



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, COMMISSIONER



MINUTES

LOUISIANA EQUINE PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD MEETING MARCH 29, 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 was called to order by Dr. Neely Heidorn at 10:00a.m.

PLEDGE

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, John Boudreaux, Ron Harrell

Members absent:

Lt. Governor Bill Nungesser, Whitney Boyce, Lyle Guillory, Roger Heitzmann

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tom Blanchard with the cutting horse industry came to see what the board was about and offered his help.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by John Boudreaux to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Edwin Fenasci. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed finding someone on the House side to champion the bill for funding opportunities on behalf of the Equine Board.

Amy McInnis discussed the Equine Board being a subdivision of the state and it would not be appropriate to have a lobbyist to champion for the board because we are a state entity.

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Steve Duke, State Lobbyist discussed not being able to spend state funds to hire an advocate to lobby on behalf of the Equine Board. Discussed when meeting with Senate members, it must be less than a quorum.

Lyle Guillory discussed having the meeting with Senator Cortez and he is on board with helping secure the funds for the board.

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed finding someone in the House to start the bill on behalf of the Equine Board. She also discussed starting with appropriations money before going for Sports Betting money.

Marc Browning discussed Lt. Governor Bill Nungesser has already applied for money from appropriations for the Equine Board.

Steve Duke discussed the money available, and the board should ask for 4 or 5 million to start.

Bruce Richards discussed creating a political action committee.

Jim Gauthier made a motion to ask for a separate appropriation for 5 million dollars; motion seconded by Sky Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Wofford discussed Michelle Ribera being the Director of LAFA and introduced her to the board to speak and address any questions.

Michelle Ribera discussed how the account for the Equine Board would be set up withing the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The Equine Board would decide how the money would be spent and the account would be set up through Management and Finance.

Catrina Irvin discussed how the bank account would be housed in LAFA.

Sky Wright introduced Louisiana State Senator Heather Cloud who will be speaking to the board.

Dr. Neely Heidorn explained the mission of the board and the different areas the board will cover such as Events, Trail Facilities, Activities, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Heather Cloud discussed the Equine Industry and the impact it has on the state. She discussed the means to go after money available that the Equine Board can request. She also discussed the HB1 money and how it can be spent.



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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 04, 2022 – 10:00AM

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Sky Wright to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marc Browning. This motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.