

Minutes

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Blvd.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

June 27, 2018

9:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Robert Hanks called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Commission Members Present

Mr. Robert Hanks
Mr. Elliott Ater
Mr. Ronald Petree
Mr. Ryan Ellington
Mr. Tom Russell

Absent Members

Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain
Mr. Donald Berken
Mr. Stephen Logan
Mr. Kevin Webb
Mr. Donald Zaunbrecker

There was a quorum of five (5) members present.

Staff Members Present

Director, Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission, Kyra Fitzgerald
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Accountant Admin 3, Mark Ott
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Executive Counsel, Tabitha Irvin
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Jeff Fabre
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Billy Benton
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor, Crystal Bobb
Administrative Coordinator IV, Nicole Robino

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – May 30, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Robert Hanks asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

V. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to go into Executive Session to discuss the financial information of each of the applicants for licensure as a warehouse, cotton merchant and/or grain dealer. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried.

VI. NEW APPLICATIONS:

A. GRAIN DEALER

1. Grain Marketing Services, Inc.

B. GRAIN DEALER AND COTTON MERCHANT

1. Indigo Ag, LLC

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan Ellington and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to approve the grain dealer and grain dealer and cotton merchant license applications for Grain Marketing Services, Inc., and Indigo Ag, LLC. The motion carried.

VII. RENEWAL APPLICATIONS:

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to approve the following cotton merchant applications. The motion carried.

A. COTTON MERCHANTS

1. Broadway Cotton Company, Inc.
2. COFCO Americas Resources Corporation
3. Farmers Cotton Co., Inc
4. Jabbour Cotton Company, LLC
5. P.J.S. Incorporated
6. Ryan Ellington Cotton, LLC
7. Staple Cotton Cooperative Association

B. COTTON MERCHANT, GRAIN DEALER AND WAREHOUSE

1. Lakeland Cotton & Grain Co., Inc.

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to approve the cotton merchant, grain dealer and warehouse license application; Lakeland Cotton & Grain Co., Inc. The motion carried.

C. GRAIN DEALERS

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ryan Ellington to approve the following grain dealer applications. The motion carried.

1. Aaron Duhon Bins, Inc.
2. Agspring Mississippi Region, LLC
d/b/a Big River Rice and Grain
3. Bertrand Rice, LLC
4. Bunkie Elevator & Gin Company, Inc.
5. FBN CM, LLC
6. Farmers Rice Milling Co., Inc.
7. Gatlin Group, Inc.
8. Gavilon Grain, LLC
9. Harrington Rice & Soybean Buyer Co
10. Pitre Rice
11. Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC
12. Richard Independent Brokers, LLC
13. Riviana Foods, Inc. d/b/a Acadia Warehouse
14. Soileau Rice Brokers

D. GRAIN DEALERS AND WAREHOUSES

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to approve grain dealers and warehouses numbers one through four and six through nine as listed. A motion was also made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to approve number five under grain dealers and warehouses subject to them meeting licensing minimum requirements by July 31, 2018. The motion carried.

1. Angelina Grain Company, LLC
2. Hensgens Grain Elevator, Inc.
3. Holly Ridge Rice & Grain Terminal
4. Lake Arthur Drier, LLC
5. Mowata Rice Drier, Inc.
6. Pinnacle Operating Company
7. Planters Rice Mill, LLC
8. Sweetlake Land & Oil Company
9. Ville Platte Rice Drier, Inc.

E. WAREHOUSES

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to approve the following list of warehouse applications. The motion carried.

1. Hardy Rice Dryer, LLC
2. Jones Producers Gin, Inc.
3. Rayne Rice Drier and Warehouse

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Robert Hanks asked if there was any old business. Mr. Ryan Ellington requested to go back into executive session to discuss the financial status of a licensee that was on the previous agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Tom Russell to go into executive session. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Petree and seconded by Mr. Tom Russell to come out of executive session. The motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Robert Hanks asked if there was any new business. Mrs. Kyra Fitzgerald stated that the previous weekend was the Farm Bureau Convention in New Orleans. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that they were requested to speak at the convention regarding sample grade for grain and how long a file sample should be held by the elevators. Farmers in Avoyelles Parish had concerns regarding excessive deductions, and what that entailed as well as the monetary issue regarding sample grade and excessive deductions. Avoyelles parish farmers voted to pass a resolution to review the definition of sample grade and how long elevators should hold a file sample. The resolution was passed. Commissioner Mike Strain discussed changing the law or changing the regulations in order to define excessive deductions. Mr. Tom Russell read the 2018 Parish Resolutions out of Avoyelles Parish, Section 203 State and Local Farm Products and Equipment, "be it resolved that Avoyelles Parish Farm Bureau requests that all grain samples that are graded, damaged to the point that they are monetary deductions; they are to be bagged, tagged and put to the side for 48 hours so the farmer can have an option to have the sample re-graded by state certified graders at the farmers expense." It was referred to the Soybean, Wheat and Feed Grain conference group on June 23rd at the Farm Bureau Convention held in New Orleans at which time it was voted on and passed. Mrs. Fitzgerald stated that the Commissioner recommended a regulation change versus a law change. This is a topic that may be discussed at the next meeting.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hanks asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

XI. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be determined.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Russell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Petree to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.



Mr. Robert Hanks, Chairman