum:

A quorum was declared with 6 members.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the March 6th, 2023 Board meeting were read.

MOTION BY: Ralph Babin seconded by Kip Lastrapes to approve the minutes from the March 6th, 2023 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Collections & Financial Report:

David Savoy called on Ron Harrell to present the collections and financial reports. He reported to the Board the current condition of accounts.

MOTION BY: Ralph Babin seconded by Kip Lastrapes to approve the financials. Motion Carried.

Promotion & Research:

Todd Fontenot introduced himself as the new area extension crawfish agent for the LSU AgCenter.

MOTION BY: A motion was made by Ralph Babin seconded by Robert Buller to sign a letter in support of the creation of a pond side White Spot test by USDA-APHIS.
Motion Carried.

Dr. John Hawke and Jacqueline Elliot, LSU AgCenter, presented a research proposal on White Spot Syndrome. The research objectives of this project are:

1. Observe and characterize the pathological effects of the virus at a macro- and microscopic level.
 - a. The purpose of this study is to elucidate the underlying properties and mechanisms of different genotypic strains of WSSV in crawfish at a tissue and cellular level to better understand the pathology of the virus in Louisiana Crawfish.
 - i. Why does the virus appear more active at certain temperatures? (i.e. 25°C vs. 18/32 °C)
 - ii. What effect does the virus have at the cellular level, particularly within epithelial cells of the intestinal tract, hepatopancreas, and gills?
 - iii. Can the virus be transmitted to offspring (i.e. vertical transmission)?
 - iv. Do any survivors become carriers of the virus and serve as reservoirs of disease?
2. Identify particular strains of the virus and compare those among different geographical locations that have been tested throughout Louisiana.
 - a. Is the strain of the virus the same in various geographical locations across the state of Louisiana? Does it differ from strains of the virus seen in other locations, both nationally and internationally, particularly those infecting shrimp in Asia?
 - b. Has the virus mutated or become more widespread since the last major surveillance performed in 2007?
3. Develop an immunohistochemical approach of identifying the virus within infected tissues and cells.
 - a. Can we utilize similar envelope proteins VP19 and VP28 to develop an IHC test for the detection of WSSV in infected crawfish?

Over the last decade, WSSV has become an increasingly significant concern in the production of Louisiana red swamp crawfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), and questions about the disease are abundant and management strategies to combat infection within Louisiana production facilities are needed. The potential outcome of the study could aid in the education of crawfish producers and the development of specific protocols that would aid in decreasing WSSV outbreaks and improving crawfish production across the state of Louisiana.

MOTION BY: A motion was made by Ralph Babin seconded by Chandra Scarber to approve this proposal for the amount of \$20,000.00. Motion Carried.

Patrick Fields, Nexstar, gave an update to the Board on the digital marketing campaign. He reported on the results of the digital audio, paid social media and connected television during February through May 2023.

Next, Yvette Bonanno gave her promotion update to the Board. She discussed all social media videos and posts. She is working with multiple chefs to creating videos featuring Louisiana crawfish. She is working with Donald Dartez to update the Board's website and create more content.

Donald Dartez, RAD Consulting, gave a report on the Board's website and discussed the new content and updates for the site.

MOTION BY: A motion was made by Greg Faulk seconded by Ralph Babin to approve \$2,500.00 to RAD Consulting to add new content and updates to the Board's website. Motion Carried.

Gene Cavalier gave the Board an update on LDAF activities.

Board Business:

The Board next discussed the crawfish season.

No public comment

The date for the next Board meeting will be Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Alumni Center on the University of Lafayette campus.

MOTION BY: A motion was made by Kip Lastrapes and seconded by Ralph Babin to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.