

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)
MINUTES
February 12, 2020
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:04 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Mike Strain, Kent Brown, Devin Davis, Jeanine L. Herrington, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Calvin Viator, and Bill Waguespack

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with seven members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mrs. Herrington, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- A motion was made by Mr. Viator to draft legislation to transfer funds that remain in the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund from the Treasury to LAFA at the end of each fiscal year. The fund will be capped at \$12 million dollars. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.
- Indian Creek was presented a "Louey Award" at the annual Louisiana Travel Association's annual meeting.
- René Simon is now Director of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission and the Dairy Stabilization Board.
- The facility at Lacassine continues to grow.
- LAFA is in the early stages of discussions of leasing vehicles to the Secretary of State.

NEW BUSINESS

a) LDAF/LAFA's Certified Louisiana Program

Mrs. Deana Erdey updated the board on the current projects of the Certified Louisiana Program and Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA).

OLD BUSINESS

a) Appointment of Michelle Ribera as the Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to appoint Michelle Ribera as the Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to draft a resolution to thank René Simon for his service to the LAFA board. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

b) Ethics training and Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Form

Mrs. Melanie Tullier notified the board that it is now time to complete the annual Ethics training as well as the Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Form.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Delta Regional Authority has been contacted to obtain federal DRA funding to assist with the next phase of sewerage construction at Indian Creek.

Governor Edwards has reformed the Taskforce on Rural Development and has asked Commissioner Strain to serve on it.

Commissioner Strain notified the board of funding that was awarded to help dredge the Mississippi River.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed unanimously at 10:44 AM.