



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



DAIRY STABILIZATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
 Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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Soil & Water Conservation
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennon Davis, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUOROM

Roll was called by LDAF Staff Kasey Patton

The following Board members were present:

- Kennon Davis
- Bryan Stafford
- Dantre Blanchard
- Cal Simpson
- Eric Lane

Board member Joy Womack was not in attendance.

With five (5) members present, a quorum was declared.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments were given at this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Motion was made by Cal Simpson to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2022, meeting. Eric Lane seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Director's Report – Explanation on how complaints are received and investigated.
Director Rene Simon gave remarks on how LDAF receives and handles complaints relating to the regulation of dairy products.
Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Bobby Fletcher, also provided information relating to how complaints are handled through the Division of Weights and Measures.
- B. Walmart complaint and warning letter.
Director, Rene Simon updated the Board on incidents related to pricing and advised the Board that a warning letter was sent to Walmart's compliance department for pricing issues. Further remarks provided by Dr. Bobby Fletcher and LDAF ACS staff attorney Baleigh Olah on the process of if LDAF brings forward administrative charges against a Respondent.
- C. Kemm Wonka complaint and warning letter.
Director, Rene Simon, discussed the complaint LDAF received on Kemm Wonka and the warning letter that was issued to the company in February.
- D. Proposed legislation to update DSB statutes.
Director, Rene Simon discussed the proposed legislation to update the Dairy Stabilization Statutes. These amendments have been tabled for the 2024 Legislative session.
- E. Senate Bill 32 by Sen. Beth Mizell to remove the 6% markup requirement for dairy products.
Commissioner, Mike Strain, DVM provided an explanation on SB 32 by Sen. Beth Mizell. The proposed legislation, if passed, would specify that any advertisement, offer to sell, or sale of any milk and milk products by a retailer at less than cost is not an unfair method of competition, unfair or deceptive trade practice. If passed, this legislation would prohibit the Dairy Stabilization Board and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry from requiring a price markup on the sale of any milk and milk products by a retailer. Commissioner Strain further advised the Board that the legislation will likely be heard at the next Senate Ag. Committee meeting (on April 25, 2023), and asked the members to attend and testify as to the implications this legislation would have on the industry if it is passed.
- F. Dairy Industry Update, Dr. Charles Hutchinson, LSU Ag. Center.
Dr. Charles Hutchinson, from the LSU Ag. Center was not present to provide an update.
- G. Ethics training classes and filings that will be due May 15, 2023.
Director, Rene Simon reminded the board members of the Ethics training classes and their Tier 2.1 filing that is due on May 15, 2023.
LDAF attorney, Baleigh Olah, stated that the Prevention of Sexual Harassment link will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Cal Simpson and seconded by Eric Lane to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kennon Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kennon Davis, Chairman

6-19-23