

ARKANSAS RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Minutes

August 2, 2023

1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Joe Christian, David Gairhan, Jim Whitaker, John King, Roger Pohlner, Jay Coker, David Petter, Jeff Rutledge, Wayne Wiggins

Chair Joe Christian, called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

Jim Whitaker moved to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes as presented. Roger Pohlner seconded.

Motion carried.

Due to an error in the financial report prepared prior to August 1, 2023, the financial report will be considered for approval once a corrected copy has been submitted by the previous board administrator.

Wayne Wiggins gave an update on the Columbia-Rice Board.

USA Rice Programs

Betsy Ward, President and CEO, USA Rice Council presented a report outlining administration structure and functions. Ward highlighted the following accomplishments:

- Secured \$250 million in Rice Farmer Assistance
- Exceeded the 200,000 MT U.S.- Iraq MOU purchase commitment.
- Shipped 70,000 MT of rice through food aid programs in FY 2022
- USA Rice PAC raised a record-breaking \$402,988 in 2021/2022
- Rice Stewardship - \$20.6 million available to Arkansas Farmers
- Awarded \$80 million USDA Climate-Smart Commodity Grant

Sarah Moran, Vice President, presented an update on International Promotion. Moran highlighted the top 10 U.S. Export Destinations:

- Mexico
- Haiti
- Canada
- Japan
- Columbia
- Honduras
- South Korea
- Iraq
- Saudi Arabia
- Panama

Michael Klein, Vice President, presented an update on Domestic Promotion and Communications. The presentation covered the four areas of prioritized areas of promotion and communication: foodservice, consumer, nutrition, and statistics.

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Programs

Dr. Tim Burcham, Director of the Northeast Rice Research & Extension Center (NERREC), provided an update on the NERREC.

Dr. Vibha Srivastava gave a presentation on editing plant genes. The presentation explained gene editing can be used to improve grain quality and highlighted current gene editing projects.

John Carlin presented a Foundation Seed and Rice Commercialization Update.

Dr. Jarrod Hardke gave an update on the 2023 rice crop.

Dr. Nathan Slaton, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, provided an overview of the expenditure summary and preliminary carryover report for the 2022-2023 cycle and the 2023-2024 spending report for projects funded by the board.

David Gairhan asked Dr. Slaton for a list of equipment and infrastructure items purchased by the UADA with Tariff Rate Quote (TRQ) funding provided by the board. Dr. Slaton agreed to provide the list at the next meeting.

Becky Campbell with Campbell Ward provided an impact report for the social media campaign designed to educate and create awareness about the uses and benefits of the rice checkoff program funds.

Election of Officers

The board discussed the election of officers. Jeff Rutledge nominated Jim Whitaker for the position of Chair, and David Gairhan for Vice Chair. David Petter seconded.

Motion carried.

Jay Coker nominated David Petter to serve as Secretary. John King seconded.

Motion carried.

The board scheduled the next meeting for November 2, 2023, at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Joe Christian, Chairman