

CALL TO ORDER 9:10 A.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

ROLL CALL:

David Kincaid	Effie Walker
Donald Martinez	Bill Sauble
Kevin Elfering	Don "Bebo" Lee
Bob Frost	Loren Horton

NMLB STAFF PRESENT:

William Bunce, Executive Director	Shawn Davis, Area 1 Supervisor
Ray E. Baca, Deputy Director	Julie Gauman, IT
Andrew Silva, CFO	Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, State Veterinarian
Allison Hedgecock, Legal Counsel	Dr. Alex Eckhoff, Field Veterinarian
Priscilla Pena-Johnson, HR Manager/Administrator	

VISITORS:

John Wensel, DVM, NMSU	Kreg Evetts
Tim Hanosh, DVM, NMDA	Sid Gordon, NMSU CES
Jane Frost	C. Rankin
Paul Sciglibaglio, DVM, USDA	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Walker moves to approve the agenda. Mr. Lee seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the June 1, 2016 Board meeting presented. Ms. Walker moves to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Frost seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Mr. Andrew Silva, CFO, presented the agency's financials. Mr. Silva explained the agency CFO's have been told to expect flat but more than likely to expect less due to gas and oil prices. The NMLB has increased the use of our fund balance to make up for the loss.

Chairman Sauble would like to sit with NMLB staff and area supervisors to develop plans in case of shortage. Look at what positions are essential to fill. Handout given to board members regarding mill levy rates.

Mr. Bunce stated that the agency's LFC budget hearing is set for October 27th at 1:30 in the afternoon room 321 at the Capitol.

Audit is scheduled to begin. We are current on all audits.

The agency is also requesting to dispose of 5-10 vehicles. Still looking at the number due to number of new hires and recent purchases.

DISPOSAL OF STATE VEHICLES:

The vehicles purchased with agency generated revenues, will be put through auction. Mr. Bunce stated that if vehicles purchased with state funds, general services department has first right of refusal. However, the vehicles have all been purchased with agency generated funds.

Mr. Kincaid moves that the board approve the disposal of 5 – 10 vehicles this year. Mr. Horton seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. RALPH ZIMMERMAN AND THE STATE VETERINARIAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bunce introduces Dr. Ralph Zimmerman, the new State Veterinarian. Welcome to Dr. Zimmerman. He is enjoying the work. Meeting as many people as possible. Reminding people they are here to help producers and the industry. Recognized Dr. Eckhoff for doing such a wonderful job in handling the issues that arose while she was at the helm. Round of applause for Dr. Eckhoff and her service. EHV outbreak was handled beautifully by Dr. Eckhoff.

Dr. Zimmerman announced that through Dr. Eckhoff's work, for the first time since 2009, New Mexico met the scrapie surveillance numbers.

Dr. Eckhoff discussed her attendance at the Bi-National Committee meeting. The meeting focused on the electronic certification process for cattle and establishing mechanisms to share electronic data between countries. Attendance is important and was noted.

Dr. Eckhoff also introduced a sheep photo contest. The winning picture will be featured in the NM Stockman and \$100 Tractor Supply gift card courtesy of the NM Wool Growers Association.

PUBLIC COMMENT / DISCUSSION – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 21.30.6.11 NMAC 'REGULATORY ACTION':

Committee was appointed to review the trichomoniasis rule and make recommended changes. The proposed changes are recommended by the committee. Chairman Sauble went through the proposed changes.

Costs will vary but Dr. Hanosh stated that the state lab charges about \$24 - \$25 to run the test. Can trich be eradicated? Dr. Hanosh stated that it is up for debate however, he believes that it can be

eradicated. Look at South Dakota. It has to be monitored. However, there are those who say it cannot be eradicated. It is in the best interests of the producer to do this. Can be devastating not just to that producer but for neighboring producers as well.

Mr. Nunn wrote a comment for the board to consider. Quarantining all ranches is a concern to him. Dr. Eckhoff stated that Mr. Nunn has complied with testing. It used to be more of a blanket quarantine of a ranch. Now, only the affected pastures can be placed under quarantine as long as we can ensure there has been no comingling. There are ways to manage the quarantine so that it does not cripple the producer. Management Plan makes it pretty easy to work with the ranch under quarantine.

Dr. John Wenzel commented that he believes our approach should be control with an eye toward eradication. When we follow the rules we have been able to clean up large areas in a fairly short amount of time. It involves producer cooperation. Some producers have more country to cover. It makes it more difficult. Does believe we can clean it up. Recently, the efforts have added to the success of the program. These rules are helpful to board in accomplishing the goals. He is in support of the changes.

Dr. Hanosh stated that there is some flexibility in the rules. Dr. Eckhoff stated that the report comes back from the inspector.

N branding a positive bull may be difficult, especially if there are not adequate facilities. Having an alternative to this, sealing a trailer, is a lot easier.

Livestock Inspectors are involved on all movements on quarantined premises.

Focus isn't on State Vet but the management plan is pushed out to the producer, the practitioner. It is customized to work with the individual producer. We have the best lab in the country.

Dr. Wenzel stated that we do have the best lab in the country. The collection of the sample is the weak link. Safe to say that the results from the lab are accurate.

Sid Gordon CEA from Otero County. The stigma on the producer of a positive test is significant. More communication to the producer from the NMLB would help. Reassure the producer that it can be addressed. It takes a while for the NMLB to release from quarantine. More participation and communication will be required to lose that stigma.

Dr. Eckhoff stated that he is right. Once found it is a regional problem. Have tried to modify that perception and for NMLB the communication is so important. Most information comes to the State Vet from the practitioner and the livestock inspector. Numbers of quarantines are decreasing. We will keep working on it.

Caren Cowan expressed concerns from a producer on the proposed rules ability to quarantine neighboring facilities. He did not catch the word may. This is an opportunity to publish an article in October or November with the regulations and explain how the system will work. People get upset when they don't understand what is going on.

Mr. Bunce stated that Mr. Jarrod Harral called him to comment that whatever we do when we notify adjacent facilities, we handle the notification with discretion and softer gloves and to not get heavy handed. Dr. Zimmerman was present during the conversation.

Is there an agreement with BLM and the Livestock Board? No there are no MOUs in place right now. However, communication is better. Mr. Lee stated that he would caution the involvement of the BLM on the regulatory side.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is in December. Dr. Eckhoff recommends having another Trich meeting. Most producers are starting to test in October. Get an article in the NM Stockman. December meeting schedule for action. Plan committee meeting in November. December 1 – 4 is the convention. Priscilla typically contact members.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Sauble moves to go into closed executive session pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H) (7) for a legal update on WHOA and Ruidoso/Alto cases and 10-15-1 (H) (2) Limited Personnel Matters – Management Concerns. Mr. Kincaid seconds the motion.

Roll Call vote:

David Kincaid - Y

Effie Walker - Y

Donald Martinez - Y

Bill Sauble - Y

Kevin Elfering - Y

Bebo Lee - Y

Bob Frost - Y

Loren Horton – Y

The NM Livestock Board goes into closed executive session after a five minute break at approximately 10:36 a.m.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Sauble moves to return to open session noting that nothing was discussed in Executive Session except what was listed on the motion to close and no action was taken. Mr. Horton seconds the motion.

David Kincaid - Y

Effie Walker - Y

Donald Martinez - Y

Bill Sauble - Y

Kevin Elfering - Y

Bebo Lee - Y

Bob Frost - Y

Loren Horton – Y

NM Livestock Board goes back into open session at approximately 1:31 p.m.

Mr. Kincaid moves that due to the obvious conflict among upper management relating to the personnel complaint presented to the board, I move that a sub-committee be appointed to review the allegations and proceed accordingly, with an initial optional goal of arranging for an independent mediator to set up a mediation among the parties. The members of the sub-committee will be Bill Sauble, Effie Walker and Kevin Elfering. Mr. Horton seconds the motion. Motion is passed.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

No questions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Bunce commented that we are still reviewing other properties. Senior staff have looked at a possible space in the building just across the parking lot. Under the same management as we are now. Reduction in rent rate would be required. May help with 5% reduction. Question is is there adequate square footage storage areas and adequate security? Lease in current building would have to stop with a new 5 year lease in the new facility. Heating and cooling is not adequate in current location. Staff does not feel safe.

The Law Enforcement Committee was a good committee to hear feedback from the industry.

BOARD CONCERNS:

Mr. Bunce presented some letters gathered by Mr. Martinez (who had to leave the meeting) in favor of consolidation of districts 26, 24 and 9 as well as a petition with signatures.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Kincaid moves to adjourn. Mr. Horton seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:56 pm.

APPROVAL:

