

*\*\*Tentative Minutes. Pending Board Approval.*

**LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROMOTION AND  
RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD:  
JULY 20, 2023  
10:00 AM**

**Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Building  
LDAF Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
5825 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

**Minutes**

**NOTE: This is a draft of the minutes from the July 20, 2023 meeting of the Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board. A final version of these minutes will be made available after approval of the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07am by Matthew Moreau.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Ms. Erica Morse.

**The following board members were present:**

Mr. Blaine Jennings representing LA Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.; Dr. Reeve Legendre representing Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; Dr. Janana Snowden representing Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Mr. Paige Melancon representing a licensed processor of industrial hemp; Ms. Laura Kelley Shivers representing a consumer of industrial hemp; Mr. Chris Fontenot representing the Louisiana industrial hemp industry; Mr. John Ford representing Louisiana Black Farmers Cannabis and Hemp Association; Mr. Matthew Moreau representing the Louisiana Cannabis Association; and Dr. Ansel T. Rankins, Sr. representing the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner. A quorum was declared.

**The following board members were absent:**

Representative C. Travis Johnson representing the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development; Dr. James Smith representing the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development; Mr. Timmy Thompson representing the Speaker of the LA House of Representatives; Senator Katrina Jackson representing the President of the LA Senate; and Mr. Willis Nelson representing Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Association.

## **Others Present:**

Lester Cannon, Director of LDAF Seed Programs Division; Brent Cutrer, LDAF Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator; Jade Saunders, LDAF Attorney; Erica Morse, Industrial Hemp Administrative Coordinator.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from members of the public made at this time.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting were distributed to the board members. Mr. Christopher Fontenot made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Janana Snowden. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Matthew Moreau provided an update on LDAF's request to the house and senate for funding was denied. LSU and SU also sent in requests for funding and was also denied.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Blaine Jennings provided an update on the difficulties for those navigating the consumable hemp law and regulation changes. Mr. Chris Fontenot added that the regulation changes are pushing consumers to acquire hemp from other states.

Dr. Reeve Legendre provided an update on LSU: has funded over \$1.3 million on over 20 different cannabis related projects, many of which are still active.

Dr. Mallory Tate and Dr. James Obuya provided an update on Southern University's cannabis trials including a project across the state to test strains' capability of growing outdoors in Louisiana's climate. Dr. Janana Snowden reiterated that SU has the resources and dedication but lack the necessary funds for extending research. Several members expressed the difficulties of acquiring grants and funding. It was clarified that the universities are allocating a portion of medical marijuana sales to fund the research and development of industrial hemp.

Mr. Paige Melancon suggested a small tax on some products to fund industrial hemp research and development.

Mr. Brian Bolyer of Okhish Mound Farms and Mr. Frank Johnson of Courtesy Grows provided a presentation on their experience with 2023 outdoor fiber trials. Mr. Johnson reiterated that ensuring industrial hemp's success in Louisiana is a collaborative effort. A processing facility that guarantees to buy the hemp is needed in order to give farmers an incentive to start growing hemp as a crop.

Mr. Lester Cannon stated that LDAF has a free platform for the board to use to disseminate information to the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from members of the public made at this time.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be announced depending on availability of the venue and board members. The subcommittee plans to meet in October 2023. The full board plans to meet in January of 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. John Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blaine Jennings. The board voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.