

MINUTES

LOUISIANA SWEET POTATO COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008
10:00 a.m.
SOUTHEAST RESEARCH STATION
MANSURA, LA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mark Fields called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. René P. Simon called the roll.

Members present: Mark Fields, Nelson Bordelon, Lee Jones, Kenneth Thornhill, Larry Fontenot, Kelsey McKoin, Venoy Kinnaird, Ryan Quebedeaux, Randy Deshotel

Others present: Dr. Tara Smith, LSU Ag Center; Ted McDermott, Ricky Abels, Doug Juneau, Nancy Steiner, Diane Allen and Associates; Natalie Reed, Diane Allen and Associates; Bob Hutchinson, LSU AgCenter; Brian Breaux, Farm Bureau; Ernest Freeman, LSU AgCenter, Meryl Sistrunk, LSU AgCenter; and Melanie Barnett, LDAF.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: A motion was made by Larry Fontenot to approve the proceedings from the January 11, 2008 meeting. This motion was seconded by Venoy Kinnaird. This motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

René P. Simon presented the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement and Income Statement.

Prize money for students entering the Sweet Potato contest to be placed under other charges. A motion was made by Ryan Quebedeaux and Lee Jones seconded the motion and motion was passed unanimously. The board elected to increase the budget by \$600.00 for prize money. Contest will be judged on June 11, 2008 at Delgado Community College. Contests winners will receive a \$50.00 gift card at the time of the event.

Board asked for a list of how many acres are delinquent and to work with farmers on collecting outstanding balances.

Discussion of preliminary budget, Mr. Simon asked for directions on what the board would like to see included in budget. Mark Fields appointed a committee to work with Rene Simon. Members include Kelsey McKoin as Chairman, Larry Fontenot, Nelson Bordelon and Randy Deshotel.

Discussion was made on the promotion of the Carolina potatoes and the Beauregards are going by the way side. The Carolina potatoes are still about 2 years away before introducing into the market.

NOMINATIONS TO REAPPOINTMENT FOR ANOTHER 4 YEAR TERM TO THE COMMISSION

Grower Representative – Venoy Kinnaird
Ricky Abels – alternate

Shipper Position – Ryan Quebedeaux
Johnny Roy – alternate

Canner Position – Larry Thibodeaux
Norman Brown, Jr. - alternate

Banker Position – Randy Deshotels
Malcolm Janet – alternate

Motion was made by Ken Thornhill and seconded by Kelsey McKoin. The board approved unanimously. René P. Simon will send recommendations to Commissioner Strain.

REPORT FROM DIANE ALLEN & ASSOCIATES

Ms. Nancy Steiner presented the 2007-08 Marketing, Publicity and Promotion report to the commission stating completed projects and updates as of January. Natalie Reed presented Holly Clegg's activities from January-April, 2008.

A copy of the report is on file.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Nancy Steiner invited board to Baton Rouge for next board meeting in June and would like to host the board at an area restaurant.

U.S. SWEET POTATO COUNCIL MEETING

The 2009 meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, hosted by the Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fields thanked Ernest Freeman and the Southeast Research Station for hosting the luncheon and allowing the board to hold their meeting at the new research station. The meeting was then adjourned.