

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

OFFICE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 23, 2021
1:15 PM

5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

PROCEEDINGS/MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Girouard called the regular monthly Commission Meeting to order at 1:18 P.M. Mr. Reggie Skains gave the invocation and Mr. Ed Yerger lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Ms. LaClasha Alexander.

Members and Alternate Members present:

Dr. Ernest Girouard - Chairman
Mr. Steve Horvath-Vice Chairman
Mr. John Alan Williams- LACD President
Mr. Larry Sayes- Secretary- Treasurer
Mr. Reggie Skains- Area I Member
Mr. Ed Yerger- Area II Member
Mr. Brad Spicer- LDAF Alternate Member
Dr. Mike Salassi, LSU AgCenter, Alternate Member
Mr. Ed Giering, Area III Alternate Member

Members absent:

Southern University Agricultural Center
Representative

A quorum was present.

Others Present:

Mr. Chad Kacir, NRCS State Conservationist
Ms. Wendy Gibson, LDAF-OSWC

Mr. Joey Breaux, LDAF-OSWC/ Director SSWCC
Ms. LaClasha "Clay" Alexander, LDAF-OSWC

Public Comments

Chairman Girouard asked if there were any comments from the public or from Commission members and there were none.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Girouard called for a motion to approve the February 23, 2021 SSWCC agenda. Mr. Skains said there was a correction needed to the date at the top of the Agenda removing "Wednesday" since the meeting was held on a Tuesday. Chairman Girouard called for a motion to approve the February 23, 2021 agenda with corrections.

Motion by: Mr. Reggie Skains

Seconded by: Mr. Ed Giering

Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes

Chairman Giroard called for a motion to approve the January 26, 2021 SSWCC minutes.

Motion by: Mr. Brad Spicer

Seconded by: Mr. Ed Yerger

Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NRCS/OSWC Farm Bill Cooperative Agreement- Mr. Joey Breaux, Director, SSWCC

The Farm Bill reporting system closed February 11th and districts were able to enter their hours for January. Farm Bill totals for January were \$104,902. We want to encourage districts to continue to input their figures into the Farm Bill system even after they max out their Farm Bill allocation. The districts are making great strides and we hope they continue their progress.

NACD Annual Meeting Summary-Mr. Joey Breaux, Director, SSWCC/ Mr. Alan Williams, LACD President

Mr. Breaux said the virtual NACD Annual meeting took place on February 1-10, 2021. He said this was an informative meeting with great presenters. Chairman Giroard said NACD plans to use some of the presentations for training purposes. He said he attended the South Central Regional virtual meeting and they voted to move him to 1st Vice President. Louisiana contributed 6 items to the NACD auction. The Louisiana items went for more than their starting price and LACD was able to raise \$1,000. Mr. Williams said there were more than 1,800 people registered for the virtual meeting and he wanted to thank Calcasieu SWCD for donating 3 very nice items for Louisiana.

New Business

Supervisor Resignations/ Appointments / Reappointments

Chairman Giroard said there is 1 resignation: Feliciana SWCD, Mr. Andrew Grezaffi, effective February 23, 2021.

Chairman Giroard said if there were no comments, he would call for a motion to approve the resignation for Feliciana SWCD, Mr. Andrew Grezaffi, effective February 23, 2021.

Motion by: Mr. Reggie Skains

Seconded by: Mr. Ed Yerger

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Giroard said there is 1 appointment for a three year appointed term: Allen SWCD, Mr. Jeffrey Manuel (elected) - effective February 23, 2021- June 30, 2024.

Chairman Giroard said if there were no comments, he would call for a motion to approve the appointment for Allen SWCD, Mr. Jeffrey Manuel (elected)- effective February 23, 2021- June 30,2024.

Motion by: Mr. Brad Spicer

Seconded by: Mr. Reggie Skains

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Giroard said there are 2 supervisor reappointments for three year terms: Avoyelles SWCD, Mr. Larry Sayes (appointed) - effective February 27, 2021- February 27, 2024 and St. Landry SWCD, Mr. Leon Keith Latiolais (appointed) - effective March 26, 2021- March 26, 2024.

Chairman Giroard said if there were no comments, he would call for a motion to approve the reappointments for Avoyelles SWCD, Mr. Larry Sayes (appointed)- effective February 27, 2021- February 27, 2024 and St. Landry SWCD, Mr. Leon Keith Latiolais (appointed)- effective March 26, 2021- March 26, 2024.

Motion by: Mr. Reggie Skains
Seconded by: Mr. Steve Horvath
Motion passed unanimously.

District Supervisor Election- June 12, 2021- Mr. Joey Breaux, Director, SSWCC

Mr. Breaux said the draft Annual District Supervisor's Election packet has been prepared for the Commission's review. Every year each district board has member that is up for re-election and the list with instructions and petition are included in the packet. If a district board has more than 1 candidate interested in the vacant elected position, the board must hold an election on Saturday, June 12, 2021. All districts are also asked to email their election notices with locations to OSWC before April 1, 2021 which is the start of the nominating period. All supervisors who have no opposition will be duly elected at the SSWCC meeting in June. Mr. Breaux asked that the Commission approve the packet to be emailed out to districts to have it ready for them to discuss in March at their board meetings.

Chairman Girouard said if there were no comments, he would call for a motion to approve the District Supervisor Election packet.

Motion by: Mr. Steve Horvath
Seconded by: Mr. Brad Spicer
Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence- Mr. Joey Breaux, Director, SSWCC

- Deep Freeze upends U.S. agriculture markets from grains to beef
- Up, Up, and Away
- Republican senators urge to keep WOTUS repealed
- Reviewing U.S. Carbon Sequestration
- Updates to Conservation Easements Strengthens Protection for Farmlands, Grasslands and Wetlands
- USDA Extends General Signup For Conservation Reserve Program

NRCS State Conservationist Report- Mr. Chad Kacir, State Conservationist

Mr. Kacir said FY 2021 CSP Classic signups will be open until March 31, 2021. Applications will be accepted throughout the year but producers should keep the deadline in mind to ensure that their applications are considered for funding. There has not been any clear numbers on the damages from the Winter Storm. NRCS is aware of a few partial and fully collapsed poultry houses in North Central Louisiana. He said FSA is attempting to organize an emergency weather meeting to handle assessments.

LSU AgCenter Center Report- Dr. Michael Salassi

Dr. Salassi said LSU is continuing to fill vacant positions such as a Sugarcane Ergonomist and a Rice Pathologist at the Dean Lee Research Station. He said he wanted to remind the Commission of a couple of upcoming events:

March 9, 2021- 2021 LSU AgCenter Virtual Forestry Forum- Focus: Hurricane Recovery

March 3, 17, 31, 2021- Virtual Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meetings

March 23, 2021- 2021 LSU AgCenter Virtual Forestry Forum- Focus: "Marketing & Managing your Forests and Tax Advice"

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

Chairman Girouard said the next State Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:15 PM virtually. Information will be sent to members prior to the meeting.


Public Comments

Chairman Girouard asked if there were any other comments from the public or Commission members and there were none.

Adjournment

Chairman Girouard said if there was no other business or comments from the public or Commission members, he will accept a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Brad Spicer made a motion to adjourn at 2:11 P.M. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Horvath and passed unanimously.

/s/ Dr. Ernest Girouard 

Dr. Ernest Girouard, Chairman State Soil and Water Conservation Commission