

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND SEED COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Building
LDAF Veterans Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Mr. Fred Bass, Confidential Assistant to Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Tina Ficklin.

The following commission members and/or designees were present: Mr. Fred Bass, Designee for Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM; Dr. Philip Elzer, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Eric Webster, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service; Mr. Brooks Blanche, Seed Industry Representative; Mr. David Causey, Fertilizer Industry Representative; Mr. Ed O'Neal, Feed Industry Representative; Mr Gregory Gravois, House Ag Committee Appointee; and Mr. Travis Walker, Senate Ag Committee Appointee. Mr. Ron Harrell, Designee for Mr. Ronnie Anderson, Louisiana Farm Bureau Assn. was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others Present: Benjy Rayburn, Assistant Commissioner of LDAF Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Lester Cannon, Director of LDAF Seed Programs Division; Dr. Mark Leblanc, Director of LDAF Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division; Dr. Jonathan Roberts, Director of LDAF Feed Program/Assistant Director of Agricultural Chemistry Programs; David Johnston, LDAF Seed Programs Coordinator; Dr. Angela Guidry, LDAF Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator; Tina Ficklin, LDAF Seed Programs; John Walther, Assistant Commissioner of LDAF Office of Animal Health and Food Safety; Amanda LaGroue, LDAF Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Motion to approve the proceedings from the April 24, 2019 Agricultural Chemistry and Seed Commission meeting as presented was made by Dr. Philip Elzer and seconded by Mr. Ed O'Neal. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cannon updated the Commission members on the Seed Programs Division, including the resolution of adjudicatory cases that were accepted at the April 24, 2019 meeting and an update on the Seed Programs for fiscal year 2019.

David Johnston gave update on soybean quality issue determined with 2019 crop seed. He explained the department's efforts to promote vigor testing in 2020 test year.

Dr. Mark Leblanc gave an update on the Agricultural Chemistry Fertilizer and Liming Program including sample collection and deficiencies for fiscal year 2019. He informed the commission the laboratory provides analytical services to the AgCenter, the general public and other state agencies.

Dr. Jonathan Roberts gave an update on the Agricultural Chemistry Feed Program, including sample collection and regulatory compliance. He informed the Commission of the laboratory's accreditation progress. He stated by means of an FDA grant obtained through the Feed program they have been able to work toward ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation, and the Ag Chemistry Feed Program has reached the final stage. They have applied for accreditation and are awaiting the first assessment in October 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Angela Guidry was introduced as the Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator. She gave a brief introduction to the commission.

Mr. Cannon informed the commission the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry's Industrial Hemp Program is the state's designated regulatory authority for the production, processing and transportation of Industrial Hemp. Act 164 authorized by LA R.S. 3:1461-1472, was passed by the Louisiana Legislature and was signed by the governor. The Act authorized the LDAF to submit a state industrial hemp plan to USDA and to adopt regulations to administer the industrial hemp program in Louisiana.

He further stated the Industrial Hemp law gives the Commissioner of Agriculture the authority to adopt regulations pursuant to the Industrial Hemp Law, but it requires the Agricultural Chemistry and Seed Commission to approve criteria and standards for seed acquisition.

Approval of Seed Acquisition criteria and standards for the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Program:

Motion to authorize a Notice of Intent to accept §1321 - Seed Acquisition and Approval. Dr. Philip Elzer made a motion to authorize the proposed Industrial Hemp regulation §1321. Dr. Eric Webster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion for the commission to adopt a resolution authorizing the Commissioner to publish a notice of this agency's intended action in the State Register, and to make the seed acquisition §1321 permanent; providing there are no substantive changes and no oversight committee finds the proposed regulations unacceptable.

Motion to authorize the Resolution of Adoption for §1321 was made by Mr. Ed O'Neal and seconded by Mr. David Causey. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommend to Adopt the Regulations for the LDAF Industrial Hemp Program

The commission expressed concerns regarding potential for voluntary hemp plants and the potential to pose an issue past three years. It was discussed that the regulations may require amending in the future to extend this time period.

The issue of THC stability, regulatory actions and the department's ability to handle to number of samples during the 15 day sample to harvest deadline was discussed. Mr. Cannon informed the

commission the department is aware the regulations will be dynamic as the program grows and may require amendments.

Motion to allow the Commission, in an advisory capacity, to recommend the Commissioner to adopt the Industrial Hemp Regulations in their entirety as presented was made by Dr. Philip Elzer and seconded by Dr. Eric Webster. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

General discussion with industry representatives present: Kristy Hebert of Cypress Hemp; Paul and Amber Moran of Green Flow Power.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Gregory Gravois and seconded by Mr. David Causey. Motion passed unanimously.