



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of  
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

**MINUTES**

**LOUISIANA EQUINE PROMOTION AND  
RESEARCH BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2024**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was held in-person and was called to order by Dr. Neely Heidorn at 10:04 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Neely Heidorn led the pledge of allegiance.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Amy McInnis administered the Oath of Office to the board members.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Dr. Neely Heidorn and a quorum was called.

**Members present:**

William Bloom, Dr. Neely Heidorn, Jim Gauthier, Sky Wright, Marc Browning, Raegan Comeaux, Bernard Chatters, John Boudreaux, Anita Hefler, Dr. Bill Davis, Jerome Bellard, and Edwin Fenasci.

**Members absent:**

Dr. Frank Andrews, Whitney Boyce, Roger Heitzmann and Madison Plaisance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dillon LaCour discussed the upcoming Saddle Microchipping events.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Sky Wright to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2024, meeting; motion seconded by Dr. Bill Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the 2024 Economic Updates from NCHA and CRA events.

Amy McInnis discussed the rules and regulations that all boards must adopt such as Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the Personal Financial Disclosures due by May 15, 2025 and the Sexual Harassment training that needs to be completed.

Dr. Neely introduced Becky Dupree with the Finance and Accounting department.

Becky Dupree discussed the board's financial status.

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the Grant Applications received for 2024.

Sky Wright made a motion to create a Subcommittee to review grant applications; the motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Bernard Chatters made a motion to approve Jim Gauthier, Marc Browning, Dr. Neely Heidorn and Dr. Bill Davis to serve on the Subcommittee board; motion was seconded by Edwin Fenasci. Motion passed unanimously.

Edwin Fenasci made a motion giving Dr. Neely Heidorn the authority to set the deadline for receiving grant applications; motion was seconded by Sky Wright. Motion passed unanimously.



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**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the Legislative Update on the grant money for the Equine Board.

Dr. Neely Heidorn discussed the update on the license plate and working with DOT on the plate.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Edwin “Happy” Broussard discussed his grant application for the LA Equine Council.

Mr. Justin Browning discussed his grant application for McNeese State University.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 – 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 11:53 a.m.

Chairman