



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

MINUTES

LOUISIANA EQUINE PROMOTION AND RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 02, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board meeting was held in-person and was called to order by Dr. Neely Heidorn at 9:59 a.m.

ROLL CALL & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Roll call was conducted by Dr. Neely Heidorn.

Members present: William Bloom, Dr. Neely Heidorn, Jim Gauthier, Sky Wright, Marc Browning, Raegan Comeaux, John Boudreaux, Anita Hefler, Dr. Bill Davis, Dr. Frank Andrews, Whitney Boyce, Roger Heitzmann and Edwin Fenasci. Bernard Chatters arrived at 10:11 a.m.

Members absent: Jerome Bellard and Madison Plaisance. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jim Gauthier moved to approve the minutes from the September 02, 2025, meeting. Dr. Bill Davis seconded the motion. Roger Heitzmann abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 – 2026 Grant Payment Status

Dr. Neely Heidorn provided an update on the grant payments that have been issued and the grant recipients that have not provided their documents.

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MOTION: Marc Browning made a motion that grant recipients have 60 days of being notified they have received grant money to respond with appropriate documentation for payment; the motion was seconded by Roger Heitzmann. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Roger Heitzmann made a motion that grant recipients have 60 days to turn in the appropriate documents or the money will be forfeited and funds can be reappropriated; Sky Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Roger Heitzmann made a motion that it goes in the contract that grant recipients have 30 days following their event to submit their data and if they fail to meet the requirements of the signed contract we may pursue reimbursement of the grant award and may affect eligibility for future awards; the motion was seconded by Dr. Bill Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Neely Heidorn provided an update on getting the documentation for the collection data.

Dr. Neely discussed the grant application and any changes that need to be made.

Legislative Session Plan

The board discussed goals and plans for the next legislative session, including possibly requesting that the Legislature raise the cap to \$750,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Trainings

Dr. Neely Heidorn reminded the board members to complete their mandatory Sexual Harassment and Ethics Training.

Amy McInnis reminded the board to complete their financial disclosures required by May 15, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brand Enforcement Director Scott Perry discussed the upcoming Saddle Microchipping events March 4th at the Florida Parish Arena, April 24th at the LSU Ag Center in DeSoto Parish and May 29th at the High School Rodeo Association in Lake Charles, LA

Dr. Dina Duplantis, Director of BREC discussed her role in overseeing the daily management and strategic development of BREC's equestrian facilities .

Dr. Neely Heidorn asked for any changes that need to be made to the grant application, be sent to her by April 1, 2026.



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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The subcommittee board's next meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
The board's next meeting will be on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: A motion was made by Marc Browning to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sky Wright. This motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.



Chairman