TENTATIVE MINUTES – PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

MEETING OF THE

LOUISIANA HORTICULTURE COMMISSION

November 10, 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 NOVEMBER 10, 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.

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CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Todd Parker at 9:31 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, Dr. Ansel Rankins, and Todd Parker.

Members absent: Rusty Ruckstuhl and Dr. Ed Bush.

A quorum was present.

Others present: Tabitha Irvin, LDAF Counsel; Angela Jackson, LDAF Counsel; Tina Peltier, LDAF; Marsha Dugas, LDAF; and Tonya Peairs, LDAF.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion: Mrs. Sonnier made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shurtz and passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETING DATES
The next Horticulture Commission meetings are tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2027, July 22, 2027, and November 18, 2027, at 9:30 a.m.

EXAM APPEALS

Jerry Brandon – Landscape Horticulturalist Exam

Motion: Mr. Johnson made a motion to allow Mr. Brandon to retest in person. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

Melissa Jones – Arborist Exam

Motion: Mr. Mayes made a motion to allow Mrs. Jones to retest in 1 year in person. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

Contested Cases:

Logan Hisaw **Case No. 26-HORT-008**

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.

Respondent was not present.
The case was presented by Ms. Jackson.

Motion: Mr. Lawson made a motion to find the respondent guilty of the violation as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and passed unanimously.
Motion: Mr. Sims made a motion to assess the maximum penalty of $1,000.00 based on the respondent's second violation. Mr. Mayes seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Jason Thompson **Case No. 26- HORT-005**

D/b/a Grass Inc.
43 Carter Lane
Mandeville, La. 70471

One (1) violation of La. R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (Irrigation Contractor) 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 (Irrigation Contractor) without the proper license.

Respondent was present.
The case was presented by Ms. Jackson.
Mr. Thompson addressed the Board regarding the matters under consideration.

Motion: Mr. Mayes made a motion to find the respondent guilty of the violations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sonnier and passed unanimously.

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Motion: Mr. Mayes made a motion to accept the recommended penalty of $500.00 per violation, resulting in a total fine of $1,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sonnier and passed unanimously.

Nathanael Scales **Case No. 26-HORT-006**
D/b/a Garden Doctors LLC
201 St. Charles Avenue, Suites 114-260
New Orleans, La. 70170

Two (2) violations of La. R.S. 3:3804(C) for advertising and engaging in a regulated profession (Landscape Architect) without a proper license.

Respondent was not present.
The case was presented by Ms. Jackson.

Motion: Mr. Shurtz made a motion to find the respondent guilty of the violations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.
Motion: Mr. Lawson made a motion to assess the maximum penalty of $1,000.00 per violation based on the respondents second violation, resulting in a total fine of $2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shurtz and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director's Report:
Mrs. Peltier gave an update on staffing changes, quarantined pests, exam software, and licensing updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Morgan Milling, Executive Director of the Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association (LNLA) introduced herself and stated that she looks forward to working with the Board.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion: Dr. Rankins made a motion to adjourn at 12:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mayes and passed unanimously.

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