

ARKANSAS COTTON GROWER'S ORGANIZATION, INC.

Minutes of the
October 25, 2000 Meeting

Arkansas State Plant Board
Little Rock, AR

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

Others present were Cal McCastlain, attorney for ABWEP; David Blackburn, ASPB; Doug Ladner, Mike Catanach, Danny Kiser, Patty Carr and JoAnn Arnn, ABWEP; Bill Yearian, U of A; Jim Plato, Plato Industries; Gene Martin, AR Farm Bureau; Greg Bell, Simmons Bank; Cecil Williams, Ag Council of AR; and Richard Bransford, cotton producer.

Welcome and Introductions.

Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Doug Ladner led the group in a word of prayer.

Approval of September 26, 2000 meeting minutes

Chairman Burns asked if there were any additions or deletions to the September 26, 2000 minutes. Cal McCastlain made a clarification. Concerning certifying the ballot, 3) state the business operation, including the budget and personnel data. Illustrating a commitment to moving forward with field operations, should read, **3) state the business operation, including the budget and personnel, will be dedicated to the new region and commit to moving forward with field operations.** Jack Carey then made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended. Perry Stratton seconded and the motion carried.

Jack Carey provided a brief report on the ARS Meeting held in College Station, Texas on October 12-13, 2000. He reported that the participants were research people and people with the different foundations. He thought it was a productive meeting and that it was good for people with the foundations to be there to see what's coming up and how some of the research is actually working out when it's on a bigger scale.

Technical Committee Report

Dr. Bill Yearian reported that a portion of the Technical Committee met last week and it was a very productive meeting. A summary of the meeting (ATTACHMENT 1) was provided. There was discussion about when to try to have a referendum in the Northeast Delta area. Some thought it wouldn't matter if it were held in a year or two, but Dr. Yearian stated that his personal point of view was that they need to go ahead and try to have the referendum sometime in the fall of 2001.

Chairman Burns asked Cecil Williams to give his impression of what Missouri is about to do. Williams stated that he spent time with Charles Parker, chairman of the Missouri program, and they had already made the decision to go ahead and have another referendum. They plan to get the ballots out by November 1, 2000. They will count early enough in November, so they will know the result by December 1, 2000. Their board had decided not to have any meetings. Later they decided they want to have one meeting.

Williams also reported on a visit to Mississippi County. This led to a discussion of what it will take to pass a referendum in that area.

Ladner stated that on December 11 & 12, 2000, the directors and associates of all the different programs are coming to Little Rock. The plan for the meeting is to develop perimeters for long term maintenance.

He also said the money that started with Mississippi's problems, the \$59,000,000.00 is no longer an emergency fund. It has been put into the budget of APHIS as new money. It has passed the Senate and House, and is now on the President's desk. He will hopefully sign it today or tomorrow. That means \$5.8 million for us which includes the previously approved amount we would have gotten from APHIS.

There was discussion about getting a core group together in the Northeast. Ladner stated that they have already talked about it, as far as getting a budget together, we need a group from that area to sit down and go through the process, so they will understand it. That whole process can be started earlier if we can get a core group together.

Dr. Yearian stated that he would like to be given time to get things ironed out, then relay the program to the core group and ask for their input and thoughts, perhaps even modify the program based on their input.

McCastlain suggested that there was a need to start forming and identifying the Mississippi County group right now. A lot can be done with them, particularly among the Board members, getting them together, finding out who represents a representative group up there, the high infestation farmers, the low infestation farmers, and get them talking. When Ladner's people are ready and Dr. Yearian's group is ready, we'll bring the core group into that process. The core group will be ready to get into the discussions.

Chairman Burns appointed a committee of Mark Bryles, Cecil Williams, Gene Martin, Hal Hyneman, and Ritter Arnold to get a nucleus of contacts in Mississippi and Craighead counties. McCastlain suggested that if they get a large group together let them choose who they want the core group to be.

New Business

Charles Tilmon expressed concern over the weevil count in the Southwest Zone.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 28, 2000.

Jim Plato said they have made final adjustments to the bottom cone of the trap. There were no other industry reports.

Director's Update

Presentation was made by Doug Ladner. Copies (ATTACHMENT 2) of operational updates of the southeast zone and the central zone were provided.

Ladner reported that he is looking at leasing vehicles for program personnel and are also looking at leasing Mules, trailers and trucks for trapper contractors and for their own trappers.

Copies of the financial report (ATTACHMENT 3) were provided.

McCastlain stated that he thinks it's worthy of the Board's discussion at a meeting in the next month or two to look at next year's budget to see what it's looking like, so we have the big picture as we start the year. He also said it is a good idea to have a record of having reviewed the budget for the upcoming year.

Danny Kiser presented the Program Update. Copies (ATTACHMENT 4) were provided.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 12:10.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15.

Chairman Burns announced that the Board had voted to extend Ladner's contract for two years. Ladner accepted the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

JOE BURNS, Chairman

