

TENTATIVE MINUTES – PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL

MEETING OF THE

LOUISIANA HORTICULTURE COMMISSION

**FEBRUARY 26, 2026, 9:30 A.M. LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &
FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

**NOTE: THESE ARE TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 26, 2026,
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 Tonya Peairs.

Members present: Ricky Becnel, Stephen Shurtz, Cole Sims, Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Mitch Mayes, Rebekah O’Quin, Cathy Sonnier, Dan Johnson, Rusty Ruckstuhl, Todd Parker, Dr. Ed Bush.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Assistant District Attorney Terrel Kent, Hearing Officer; Angela Jackson, LDAF Counsel; Jade Saunders, LDAF Counsel; Bethany Gonzalez, LDAF Counsel; Tina Peltier, LDAF; Marsha Dugas, LDAF; and Tonya Peairs, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruckstuhl and passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Horticulture Commission meetings will be held on July 23, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., and November 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

REINSTATEMENT REQUESTS

Mark W. Thomas requested to have his Landscape Architect license reinstated.

Motion: Mr. Mayes made a motion to allow the reinstatement of Mr. Thomas' license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Becnel and passed unanimously.

Allen Toucheck requested to have his Arborist license reinstated.

Motion: Mr. Sims made a motion to allow the reinstatement of Mr. Toucheck's license. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shurtz and passed unanimously.

EXAM APPEALS

Brayan Guillen – Arborist Exam

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to allow Mr. Guillen to retest in person. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lawson and passed unanimously.

Brady Broussard – Landscape Horticulturalist Exam

Motion: Mr. Ruckstuhl made a motion to allow Mr. Broussard's passing grade with no requirement to retest. The motion was seconded by Mr. Becnel and passed unanimously.

Garrett Cannon – Arborist Exam

Motion: Mr. Shurtz made a motion to allow Mr. Cannon's passing grade with no requirement to retest. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Hearing Officer Terrel Kent conducted the hearing. LDAF Attorney presented the following cases:

Stipulated Cases:

Case No. 25-HORT-008

Logan Hisaw

D/b/a Precision Property Services, LLC.

3218 Hwy 93

Sunset, La. 70524

One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (Arborist) without a proper license. One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3810(A)(2) for violating a written stop order in a regulated profession (Arborist) without the proper license.

The stipulation was presented by Ms. Jackson.

Respondent was not present but signed stipulation admitting to the violations and agreeing to the recommended penalty of \$1,500.00.

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to accept the stipulation and penalty. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

Contested Cases:

Case No. 25- HORT-006

Billy Floyd

D/b/a Floyd's Tree Service/B&C Tree Services/Junebug Tree Service
1446 Herbert St.
Jena, La. 71342

Two (2) violations of La. R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (Arborist) without a proper license. One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3810(A)(2) for violating a written stop order in a regulated profession (Arborist) without the proper license.

Respondent was present and sworn in. Mr. Floyd did not contest the violations he was being charged with but asked for a reduction of the fine or be granted payment arrangements.

Motion: Mr. Parker made a motion to find Mr. Floyd in violation and accept the recommended penalty of \$4,500.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Mrs. Peltier gave an update on staffing changes, fee increases for professional licenses and exams, regulation changes, and new pest detections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Sonnier made a motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruckstuhl and passed unanimously.