

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

December 12, 2018

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

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, Jeanine L. Herrington, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Katie R. Sistrunk, Kent Brown, Calvin Viator, and Bill Waguespack

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with eight 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 4, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2018 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. Petree to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the Lacassine Industrial Park (LIP). Rail Logix currently has approximately 350 railcars moving through the park. They continue to make improvements to the facility. LAFA will begin collecting rental payments from Rail Logix in November 2020.
- Commissioner Strain notified the board that the Farm Bill was passed by the Senate and will now go back to the House of Representatives.
- Commissioner Strain is currently working with New Orleans Cold Storage (NOCS) and the Port of New Orleans to obtain funding to expand NOCS existing facility. Expanding the facility will greatly help the poultry, beef, and shrimp industries.
- The Port of Baton Rouge continues to expand their rail operations.
- Commissioner Strain has been in several meetings regarding deepening the Mississippi River.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program**

LAFA is currently seeking an additional \$10 million in CDBG funds for the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Program.

### **b. Lease of former LDAF Seedling Nursery (approximately 85 acres) at the Monroe office complex**

LAFA continues to move forward on this project.

### **c. Resolution to allow DOTD to resurface Woodworth airport runway**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the resolution allowing Commissioner Strain to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements to the Woodworth Airport. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Herrington to amend the engineering contract with Pan American Engineers, LLC, to modify the scope of services to include the apron and the transition from the apron to the runway. The cost is not to exceed \$10,000.00. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

### **d. LDAF/LAFA's Louisiana Certified Programs**

LAFA is in the process of forming a new logo "Louisiana Craft Beverages" to support Louisiana distilleries, wineries, and breweries. There are currently 231 registered companies. The Graham Group has been hired and has started the

advertising campaign. The LAFA staff will be attending several trade shows on behalf of the “Certified Louisiana” programs.

**e. Sewerage and campground improvements at Indian Creek**

The engineering work is currently being completed on the sewerage improvements.

**f. Purchase ice machine at Indian Creek**

The ice machine has been purchased and is expected to be delivered on January 7, 2019.

**g. Marketing and Rural Development**

The Port of New Orleans may come to the LAFA board in the future to seek a \$200,000 loan to allow for engineering work to be completed at the New Orleans Cold Storage facility.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Loan to Agro Consumer Services for overhaul of testing engines and provers**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to allow LAFA to loan Agro Consumer Services funds to overhaul testing engines and provers. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

**b. Lease of approximately 2.6 acres to Equilibrium Catalyst Inc. as the Lacassine Industrial Park**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to allow Commission Strain to enter lease negotiations with Equilibrium Catalyst Inc. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously at 10:51 AM.