

**LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (Lafa)
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
10:00 AM
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
WOODWORTH COMPLEX
515 FORESTRY ROAD
WOODWORTH, LA 71485**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:09 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Stephanie Harts Bureau.

Present: Commissioner Mike Strain, Kent Brown, Devin Davis, Jennifer Hill, Ronald Petree, Bill Waguespack and Rep. Christopher Turner.

Ms. Harts Bureau stated there was a quorum with seven members present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Strain welcomed the board to the LDAF facility at Woodworth, Louisiana and thanked everyone for attending. There were no other public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the June 21, 2022, meeting.

A motion was made by Representative Turner to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2022, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack and passed unanimously.

V. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented Lafa's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions. Catrina stated that the annual audit executed by the Legislative Auditor's Office was completed and there were no findings.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Davis and passed unanimously.

VI. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Strain gave a report on the state's crop outlook.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. South Louisiana Rail Facility – Michelle Ribera reported that the South Louisiana Rail Facility is ready to draw from the \$2.4 million dollar loan to complete the rice mill.

Commissioner Strain recognized Mr. Petree as he recused himself from discussion and voting on this motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to authorize Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as Chairman of LAFA to hereby execute all actions and documents necessary to finalize this endeavor and that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry is authorized to sign all acts or documents necessary or appropriate. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespak and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Petree abstained from the vote.

B. Commissioner gave an update on the equipment shed at Baton Rouge Headquarters. He reported that all estimates for building the equipment shed exceeded the previously agreed upon amount. A motion was made by Mr. Petree to allow Commissioner to spend up to \$250,000 to erect the equipment shed. Mrs. Hill seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Commissioner informed the LAFA board regarding land adjacent to Baton Rouge Headquarters. No motion was needed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Strain requested that LAFA partner with LSU Ag Center and the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association for a research project regarding the Green Industry (categories the association sees as connected to the Green Industry include landscape horticulture, wholesale nursery growers, independent retail garden centers, landscape architects, arborists, grounds pesticide applicators, wholesale allied suppliers, golf courses, and florists).

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to authorize Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as Chairman of LAFA to hereby execute all documents necessary to finalize this endeavor and that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry is authorized to sign all acts or documents necessary or appropriate. It was seconded by Mrs. Hill and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

B. Commissioner Strain presented a loan request from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for a department website update. The loan would be for LAFA to loan LDAF \$1.5 million over five years.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to go into executive session. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to exit executive session. Mr. Waguespack seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hill made a motion to authorize Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as Chairman of LAFA to hereby execute all documents necessary to finalize this endeavor and that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry is authorized to sign all acts or documents necessary or appropriate. Mr. Petree seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Michelle Ribera presented a request for the transfer of Woodworth hangar lot #4 lease from Charles Myer to Sterling Bain.

Representative Turner moved to authorize Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, as Chairman of LAFA to hereby execute all documents necessary to finalize this endeavor and that the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry is authorized to sign all acts or documents necessary or appropriate. Mr. Petree seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Petree stated that he would like to visit other properties such as Indian Creek and Lacassine for future Board meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Petree and seconded by Mr. Waguespack. The meeting was adjourned 12:05 PM.