

**LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**

**October 20, 2016**

**10:00 AM**

**Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
5825 Florida Boulevard, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806  
Proceeding**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM.

**PLEDGE**

Sheriff Bud Torres led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by John S. Walther, LDAF Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health and Food Safety.

**Members present:**

Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM, Sheriff Bud Torres, John Belton, Sheriff J Austin Daniel, James Leleux, Robert Pitre, Henry Capdebosq, Calvin LeBouef, Vic Blanchard, Sheriff Ivy Woods and John Vogt.

**Members absent:**

Sheriff Stephen Prator, Joseph Beatty, Todd Newsom, Edward Lopinto, Charles Garrett, James Arceneaux and Brandon Dubois.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM, commented on the importance of the Livestock Brand Commission.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

John S. Walther discussed statutes for the election of officers.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Mike Strain, Chairman, made a motion for the election of a vice-

## **Livestock Brand Commission Meeting**

**October 10, 2016**

**Page 2**

chairman.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Strain for Sheriff Bud Torres to be the vice-chairman. John Belton seconded the motion for Sheriff Bud Torres to be the vice-chairman. Commissioner asked for any other nominations and none were mentioned. Sheriff Bud Torres accepted. Commissioner Mike Strain made a motion to close the nominations, and the board agreed to the motions.

### **Motion:**

Commissioner Mike Strain appoints John S. Walther to be Director of the Livestock Brand Commission. Commissioner Mike Strain asks for a motion from the board for approval. Sheriff Austin Daniel approved the motion.

Commissioner Mike Strain asked for a second approval and Henry Capdebosq approved. Commissioner Mike Strain asked for discussion. No discussion.

Commissioner Mike Strain asked for all those in favor, and James Leleux motioned for approval. No one opposed the motion.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Mike Strain requested approval of the minutes. District Attorney John Belton motioned that the minutes be accepted as printed into record.

Commissioner Mike Strain asked motioned for the minutes to be seconded and James Leleux approved the motion. No discussion as to amendments or corrections. Commissioner Strain asked for all those in favor and he board unanimously approved the minutes. No opposition.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMISSION**

Commissioner Strain asked John Walther to give a report on Livestock Brand activities. John Walther gave a report on the matter.

Commissioner Strain spoke about the three legislative sessions, and mentioned that he had to try to protect the Department of Agriculture from an increase in taxes. He also spoke about budget cuts. Commissioner Strain spoke about cattle

## **Livestock Brand Commission Meeting**

**October 10, 2016**

**Page 3**

prices, legitimate contracts in Chicago, Illinois. Overall the commodities are down in price.

Sheriff Bud Torres asked about imported beef into the United States. Commissioner Strain responded that there is some impact on the prices in the United States. We are seeing more imported beef.

John Walther introduced the brand inspectors: Joey Norman, Carnie Burcham, E.B. Thompson, Elizabeth Moreau, and absent today was Mr. Barry Phares. Strictly State general funding for livestock brand inspectors.

Sheriff Bud Torres spoke about the value of livestock being tagged to prevent crimes. Sheriff Torres also talked about a campaign for continued branding of animals for crime prevention.

Commissioner Strain spoke about premises i.d. which is part of the animal disease traceability and animal identification for theft prevention.

John Walther reported that cattle inspected at livestock markets are lesser in numbers than in previous years.

John Walther also reported on a nuisance trapping program for feral swine and a partnership with Wildlife & Fisheries. Our concern is animal and human safety.

Henry Capdebosq inquired about coyote problems. John Walther informed him that Wildlife & Fisheries handles the nuisance trapping program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Joey Norman, Livestock Brand Officer, reported on the Southern States Rural Law Enforcement Association that Louisiana participates in with other states against rural crime. Contacts with other states are vital to the program. An important topic discussed was dog bites especially dogs attacking police officers. Joey

**Livestock Brand Commission Meeting**

**October 10, 2016**

**Page 4**

Norman mentioned that a large number of cattle were missing from the flood that occurred during the spring.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Carnie Burcham, Livestock Brand Officer, reported on a theft (equipment) case in North Louisiana. Officer Burcham worked with Texas' officers in connection with the case. This was a Crimestoppers' case, which resulted in a reward of \$750.00 to the person who helped with the case. The Desoto Parish Sheriff suggested \$750.00 for the reward money.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Strain asked for a motion to be put forth for a discussion of the crimestoppers' money. Calvin LeBouef motioned for the discussion. Henry Capdebosq seconded the motion. Commissioner Strain mentioned this was a fair and reasonable amount for the reward. The board unanimously agreed.

John mentioned Chuck Garret made a donation to Crimestoppers and anyone can make a donation to the fund. A discussion of potential monies for Crimestoppers was discussed.

John Belton, District Attorney, new commission member, introduced himself to the Livestock Brand Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: John Belton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Calvin LeBouef seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.