**LOUISIANA SWEET POTATO ADVERTISING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**June 24, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**9:00 AM**

Dean Lee Research and Extension Center

8105 Tom Bowman

Alexandria, LA 71302

**CALL TO ORDER**

 Chairman Jason Ables called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present** **Members Absent**

Jason Ables Melvin Chappel

Dr. Tara Smith Charles Brown

Matt Garber Garry Jones

Hunter Fife Cynthia Vead

Todd O’Neal

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Rene Simon called roll and declared a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A motion was made by Mr. Garber to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Fife and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to accept the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting as presented. It was seconded by Mr. O’Neal and passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Rene Simon presented the financial report to the board. A motion was made by Mr. Garber to accept the financial report as presented. It was seconded by Dr. Smith and passed unanimously.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

* Participated in numerous calls regarding the baby food heavy metals report.
* Participated in calls with the United States Sweet Potato Council’s annual meeting virtually
* Researched the founding of the Commission and began planning the 70th anniversary of its creation

**REPORT FROM THE GRAHAM GROUP**

Candy Domengeaux and Kathy Andersen of the Graham Group updated the board on the current marketing strategies that Graham Group has implemented for the Sweet Potato Commission.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Proposed Budget FY 2021 -2022:**

A motion was made by Mr. Garber to accept the budget as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Fife and passed unanimously.

**LSU AgCenter Update**

Dr. Tara Smith and Mr. Myrl Sistrunk gave an update on the status of the AgCenter, the Sweet Potato Station and Sweet Potato Research

**LDAF Horticulture/Quarantine Program Update**

Mr. Richard Miller, Administrative Coordinator, updated the Commission on the Guava Root Knot Nematode issue and negotiations between Louisiana and Mississippi on allowing fresh market to move across state lines.

 **USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Submission**

The Commission was not successful in submission for a specialty crop block grant.

 **Nominations for Commission Member**

A motion was made by Dr. Smith to nominate Mr. Larry Fontenot to the Commission. It was seconded by Mr. O’Neal and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

 **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. O’Neal adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by

Mr. Fife and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.