

## **BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN PECAN PROMOTION BOARD**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME**

The organization governed by these Bylaws is the AMERICAN PECAN PROMOTION BOARD, hereinafter referred to as the “Board.” The Board is a nonprofit corporation organized under the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996 and the Texas Business Organizations Code, and formed to administer the Pecan Promotion, Research and Information Order (7 CFR Part 1223), hereinafter referred to as the “Order.”

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Board and these Bylaws shall be to implement the provisions of the Order, including creating programs to strengthen the position of Pecans in the marketplace, maintain and expand markets for Pecans, and develop new uses for Pecans.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The principal place of business of the Board shall be located in Fort Worth, Texas, or other location designated by the Board.

## ARTICLE IV

### **OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

Section 1. The officers of the Board shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The same person may not hold more than one (1) office at any one (1) time.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the first Board meeting in each fiscal year by the Board from among the qualified Board members for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected. Officers may be re-elected annually to the office held or to any other office of the Board but shall not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) office. The election of officers shall be determined by majority vote of the Board at the first Board meeting in each fiscal year at which there is a quorum, and the officers may be elected individually or by slate. In the event of death, resignation or disqualification of an officer, a successor shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board at the next regular meeting at which there is a quorum to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

Section 3. The duties of the Chairperson shall be: (a) to preside at all meetings of the Board; (b) to call meetings of the Board when deemed necessary; (c) to appoint committee members to the Board's committees; (d) to call any

meetings necessary of the Executive Committee and preside as chairperson of such meetings; (e) to have general knowledge of the affairs of the Board, and to perform all acts and duties usually incident to and required of a presiding officer; and (f) to be an ex-officio (nonvoting and not counting for quorum purposes) member of all committees.

Section 4. The duties of the Vice Chairperson shall be to act in the place of the Chairperson in that person's absence, disqualification, or disability, or at the Chairperson's direction.

Section 5. The duties of the Secretary shall be to perform, or to supervise a Board contractor or employee to perform, the following: (a) to distribute Board meeting notices; (b) to keep a complete record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee; (c) to keep a complete record of all Bylaws, committee Charters and policies of the Board; (d) to retain all minutes, papers, documents and other instruments of the Board.

Section 6. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to perform or to supervise a Board contractor or employee to perform, while adhering to the confidential treatment required in the Order, the following: (a) to have custody of all funds and property belonging to or under control of the Board; (b) to keep regular books and accounts under the direction of the Board; (c) to deposit all funds of the Board, or under its control, in a bank or banks designated by the Board; (d) to submit to the

Board and the Secretary of Agriculture all reports required by the Order, including a monthly financial report containing: (1) a balance sheet, (2) an income statement, and (3) a comparison of expenses with the budget; (e) to act as purchasing agent for the Board; (f) to serve as custodian of all insurance policies of the Board, including any fidelity bonds covering officers, employees and agents of the Board; and (g) to coordinate with auditors to complete the annual independent financial audit of the Board.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The Executive Committee will be appointed annually by the Chairperson.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of duties and policies as outlined by the Board and in accordance with the Executive Committee's Charter.

Section 3. The Chief Executive Officer of the Board may serve as a non-voting advisor to the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **BOARD**

Section 1. All Board members shall be qualified, nominated, appointed and elected as set forth in the Order, and may be removed as set forth in the Order.

Section 2. The term of office of the Board members shall be as set forth in the Order and subsequent pronouncements by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 3. No Board member may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, excluding any term of office less than three (3) years.

Section 4. Board members must not be in default of the payment of assessments required to be paid under the Order.

Section 5. Board vacancies shall be determined and filled in accordance with the Order.

Section 6. Failure of any member to attend three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the full Board, without an excused absence, shall result in a recommendation of the Board to the Secretary of Agriculture that such member should be removed from the Board. The Board, by majority vote at any meeting of the Board at which there is a quorum, may expressly waive implementation of this provision.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DUTIES**

Section 1. The Board may hire a senior executive designated the Chief Executive Officer, and other employees. Additionally, the Board may contract for administrative services, including contracting with an individual who shall act as the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 2. Subject to the policies and general control of the Board, the Chief

Executive Officer shall: (a) employ, retain, supervise, and be responsible for the discharge of all other employees of the Board, independent contractors, consultants, and other suppliers; (b) set wages and benefits within the Board's budget; (c) be responsible for all notices the Board is required to give; (d) assemble, compile, and analyze all information necessary in connection with the performance of the official duties of the Board; (e) execute all contracts on behalf of the Board; and (f) be responsible to the Board at all times for the proper administration of Board activities.

Section 3. Board Employees, under the general supervision of the Secretary and Treasurer, shall perform such duties as the Secretary and Treasurer, by these Bylaws or Board policy, may authorize and direct.

Section 4. The Chief Executive Officer shall be performance evaluated annually or bi-annually per the Chief Executive Officer's employment contract, or, if the Chief Executive Officer's employment contract is silent on performance evaluations or the Chief Executive Officer has no employment contract, as determined by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Board shall hold its Annual Meeting as soon after October 1 of each year as is practical.

Section 2. Meetings of the Board may be held with a minimum of ten (10)

days' advance notice whenever called by the Chairperson, or by the Vice Chairperson acting in the Chairperson's stead, or by joint call of a simple majority of the members of the Board. The Chairperson may call an emergency meeting on less than ten (10) days' advance notice. Any and all business coming before the Board may be transacted at such meetings. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be invited to all meetings of the Board.

Section 3. Meetings may be held telephonically or by video (in either event provided the system permits each person participating in the meeting to communicate concurrently with all other persons participating in the meeting) or at locations for the convenience of the Board members or for enhancement of relations with program participants.

Section 4. Notice of all meetings, together with a written agenda, shall be mailed or emailed to each member of the Board before Board meetings. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be given the same notice and materials as Board members.

Section 5. All proposals, programs or recommendations of the Board, including those to the Secretary of Agriculture, shall be in the form of motions. All motions, upon adoption, shall be recorded and shall become a part of the official minutes. All adopted motions, as a body, shall constitute policy of the Board and shall remain as such until amended by action of the Board.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **BOARD VOTING**

Section 1. A majority of the Board members will constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Each Board member will be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter put to the Board, and the motion will carry if supported by one (1) vote more than fifty percent (50%) of the total votes represented by the Board members present.

Section 3. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Section 4. The Board may vote to take an action in lieu of a Board meeting by mail, telephone, electronic mail, facsimile or any other means of communication if, in the opinion of the Chairperson, such action is considered necessary. All Board members and the Secretary of Agriculture must be notified of such action and all members must be provided the opportunity to vote. Such vote shall be approved if supported by one (1) vote more than fifty percent (50%) of the Board members. Telephone votes shall be confirmed in writing promptly. Any such action so taken shall have the same force and effect as though such action had been taken at a properly convened meeting of the Board, and shall be recorded in the Board minutes.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Chairperson will appoint Standing and Ad Hoc committees, committee chairpersons and committee members; and shall report to the Board, in



a timely manner, when such are appointed. Any Board member may request appointment to a committee but the final determination of committee membership shall be with the Chairperson.

Section 2. Committee chairpersons shall be Board members.

Section 3. A committee member may be someone other than a Board member and such committee member may vote in committee meetings; provided, however, Board members shall comprise the majority of each committee. It will be considered a quorum at a committee meeting when at least one (1) more than half of those assigned to the committee are present. Each member of a committee will be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter put to the committee, and the motion will carry if supported by one (1) vote more than fifty percent (50%) of the total votes represented by the committee members present.

Section 4. Each committee of the Board shall meet at the call of the committee chairperson upon ten (10) days' advance notice of the meeting. A committee chairperson may call an emergency committee meeting on less than ten (10) days' advance notice. No committee nor any member thereof shall have the authority to obligate the Board. In the absence of the Secretary or Chief Executive Officer, the chairperson of a committee shall arrange for and authenticate the minutes of that committee's meeting. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be given the same notice and materials as committee members.

Section 5. Committee Roles and Responsibilities shall be as defined and formulated by each committee and submitted to the Board as a Committee Charter for the Board's and Secretary's approval. Committees shall perform their duties and responsibilities in accordance with their Charters.

Section 6. The standing committees of the Board will be: Executive, Finance, Marketing & Communication, and Research.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **BONDS**

Officers, employees and agents of the Board who handle funds for the Board shall be placed under fidelity bonds issued by a reputable bonding company in an amount to be fixed by the Board. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the Board.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **PERSONAL LIABILITY**

No member or employee of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member or employee, except for acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct.

The Board shall purchase and maintain liability insurance covering Board members and employees individually and collectively when acting as a representatives of the Board.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **PROCEDURE AND TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS**

The Board shall be governed in its deliberations and in the transaction of business by the Order, these Bylaws, and any policies of the Board (including Board approved motions and Committee Charters). Any matter of procedure not covered by these shall be governed by “Roberts Rules of Order.” No person who is not a Board member or employee of the Board, or a representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, shall be entitled to participate in the deliberations and proceedings or speak at official meetings of the Board unless authorized and recognized by the Chairperson of the Board.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **POWERS OF THE BOARD**

Any officer, agent or employee appointed, elected, employed, or retained by the Board shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Board at any time or in accordance with any applicable written agreement. No officer, member, employee or agent of the Board shall have the authority to obligate the Board unless such authority has been expressly designated. All decisions, acts or performances of any such officer, member, employee or agent shall be subject to the continuing right of the Board to disapprove of the same, and upon disapproval by the Board, shall be deemed null and void to such extent as the Board may determine.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **EXPENSES**

Section 1. Members of the Board, other committees, or employees, when acting on authorized business, shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. In lieu of reimbursement of actual expenses incurred, the Board may establish a per diem allowance to cover such expenses.

Section 2. Each person filing a claim for reimbursements shall be responsible for supplying the necessary receipts or a reasonable explanation of the various expenses incurred. A standard expense voucher will be supplied by the Board for use in filing claims. All such claims for reimbursement shall be filed within sixty (60) days following the date the expenses were incurred.

Reimbursable expenses shall include the following: (a) mileage for auto travel at the annual rate determined by the Internal Revenue Service; (b) transportation charges of a common carrier (when available, coach service must be utilized on all plane flights under six (6) hours; business class may be utilized for international flights over six (6) hours); (c) bridge tolls, tips, parking or other charges incidental to transportation, but excluding fuel, oil, auto repairs or service on personal vehicles; (d) all meals, not to include alcoholic beverages of any type, while engaged in Board business; (e) hotel or motel room charges when Board business requires the claimant to be away from his/her place of residence overnight; and

(f) incidental expenses which are incurred in the performance of Board business, all such expenses to be adequately explained and/or verified.

Section 3. The Board may adopt a Travel and Reimbursement Policy that further defines this Article of the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **AMENDMENTS, POLICIES, CHARTERS AND**

### **CONFLICTS WITH THE ORDER**

The Board may amend these Bylaws, adopt policies or committee Charters at any meeting of the Board at which there is a quorum by an affirmative vote of a majority of all Board members present. Such actions will be effective upon the approval of the Secretary. If there is any conflict between these Bylaws, committee Charters or Board policies and the Order, the Order shall displace or preempt the Bylaws, committee Charters and Board policies.