

TENTATIVE MINUTES – PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA HORTICULTURE COMMISSION

JULY 17, 2025

9:30 A.M.

**VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

NOTE: THESE ARE TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 17, 2025, MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA HORTICULTURE COMMISSION. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT, REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Todd Parker at 9:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Marissa Smith.

Members present: Rob Barry, Cole Sims, Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Mitch Mayes, Cathy Sonnier, Dan Johnson, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Todd Parker, Dr. Ansel Rankins, Sr., Dr. Ed Bush.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Angela Jackson, LDAF Legal Counsel; Tina Peltier, LDAF; Marsha Dugas, LDAF; and Marissa Smith, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be held on November 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

John Cooley requested to have his Arborist license reinstated.

Motion: Mr. Mayes made a motion to allow the reinstatement of Mr. Cooley's license. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

There were no cases.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Mrs. Peltier gave a staffing update that included a summary of the annual Southern Plant Board meeting, which was held in Wilmington, North Carolina. Louisiana will be hosting the 2026 Southern Plant Board meeting in Baton Rouge, May 4-7. The spring compliance inspection was performed at the positive *P. ramorum* nursery on May 23, 2025. Due to funding issues, only symptomatic plant tissue will be sampled going forward. An update was given on CAPS surveys. All four schools participating in the beekeeping grant have received the majority of their equipment and bees. Mrs. Peltier gave an update on Citrus Greening found in Lafourche Parish, which is a new parish for citrus greening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 a.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and passed unanimously.