

ARKANSAS COTTON GROWER'S ORGANIZATION, INC.

Minutes of the
July 19, 2000 Meeting

Arkansas State Plant Board
Little Rock, AR

Members present were Joe Burns, Mark Bryles, Perry Stratton, Don Alexander, Jack Carey, Hal Hyneman and Trent Felton. Ritter Arnold & Charles Tilmon were not present.

Others present were Cal McCastlain, attorney for ABWEP; Tony Feaster and Darryl Little, ASPB; Ken Pierce, USDA-APHIS; Doug Ladner, Mike Catanach, Danny Kiser, Patty Carr and JoAnn Arnn, ABWEP; Cecil Williams, Jr., Ag Council of AR; Ronnie Antici, Griffin LLC; Bill Yearian, U of A; Jim Plato, Plato Industries; Stephen A. Walker, Farm Service Agency; Richard Myers, UAP Mid-South; Ron Harrod, AAAA; and Osama El-Lissy, USDA.

Welcome and Introductions.

Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ken Pierce led the group in a word of prayer. Introductions followed.

Approval of June 28, 2000 meeting minutes

Chairman Burns asked if there were any additions or deletions to the June 28, 2000 minutes. There were none. Mark Bryles made a motion that they be approved. Jack Carey seconded and the motion carried.

Assessment Update

Don Alexander reported that FSA has gotten approval for their certified date being August 1, rather than July 15. After some discussion a motion was made by Trent Felton that no penalty be charged to growers between July 15 and August 1 for late filing. Perry Stratton seconded and the motion carried.

Alexander reported that \$6,000,000.00 has been transferred to the Foundation and that he is holding approximately \$500,000.00 which can be transferred at any time. He said that he wants to hold some money to cover the hardships.

There was discussion of how to handle the hardships that have not been filed according to regulations. Cal McCastlain said there needs to be a record of having dealt with all cases that are filed, even if they are incomplete. Adding that lack of information will affect the outcome.

Copies of hardships filed to date were provided.

Technical Committee Report

The Technical Committee met July 10, 2000. Copies of the minutes were provided. Dr. Yearian briefly reviewed the minutes.

Dr. Yearian asked Cecil Williams to report on a meeting regarding the referendum. Williams reported that he, Gene Martin, and Jack Carey met at Keiser. Chairman Burns was unable to attend.

They agreed to have a local chairman at each meeting and that a county agent should speak briefly and emphasize that the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture favors the program. Also, they would like for Ken Pierce to be there to answer questions, farmers from either Texarkana or the southeast zone to explain how they have been affected, and an entomologist to explain what is going to be done.

Williams said they emphasized that they will not make any false statements or any promises we cannot live up to at the grower meetings.

Burns stated that there will be a meeting at Rector on August 28 and in Paragould on August 30. Meetings have not been set up in Craighead County yet.

McCastlain provided copies of the ballot and instruction sheet that were edited for clarification.

There was a discussion of pheromone and malathion use along the ridge. The discussion ended with a request that the Director evaluate the operational feasibility of the suggestion.

Director's Update

Doug Ladner introduced Osama El-Lissey, who is with USDA.

Copies of the program update were provided by Ladner. A PowerPoint presentation was given by Catanach.

Danny Kiser, the new Program Officer, was introduced.

Copies of the financial report were also provided.

Ken Pierce reported on work in the southwest section of the state.

Ladner reported that last week the weevil count was .78 weevils per trap in Portland, .95 in Kelso and 1.28 in Grady.

El-Lissey was asked to talk about the Mississippi situation. He reported that in a Southeast Foundation meeting two weeks ago an agreement was reached that the Foundation would co-sign a loan from FSA that would enable Mississippi to carry out their program through the end of this year. Another part of the plan is to perhaps hold a referendum sometime later this fall to increase their assessment. So far, the feedback from Mississippi is on the positive side.

MsCastlain raised the question, do we want our Technical Committee to look into contingencies that might come into play if Mississippi is either out or has a significantly reduced program.

Alexander asked the question as to where the USDA stands on quarantine.

El-Lissey said at this point USDA doesn't have an official position as to whether they support, or do not support, quarantine regulations.

New Business

Burn asked if industry had an update.

Antisi said that Griffin would help sponsor some of the meetings on the referendum.

Jim Plato reported that they are on schedule and will be in production by mid-September for next year.

Ladner said trap lures would be changed every week.

Burns welcomed Danny Kiser.

Burn complimented the program managers and workers. Several board members took a tour of the south Arkansas program. He said he was impressed.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, August 24, 2000.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:00.

The Board reconvened at 12:25.

In the executive session personal matters were discussed and no action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25.

JOE BURNS, Chairman