

LOUISIANA RICE PROMOTION BOARD

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

LSU AgCenter Rice Research Station, Crowley, LA

Monday, September 24, 2018

Officers and Members Present:

John Owen, Paul Johnson, Thomas Faulk, Josh Andrus, Kent Brown, Kane Fontenot, Luther “Buster” Hardee, Mark Pousson, Christian Richard, Paul Zaunbrecher, and Michelle Ribera representative for Dr. Mike Strain

Officers and Members Not Present:

None

Staff Present:

Nicole D. Broussard, CPA and Scott Privat

Others Present:

Kane Webb, Bruce Schultz, Robbie Benoit

Call to order, opening comments and certification of quorum

Chairman Owen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. Quorum was certified. Chairman Owen then asked all members of the board to introduce themselves and give a brief profile.

Agenda review and approval of June 27, 2018 minutes

Chairman Owen presented the agenda and the minutes for consideration. Scott Privat requested to move Act on 2018 – 2019 Contract to earlier in the meeting so he could return to work. Mark Pousson also requested to speak before Other Business was presented.

MOTION by Thomas Faulk; **Second** by Paul Johnson

To accept revised agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Kent Brown; **Second** by Thomas Faulk

To accept the June 28, 2018 minutes as submitted

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appointments and Election of Officers

Appointments

Appointments for the 08/15/2018 – 08/14/2022 were made by John Bel Edwards, Governor. All Board members filled out their Oath Paperwork and were sworn in by Robbie Benoit, Clerk of Court.

Election of Officers

Chairman Owen requested nominations for the Office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

MOTION by Christian Richard; **Second** by Luther “Buster” Hardee

To keep the slate of officers elected at the prior meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Kent Brown; **Second** by Mark Pousson

To have the signatories on the checking account as Tommy Faulk, Christian Richard and Paul Zaunbrecher

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Session

There was a discussion about the need for an Executive Session. It was noted an Executive Session was needed.

MOTION by Christian Richard, **SECOND** by Thomas Faulk

To go into Executive Session

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Session ~

There was a discussion about the Ethics Board opinion concerning named plaintiffs that served on either the Rice Promotion or Research Board not recusing themselves from executive session when the lawsuit they were participating in against the boards was discussed.

There was also an explanation of the class action lawsuit faced by both boards and the strategy the attorneys would use going forward.

Regular Session

MOTION by Christian Richard, **SECOND** by Kane Fontenot

To reconvene Regular Session

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Act on Contracts

Kolder, Slaven & Co., LLC

MOTION by Christian Richard; **Second** by Paul Johnson

To approve the contract with Kolder, Slaven & Co., LLC for professional accounting services for an annual fee of \$3,575.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LARPB Financial Reports

Nicole Broussard, CPA with Kolder, Slaven & Co, LLC, presented the current financial report noting that income to-date for the current fiscal year was \$7,239.04 with refunds to-date of \$1,879.09.

Chairman Owen asked the Board to review the financial reports including the general ledger. There were no questions from the Board concerning the financial reports. Chairman Owen reviewed the Bank Reconciliations and signed off on them.

MOTION by Paul Johnson, **SECOND** by Kane Fontenot
To approve financials statements as rendered.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In-state, Board-Directed Promotion Projects Update

Kane Webb updated the Board on recent Rice Promotion Projects.

Other Business

Mark Pousson – LIRPA

Mr. Pousson gave a presentation of the recent promotions dealing with LIRPA in Mexico. Reports were provided to the board members. Mr. Pousson requested guidance for the request of funds from the Board. Chairman Owen referred him to the Funding Request Protocol Guidelines that were established by the Board. After the discussion, Mr. Pousson stated that perhaps funding of this project would go a long way to help with ending the lawsuit. Mr. Faulk asked him what he said asking for clarification. Mr. Pousson repeated his comment funding the project could help with ending the lawsuit.

No further business was presented.

Public Comments

Chairman Owen called for public comments. None were offered.

Adjournment

MOTION by Christian Richard; **Second** by Thomas Faulk
To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting at was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.