

Louisiana Beef Industry Council
Minutes
September 27, 2024

Members Present: Allen Blanchard, Loyd Dodson, Mike Kovak, Nickey Smith, Johnathan Lopinto and Jarett Daigle

Mike Kovac was sworn in as the representative for the Cattlemen’s Producers of Louisiana.

Election of Officers:

Loyd Dodson made a motion, seconded by Nickey Smith to nominate Allen Blanchard as Chairman of the LBIC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jarret Daigle made a motion, seconded by Loyd Dodson to nominate Nickey Smith as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Loyd Dodson made a motion, seconded by to nominate Jarett Daigle as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

John Thompson suggested adding an attendance policy. This will have to be brought to the next legislative session if the Council agrees to adopt an attendance policy to be written in to statute. The Council agreed to add this discussion to the December meeting agenda.

Nickey Smith made a motion, seconded by Jarett Daigle to accept the minutes from the May 17, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Peter Barrios presented the financial report to the Council. Nickey Smith made a motion, seconded by Jarett Daigle to approve the financials. The motion passed unanimously.

Peter Barrios next read the audit questions to the Council.

The Council next discussed the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP).

Funding Requests:

Bryan Churchman, Vernon Parish Cattlemen’s Association, gave a report on the 2023 VCPA’s Senior Citizen Day and Youth Ag Day. The 10th annual Vernon Parish Cattlemen Youth Ag Day event took place on October 4, 2023 at the Porter and Sons Ranch in Leesville, LA. Over 150 students along with teachers, administrators, and councilors from eight parish high schools, one private high school and home-schooled students for a day in the life of a cattle ranch. Education was the focus, and the students were divided into five groups and received instruction on the following topics: Farm safety, ATV/Farm Equipment, careers in agriculture, animal health, beef

quality assurance, USDA (FSA) (NRCS) and drone applications. The 2023 Vernon Parish Senior Citizen Day fed over 800 senior members of the community and red meat was the main course. Beef recipes were also provided to the participants. A request was submitted to fund the 2024 Senior Citizen and Youth Ag Day. A motion was made by Jarett Daigle, seconded by Loyd Dodson to approve this project for the amount of \$2,500.00. A roll call vote was taken. Loyd Dodson; yes, Allen Blanchard; yes, Johnathan Lopinto; yes, Nickey Smith; yes, Jarett Daigle; yes, and Mike Kovac; yes.

Old Business:

Jarett Daigle made a motion, seconded by Nickey Smith to remove Louisiana Radio Network from the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Jarett Daigle made a motion, seconded by Johnathan Lopinto to add Shae Simon to the agenda to give the Council a report on the LCA. The motion passed unanimously.

Ashley Hughes provided a report to the Council on social media analytics on Facebook and Instagram.

Nickey Smith made a motion, seconded by Jarett Daigle to add an item on the agenda regarding excess funds. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

John Thompson discussed a request for promotional items from the Southern University Lab School for an educational “Trunk or Treat” event that will host around 150 students. Jarett Daigle made a motion, seconded by Johnathan Lopinto to approve up to \$250.00 in promotional materials for this event. A roll call vote was taken. Loyd Dodson; yes, Allen Blanchard; yes, Johnathan Lopinto; yes, Nickey Smith; yes, Jarett Daigle; yes, and Mike Kovac; yes.

The Fall Associated Grocers show was cancelled due to the Hurricane.

The 2025 Ag Expo will take place on January 10 & 11, 2025 at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center in West Monroe.

Next, the Council discussed the best way of allocating funds from a matured CD. Nickey Smith made a motion, seconded by Jarret Daigle that Peter Barrios find a rate that offers at least 3 percent at a federally insured bank. A roll call vote was taken. Loyd Dodson; yes, Allen Blanchard; yes, Johnathan Lopinto; yes, Nickey Smith; yes, Jarett Daigle; yes, and Mike Kovac; yes.

Shae Simon, LCA, gave a report on LA MOO U.

John Thompson gave a report on the activities of the CBB.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Public Comment:

Dylan Lacour, Livestock Brand Commission gave an update on the activities of the Commission.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Friday, December 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Mike Kovac made a motion, seconded by Nickey Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.