

**MEETING OF THE
HORTICULTURE COMMISSION**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2025, 9:30 A.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Todd Parker at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Tiara Davis.

Members present: Rob Barry, Cole Sims, Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Mitch Mayes, Cathy Sonnier, Rebekah O'Quin, Chad Danos, Todd Parker, Dr. Ansel Rankins, Dr. Ed Bush.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Assistant Attorney General Olivia Boudreaux, Hearing Officer; Tabitha Irvin, Executive Counsel; Angela Jackson, LDAF Legal Counsel; Tina Peltier, LDAF; Marsha Dugas, LDAF; and Tiara Davis, LDAF.

Mr. Parker made a motion to amend the agenda and add the continued case for Jobe Bourgeois after the reinstatements since it was inadvertently left off the agenda. This motion was seconded by Mr. Danos and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Irvin reminded members of the commission to complete their Ethics training and their Sexual Harassment training.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Danos made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024, meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

The next Horticulture Commission meeting will be held on July 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST

Grant Estrade requested to have his landscape horticulturist license reinstated.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Dugas provided an update on a previous complaint that former State Representative Emile "Peppi" Bruneau and Ms. Val Cupit presented to the commission at the November 21, 2024, meeting pertaining to McKenzie Tree Enterprises.

At 9:40 a.m., the meeting was turned over to the Hearing Officer.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Ms. Boudreaux, the Hearing Officer, conducted the hearing. Ms. Jackson, LDAF Attorney, presented the following case:

CONTINUED CASE

Jobe Bourgeois

D/B/A JB Landscaping & Pressure Washing, LLC
43406 N. Pinecrest Street
Gonzales, La., 70737

Case No. 24-HORT-012

This case was granted a continuance until the November 20, 2025, meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Mrs. Peltier reported the following:

- A staffing update, which included the promotion of Bobbee Jones to Administrative Coordinator IV, and the announcement of AES inspector vacancies for the Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Opelousas districts;
- The renewal progress of all permits and licenses;
- The Horticulture Law, Rules & Regulations have been finalized to reflect the new law changes from the 2024 legislative session;

- The Louisiana Arborist Association, Southern University Ag. and Extension Center, LSU AgCenter, and LDAF meeting scheduled for March 13, 2025, regarding revisions to the Arborist and Utility Arborist examinations;
- LDAF was awarded funding for Sudden Oak Death, Solanaceous, National Honeybee, and Forest Pest for FY 2025; and
- Items discussed at the National CAPS Committee annual meeting held February 10-13, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona, as the Southern Plant Board SPRO representative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.