



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN DVM

COMMISSIONER



LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2023, 9:30 A.M.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
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Animal Health & Food Safety
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 4000
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Forestry
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Soil & Water Conservation
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(225) 922-1269
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Mr. Robert Hanks, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUOROM

Roll was called by LDAF Staff Oga Jordan. The following members were present:

Commission Members Present

Robert Hanks, Chairman

Ryan Ellington

Tom Russell

Donald Schexnayder

Stephen Logan

Donald Berken, Vice Chairman

Commission members Ross Girtman, Ronald Petree and Kevin Webb were not in attendance.

With six (6) members present, a quorum was declared.

III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 29, 2022, MINUTES

A motion was made by Ryan Ellington to approve the minutes for the November 29, 2022, meeting. Donald Berken seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given at this time.

V. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL: (New)

A. Grain Dealer

1. Raeford Farms of Louisiana, LLC.

A motion was made by Tom Russell and seconded by Donald Schexnayder to approve the grain dealer license application for Raeford Farms of Louisiana, LLC. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill No. 28: Sample/Grader

Remarks by Department staff on the upcoming legislation (SB28) were made by Kyra Holden, Director of Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission; Chad Price, Agricultural Specialist Program Manager; Todd Parker, Confidential Assistant to the Commissioner; and Dr. Mike Strain, DVM, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

If passed by the Legislature, SB28 would clarify that the standard adopted by the commission for sampling and grading grain are consistent with the standards adopted by the USDA, Federal Grain Inspection Service. This legislation will require grain to be graded by a state or federally certified grader. Further, it provides that the commission will be responsible for the certification of grain samplers and graders.

The passage of SB28 would authorize the commission to suspend or revoke a state certification for failure to comply with provisions of current laws or the rules adopted pursuant thereto, based upon an adjudicatory hearing held in accordance with the APA. The changes would require LDAF to inspect, classify, and grade grain in accordance with standards adopted by the USDA, Federal Grain Inspection Service, for sampling and grading grain.

The law would require the commission to promulgate rules in accordance with the APA, and to commence promulgation no later than August 1, 2023.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Director Kyra Holden stated that the Self Insurance Fund (SIF) balance is \$679,861.00 and the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund (GCIF) balance is \$6,495,346.00. There are no pending claims at this time.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT


Andy Brown – Commodity Director for Louisiana Farm Bureau, commended work on Senate Bill No. 28. He stated that Louisiana Farm Bureau came to Ms. Kyra Holden and Mr. Chad Price in 2019 and discussed many of these issues and commended them for the voluntary program that they put forward. He stated that it is important to note as we go into Legislative session, LA. Farm Bureau's message about this bill is it is an opportunity for famers and elevator operators to all become certified with the commission and/or USDA. The passage of this legislation will further ensure that all handling grain will have at the least been educated on the proper procedures for handling grain.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting dates will be Wednesday, May 24, 2023, and Monday, June 26, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Stephen Logan and seconded by Donald Schexnayder to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 a.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.



Mr. Robert Hanks, Chairman

THESE MINUTES ARE TENTATIVE UNTIL VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION AT THEIR NEXT HEARING, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BECOME FINAL.