



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MAY 29, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

5825 FLORDIA BOULEVARD

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70806

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hanks at 9:32AM.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

LDAF staff, Cindy R. Abbott, called roll. The following commission members were present:

Ross Girtman
Robert Hanks
Stephen Logan
Ronald Petree
Tom Russell
Larry Sayes
Kevin Webb

With seven (7) members present, a quorum was declared. The following commission members were absent:

Ryan Ellington
Garret Hebert

LDAF Staff Present

Agro Consumer Services Assistant Commissioner: Kevin Finley;
Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission Director: Gene Cavalier;
LDAF Agricultural Specialist Grain Program Manager: Chad Price
LDAF Attorney: Bethany Gonzales;
LDAF Auditor: Jeff Fabre;
Weights and Measures Assistant Director: Allison Dumas;
Administrative Coordinator IV: Cindy Abbott.

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**Animal Health
& Food Safety**
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Forestry
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Fax: 922-1356

**Management
& Finance**
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**Soil & Water
Conservation**
Suite 7000
(225) 922-1269

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

IV. ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2024 MINUTES

A motion was made by Stephen Logan to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2024 meeting. Ronald Petree seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

V. GRAIN & COTTON INDEMNITY FUND AND SELF INSURANCE FUND

Director Gene Cavalier stated that as of June 26, 2025, the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund (GCIF) balance is \$8,159,985.30 and the Self Insurance Fund (SIF) balance is \$795,604.33.

Stephen Logan advised in previous meetings it was discussed to raise the limit on these balances and inquired what those limits were now. Mr. Kevin Finley advised that the limit for GCIF could be raised, however this bill could not be passed for the current year, because of limitations on bills for this fiscal session. It could be possible in the next Legislative session. There is not a definite number currently, but the Commissioner is considering \$25-30 million dollars.

This GCIF fund is protected from Legislative action, at the end of each year, when the balance is transferred from the Treasury to the Louisiana Agricultural Financial Authority (LAFA). However, the balance collected for the current year is vulnerable to a sweep, if it were to happen.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chad Price discussed that, due to high river levels, minimal grain has been loaded in recent months. However, as levels have fallen, a few wheat barges have been loaded. He advised 2025 is looking like a record year for corn. The Grain Division is preparing by hiring more employees to help provide sufficient service for all elevators, many of whom will begin running 24 hours this year.

There was an increase in Federal Grain Inspection Fees for Louisiana that went into effect January 1, 2025. This fee increase will help with the increase in staffing. Overall, crops look amazing, it is going to be a record year for corn, but soybeans are down considerably from past years.

A. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION RENEWALS FOR APPROVAL

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:16, R.S. 42:17(10), and R.S. 3: 3421, the commission members voted to enter Executive Session to discuss financial status and any possible issues with the applicants.

The motion to enter Executive Session was made by Ronald Petree; Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion carried.

Ross Girtman
Robert Hanks
Stephen Logan
Ronald Petree
Tom Russell
Larry Sayes
Kevin Webb

Seven (7) members of the LACC were present and voted to enter Executive Session. The meeting went into Executive Session at 9:55AM.

The meeting recording was turned back on at 10:19AM. Cindy Abbott called roll and the same members of the LACC listed above were present. Stephen Logan made a motion to resume the regular meeting; Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members in favor and the LACC meeting resumed.

a. COTTON MERCHANT

1. CAROLINAS COTTON GROWERS' COOPERATIVE, INC.
2. COFCO AMERICAS RESOURCES CORPORATION
3. COTTON MARKETING SERVICES, LLC.

A motion was made by Stephen Logan to approve the Cotton Merchant license requests, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Tom Russell. All members in favor. Motion carried.

4. STAPLE COTTON COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

A motion was made by Stephen Logan to approve the Cotton Merchant license requests for Staple Cotton Cooperative. The motion was seconded by Ronald Petree. All members in favor. Motion carried.

*Ross Girtman abstained from voting on (a.4.) STAPLE COTTON COOPERATIVE; conflict of interest.

b. COTTON MERCHANT AND GRAIN DEALER

1. LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY, LLC.

A motion was made by Stephen Logan to approve the Cotton Merchant and Grain Dealer license requests, for Louis Dreyfus Company, LLC. The motion was seconded by Ronald Petree. All members in favor. Motion carried.

c. GRAIN DEALER

1. THE ANDERSONS, INC.

2. BUNGE NORTH AMERICA, INC.
3. ERWIN KEITH, LLC.
4. FARMERS GRAIN TERMINAL, INC.
5. HENSGENS GRAIN ELEVATOR, INC.

A motion was made by Ronald Petree to approve the Grain Dealer license renewal requests, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Tom Russell . All members in favor. Motion carried.

6. JOHNSON BREEDERS, INC.
7. LIVESTOCK NUTRITION CENTER, LLC
8. PILGRIMS PRIDE CORPORATION
9. PRODUCERS RICE MILL, INC.
10. PURINA ANIMAL NUTRITION, LLC

A motion was made by Ronald Petree to approve the Grain Dealer license requests, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Larry Sayes. All members in favor. Motion carried.

11. RIVIANA FOOD INC. DBA ACADIA WAREHOUSE
12. THE SCOULAR COMPANY
13. STONEX COMMODITY SOLUTIONS, INC.
14. VITERRA USA GRAIN, LLC.

A motion was made by Ronald Petree to approve the Grain Dealer license requests, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Ross Girtman. All members in favor. Motion carried.

15. VIZERION GRAIN, LLC.

A motion was made by Ronald Petree to approve the Grain Dealer license requests for Viserion Grain, LLC. The motion was seconded by Larry Sayes. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Tom Russell* abstained from voting on (c.15.) VIZERION GRAIN, LLC; conflict of interest.

d. WAREHOUSE

1. MAMOU RICE DRIER & WAREHOUSE, INC.
2. VILLE PLATTE RICE DRIER, INC.

A motion was made by Ross Girtman to approve the Warehouse license request, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Stephen Logan. All members in favor. Motion carried.

e. WAREHOUSE & GRAIN DEALER

1. CROWLEY GRAIN DRIER, INC.
2. HOLLY RIDGE RICE & GRAIN TERMINAL
3. SIMPLOT GROWERS SOLUTIONS

4. THORNWELL WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION
5. TUBBS GRAIN STORAGE LEASING, LLC.

A motion was made by Tom Russell to approve the Warehouse and Grain Dealer license requests, naming the license applicants above individually. The motion was seconded by Larry Sayes. All members in favor. Motion carried

6. SUPREME RICE, LLC

A motion was made by Tom Russell to approve the Warehouse and Grain Dealer license request for Supreme Rice, LLC. The motion was seconded by Kevin Webb. All members in favor. Motion carried

**Robert Hanks abstained from voting on (e.5) SUPREME RICE, LLC; conflict of interest.*

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Brown, representing Louisiana Farm Bureau Marketing Association spoke on behalf of President Richard Fontenot about the challenges of moving crops this year. There has been a lot of focus on finding new avenues to move crops, as well as farmer support and the Farmers' Bill to help keep Louisiana's producers stay in business. Louisiana Farm Bureau has been pushing the Reconciliation Bill to help with reference prices for all commodities and strengthen producer safety.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

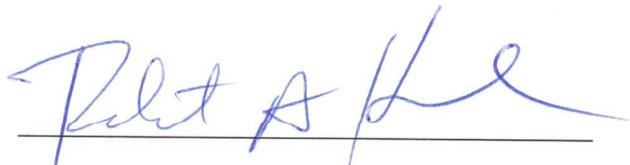
No announcements at this time.

X. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 9:30AM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ronald Petree to adjourn the meeting and Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35AM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Hanks", is written over a horizontal line.

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN