

TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)

MEETING OF THE

**LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROMOTION AND
RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD**

JANUARY 23, 2024, 9:30 AM
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

Minutes

NOTE: THESE ARE TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 23, 2024, MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROMOTION AND RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 am by Representative C. Travis Johnson.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was called by Ms. Shelby Powers.

Members Present: Representative C. Travis Johnson representing the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development; Dr. Reeve Legendre representing Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; Dr. Janana Snowden representing Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Mr. Paige Melancon representing a licensed processor of industrial hemp; Ms. Angela Deal representing the Speaker of the LA House of Representatives; Mr. Chris Fontenot representing the Louisiana industrial hemp industry; Mr. John Ford representing Louisiana Black Farmers Cannabis and Hemp Association; Mr. Matthew Moreau, representing the Louisiana Cannabis Association; Ms. Pamela Jackson representing a licensed Grower of industrial hemp; and Dr. Ansel T. Rankins, Sr. representing the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
A quorum was declared.

Members Absent: Dr. James Smith representing the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development; Senator Katrina Jackson

representing the President of the LA Senate; and Mr. Willis Nelson representing Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association; Mr. Blaine Jennings representing LA Farm Bureau Federation, Inc; and Ms. Laura Kelly Shivers representing a consumer of industrial hemp.

Others Present: Lester Cannon, Director of LDAF Seed Programs; Brent Cutrer, LDAF Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator; Lebra Bias, LDAF Attorney; Tabitha Irvin, LDAF Executive Counsel; Shelby Powers, LDAF Industrial Hemp Administrative Coordinator, Dr. Babitha Jampala, LSU AgCenter; Dr. Mallory Tate, Southern University.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from members of the public made at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the July 20, 2023, meeting were distributed to the board members. Dr. Janana Snowden made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthew Moreau. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for the board to address.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of New Officers

Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to nominate Mr. Matthew Moreau as Chair of the Industrial Hemp Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reeve Legendre. Dr. Janana Snowden made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paige Melancon. With no opposition, Mr. Matthew Moreau was elected as Chairman of the Industrial Hemp Board.

Mr. Paige Melancon made a motion to nominate Ms. Angela Deal as Vice Chairman of the Industrial Hemp Board. The motion was seconded by Representative C. Travis Johnson. Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to close the nominations of Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paige Melancon. With no opposition, Ms. Angela Deal was elected as Vice Chairman of the Industrial Hemp Board.

Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to nominate Dr. Janana Snowden as Secretary-Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Angela Deal. Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to close the nominations of Secretary-Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Dr. Reeve Legendre. With no opposition, Dr. Janana Snowden was elected as Secretary-treasurer of the Industrial Hemp Board.

b. Industrial Hemp Seed Genetics and Availability

Representative C. Travis Johnson requested an update on hemp seed productivity and other information. Mr. Brent Cutrer provided an update on the current testing and research being done on new grain and fiber varieties.

c. 2023 Hemp Crop Acreage and Marketing of Harvested Material

Representative C. Travis Johnson requested an update on the number of industrial hemp licensees. Mr. Brent Cutrer provided an update on the number of licensees the Industrial Hemp Program currently has issued, as well as ones that are currently being processed. Mr. Brent Cutrer and Mr. Lester Cannon also provided an update on the total registered acres, seed quality, and the trend in hemp acreage planted. Dr. Babitha Jampala, discussed some data from various varieties that LSU is currently testing.

d. Status of Processing Facilities and Infrastructure

Dr. Janana Snowden inquired about the possible converting old cotton gins into hemp processing facilities. Mr. John Ford stated that there are some cotton gins that could be retrofitted to process hemp, however, there have not been any investigations into it. Dr. Babitha Jampala provided another example that has been done in Texas, which involves out-of-state contractors getting a license in Texas, coming to Texas to harvest the crop, then transporting it out of state to processing facilities.

e. Consumable Industrial Hemp Update

Ms. Angela Deal provided an update on new labeling, serving sizes, and consumable hemp products. Mr. Paige Melancon added that their manufacturing business is reaching out to sell products in other states. Ms. Angela Deal commented there is a hemp association that works to improve businesses in Louisiana.

Mr. Matthew Moreau commented that his observation points to consumable hemp being more profitable to grow and harvest in other states, rather than Louisiana.

f. Textiles and Other Product Retail, Wholesale and Manufacturing Industry Updates

Ms. Angela Deal stated that in order to attract businesses, our laws need to be more stable and friendly. Mr. Lester Cannon asked if there is something LDAF can do from a production regulation standpoint that can help. Ms. Angela Deal stated that LDAF has been quick and efficient with hemp matters.

Mr. Paige Melancon commented that feasibility studies are needed on livestock feed. Dr. Mallory Tate provided some detailed information on current studies that Southern University is performing with feed.

g. Alternatives including Carbon Credits, Non-Profits and Other Creative Economic Funding and Updates

Mr. John Ford provided some information on hempcrete and carbon credits. Mr. Brian Bolyer, a member of the public, commented that his carbon credits are on the European market and that they have futures currently available. Dr. Mallory Tate provided more information on the European market.

h. Research and University Updates

Dr. Mallory Tate provided updates on hemp research Southern University has performed. Dr. Reeve Legendre provided more information on the hemp research LSU has performed. Matthew Moreau inquired about the acquisition of seeds from China and how that affects the restriction of data sharing. Dr. Mallory Tate and Dr. Babitha Jampala provided information on the seeds received from China and their availability within the U.S.

i. Public & Legislative Communication Initiative and Board Funding

Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to request that LDAF draft a resolution introducing the Board to the current legislators and a separate resolution requesting the LDAF Commissioner request an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 for the purpose of public and private partnership to research industrial hemp in Louisiana, with the focus on economic development. The motion was seconded by Dr. Janana Snowden. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Discussion of Legislative Education and Public Relations Committee

Mr. Matthew Moreau made a motion to add "*Discussion on the Legislative Education and Public Relations Subcommittee's role and frequency of meetings*" to the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Janana Snowden. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Frank Johnson stated that manufacturers are here now. However, Louisiana is behind in getting on board with the industry. He stated that manufacturers are available but are hesitant to invest here and are relocating to other states.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board determined that the tentative date for the next meeting will be June 20, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Representative C. Travis Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. John Ford. The board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.