

MINUTES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Dairy Stabilization Board
Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

10:00 a.m., December 8, 2010

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Hillar Moore, Jr., called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

Mr. Hillar Moore, Jr.
Ms. Mary Caplinger
Mr. Daryl Robertson
Mr. Gerry R. Lane
Mr. Vincent Cannata
Mr. Gregory Kleinpeter
Mr. Kennon Davis

There were eight (8) members present. Mr. Hillar Moore, Jr., Chairman, declared there was a quorum present as required to conduct official business.

Mr. Moore asked for a moment of prayer for Mr. Vernon Toups, a good friend, who recently passed away.

Mr. Bob Simon reflected over the thirty years service Mr. Toups contributed to the Dairy Stabilization Board and the excellent job he performed as a board member.

III. Election of Officers

Mr. Gregory Kleinpeter and Mr. Kennon Davis were sworn in by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry legal counsel, Tabitha Gray.

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Hillar Moore as Chairman of the Dairy Stabilization Board. Mr. Gerry Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hillar Moore nominated Mr. Kennon Davis as Vice-Chair. Mrs. Mickie Caplinger seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Daryl Robertson nominated Mrs. Mickie Caplinger as Secretary/Treasurer and Mr. Gerry Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hillar Moore asked the Dairy Staff and guests to introduce themselves.

Staff Members Present:

Bob Simon, Director of the Dairy Stabilization Board
Benjy Rayburn, Assistant Commissioner of Agro Consumer Services
Michelle Ribera, Acting Director of the Dairy Stabilization Board
Dr. Brent Robbins, Deputy Commissioner for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
David Meche, Assistant Division Director
John Smith, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor
Jeff Fabre, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Auditor
Gail Moutz, Secretary

Guests Present:

Gerald Simmons, Louisiana Dairy Products
Gary Cazaubon, Administrator of the Milk and Dairy Division, DHH
Dr. Charlie Hutchinson, Extension Dairy Specialist, LSU AG Science
Dr. Bruce Jenny, School of Animal Sciences, Dairy Science Divisions, LSU AG Center
Jeff Kleinpeter, President of Kleinpeter Dairy
Cal Simpson, Blue Bell Ice Cream
Paul Johnson, Blue Bell Ice Cream
Michael Richardson, Associated Grocers
Larry Miller, Field Representative for the Dairy Farmers of America
Rodney Irvin, Dairy Farmers of America
Dr. Gautier, LSU Dept of AG Economics

IV. Appointment of Director

A motion was made by Mr. Robertson to appoint Mrs. Ribera as the new Dairy Division Director and Mr. Kleinpeter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore, introduced Mrs. Michelle Ribera as the new Dairy Division Director.

Mrs. Ribera thanked the Dairy Stabilization Board for the position as Director of the Dairy Division. She stated that she looks forward to working with each of the board members. Mrs. Ribera stated that she has been employed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry since 1991 and worked in the Commissioner's office during that time.

Mrs. Ribera stated that since the new administration has taken office, she stated that the Commissioner has given her more opportunities than she has ever had. Commissioner Strain allowed her to be the director of the Live Stock and Brand Commission. Mrs. Ribera stated now that Mr. Simon is retiring, the Commissioner has offered the new Director of the Stabilization Board. She thanked everyone for the opportunity. She looked forward to working with the commission and industry.

Mr. Moore welcomed Mrs. Ribera as the Director of the Dairy Stabilization Board.

V. Adoption of Minutes – April 20, 2010

A motion was made by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Kleinpeter to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Review of Financial Statement

Mrs. Michelle Ribera gave a report on the financial statement from July 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009 and July 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. She stated the reason assessments were but there were some assessments that had not been mailed in yet by the companies. She stated she and Mr. Smith will be working together diligently on seeing that the assessment are being accumulated. Mrs. Ribera stated there was an increase in salaries which was due to the auditors and she being added to the budget with Mr. Simon. A motion was made by Mrs. Caplinger and seconded by Mr. Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Report from Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM

Mr. Benjy Rayburn, Assistant Commissioner, on behalf of Commissioner wanted to thank Mr. Davis and Mr. Kleinpeter accepting the position as board members and their willingness to serve. He stated he felt Mrs. Ribera would do a good job as the new director of the Dairy Division.

Mr. Rayburn stated that Mr. Simon has done an excellent job as director of the Dairy Division and he has enjoyed working with him for the last six years since he has become the Assistant Commissioner of Agro Consumers Division.

Mr. Rayburn stated that on behalf of the Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, who had a previous engagement, he wanted to present Mr. Simon with a letter of accommodation for his 58 years of service he provided to the dairy farmers, processors, distributors, the industry and the Dairy Division.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Jeff Kleinpeter commended Mr. Simon on his dedicated service to the Dairy Division and industry and thanked Mr. Simon on a job well done.

Mr. Gerald Simmons also thanked Mr. Simon on a tremendous job he has done for the Dairy industry. He stated that he considered Mr. Simon as a true friend to him and to the Dairy Stabilization Board and industry.

Mr. Gary Cazaubon commended Mr. Simon as well and spoke of how he appreciated the working relationship he and Mr. Simon had in regards to the dairy farmers.

Mr. Cazaubon gave a brief overall report on the status of the dairies in Louisiana. He stated that there are one hundred and forty-one dairies remaining in Louisiana. He stated that 30% of milk originates from Louisiana farms and the remainder of milk originates from out of state.

Mr. Moore told Mr. Simon that he has thoroughly enjoyed working in association with him through the years regarding the dairy industry.

Mr. Vince Cannata stated that he felt that the board received 100% support from Mr. Simon regarding the Dairy Stabilization Board and dairy issues in the past years and he thanked him for that support.

Mr. Simon thanked all the board members, staff and guests for their appreciation and stated that he enjoyed his job as the Director of the Stabilization Board and his association with all of the dairy industry entities as well.

Mr. Simon added that the Dairy Stabilization Board is made up of eight members and there is a need for one more producer. He said hopefully that the position will be filled in the near future.

IX. New Business

Commissioner Mike Strain DVM, signed the Proclamation and congratulated Mr. Simon and thanked him for his years of service to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Dairy Division.

Mr. Simon thanked the Commissioner, the Dairy Stabilization Board, the Dairy Division staff and guests.

X. Public Comments

None

XI. Date for the next meeting

Dairy Stabilization Board made a request that the board meet on a quarterly basis in the future. The date for the next Dairy Stabilization Board meeting will be determined at a later date.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded by to Ms. Caplinger and seconded by Mr. Lane to adjourn the Dairy Stabilization Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mickie Caplinger
Louisiana Dairy Stabilization Board