



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN, COMMISSIONER



MINUTES

**LOUISIANA EQUINE PROMOTION AND
RESEARCH BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 01, 2022**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD, 1ST FLOOR
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70806**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom and was called to order by Dr. Neely Heidorn at 10:00a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Neely Heidorn led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Dr. Neely Heidorn.

Members present:

Dr. Neely Heidorn, Jim Gauthier, Sky Wright, Marc Browning, Raegan Comeaux, Bernard Chatters, Edwin Fenasci, Bill Davis, Lyle Guillory, Roger Heitzmann, John Boudreaux, and Ron Harrell

Members present via Zoom:

Dr. Frank Andrews, Whitney Boyce and Anita Hefler

Members absent:

Lt. Governor Bill Nungesser

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were amended to state that Bill Davis was present via Zoom. Roger Heitzmann made the motion to approve the minutes as amended; it was seconded by John Boudreaux. Motion passed unanimously.



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NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the resolution created by LDAF General Counsel Amy McInnis. Marc Browning discussed the percentages to be included in the resolution. Edwin Fenasci made a motion to approve the resolution; it was seconded by Roger Heitzmann. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Wofford discussed the percentages and the need to adjust the percentage when asking for the money from the Legislature.

Edwin Fenasci discussed what the cap amount should be when asking for money from the legislature.

Bernard Chatters discussed asking Senator Cortez to champion for the board in the Legislature to help getting the funds for the Equine Board.

Dr. Mike Strain discussed the way to approach the Legislature for money is to request a high dollar amount and have the flexibility of going for less money than asked for. He suggested asking for a \$10,000,00 cap in funds. He suggested asking for 2% to start and it will give them room to negotiate a smaller percentage. Dr. Strain recommended the asking percentage to start should be around 2.5%. He advised that the Legislative session will be held 03/14/22 through 06/01/22.

Curry Landry discussed what programs the current percentages are going to and most seem to be at 2%.

Dr. Neely Heidorn asked the board to vote on what the percentage should be and come to an agreement. The board agreed on 2.5% with no cap and if needed, the cap would be \$12.5 million. Jim Gauthier made a motion for the 2.5% with no cap; it was seconded by Sky Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Neely Heidorn asked for a vote on the changing of the wording for the resolution to include the word approximately and the changes with the percentage and removal of the cap. Edwin Fenasci made the motion to approve the resolution with changes; it was seconded by Roger Heitzmann. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Guillory suggested bringing Associations to the board meeting to learn what the Equine Board is about and what it represents.



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Dr. Neely Heidorn stated that Senator Hensgens would like to co-author the bill along with the Senator that will take on the bill.

Marc Browning stated he spoke to Lt. Governor Bill Nungesser and that the Lt. Governor offered to sponsor a meet and greet breakfast with the Senators and the Equine Board. Roger Harrell suggested getting Senator Allain's support for the bill. Dr. Neely asked if we need to limit the number of members that can attend. Marc Browning suggested Dr. Neely Heidorn needs to attend the meeting and Dr. Andrews volunteered to attend also. John Boudreaux suggested someone from the horse thoroughbred industry should also attend.

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the Mission Statement that was furnished to the board members. Kevin Wofford suggested combining #1 and #4 of the Mission Statement. Lyle Guillory made a motion to approve the Mission Statement; it was seconded by Bernard Chatters. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lyle Guillory asked if he could invite others to attend the meetings and speak on the bill. Dr. Neely Heidorn said that would be entertained.

Dr. Neely Heidorn spoke on the amended Resolution. Bill Davis made a motion to approve the Amended Resolution; it was seconded by Jim Gauthier. Motion passed unanimously.

Marc Browning made a motion to approve the Senators to negotiate the percentages of the funds on behalf of the Equine Board; it was seconded by Edwin Fenasci. Motion passed unanimously.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 – 10:00AM

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Jim Gauthier asked for a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Bill Davis. Motion passed unanimously.