

MINUTES OF THE NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD (NMLB) MEETING

THE NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025,  
CONVENE AT 1:00 P.M.

IN PERSON:  
MORIARTY CIVIC CENTER  
202 BROADWAY STREET SOUTH  
MORIARTY, NM 87035

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Toby Dolan at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Toby Dolan, Chair – Present  
Anthony Gilbert Tafoya, Vice Chair – Not Present  
John Conniff, Secretary – Present  
Tony Casados, Board Member – Present  
Milford Denetclaw, Board Member – Present  
Michael Perez, Board Member – Not Present  
Victor Reyes, Board Member – Present  
Morgan Switzer-McGinley, Board Member – Present  
Crystal Clark, DVM, PhD, Board Member - Present

Quorum Established

**NMLB STAFF PRESENT**

Belinda Garland, Executive Director  
Justin Gray, Area 3 ROM  
Samantha Uhrig, State Veterinarian  
Sheldon Milton, Livestock Inspector  
Steven Howard, Area 1 ROM  
Eddie Behrends, MPI Director  
Kayla Sjoberg, MPI Deputy Director  
Jose Miera, Regional Supervisor  
Beth Mitchell, Livestock Inspector

Chris Machin, Legal Counsel  
Kelsey Begay, Livestock Inspector  
Stephanie Lujan, HR Manager  
Troy Patterson, Area 4 ROM  
Barry Allen, CLEO  
Dennis Alarid, Special Agent Supervisor  
Patrick Weisdorfer, Area 2 ROM  
Skylar Davis, Regional Supervisor  
Bobby Hernandez, IT

Lindsay Cutler  
Shawn Davis  
Sabrina Espinoza  
Liza Salas  
Aaron Salas  
Mance McManus  
Megan Romero  
Paul Scigliabaglio  
Alex Hamilton  
Rita C de Baca

Charlene Herbert-Johnson  
Manuel Otero  
Leon Otero  
Teresa Gonzales  
Darrell Johnson  
Charlie Herbert Sr.  
Ambrose Toledo  
Daniel Martinez  
Roseann Yazzie  
Roger Yazzie

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Switzer-McGinley moves to reorganize the agenda for estrays on December 15, 2025, Board Meeting.

Secretary Conniff seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Casados – Yes	Board Member Perez – Not Present
Vice Chair Tafoya- Not Present	Board Member Reyes – Yes
Board Member Denetclaw – Yes	Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to reorganize the agenda for December 15, 2025, passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

NOTE: \*\*Copies of the information presented, and a recording of December 15, 2025, Board Meeting may be requested by contacting the NMLB.

**APPROVAL OF REORGANIZED AGENDA**

Member Reyes moves to approve the reorganized agenda for estrays on December 15, 2025, Board Meeting.

Member Switzer-McGinley seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Conniff – Yes	Board Member Denetclaw – Yes
Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present	Board Member Perez – Not Present
Board Member Casados – Yes	Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to approve December 15, 2025, agenda passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Reyes moves to approve the minutes with two proposed changes from September 30, 2025, meeting. Secretary Conniff seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Denetclaw – Yes	Board Member Switzer-McGinley – Yes
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Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Board Member Casados – Yes

Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to approve September 30, 2025, minutes with two changes passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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**APPEAL OF ESTRAYS**

**Manuel Otero: 045-8-16060, 045-8-16109, 181-8-03844, 045-8-16003**

Mr. Otero Sr. gave a brief history of their brand, ownership and land. Mr. Otero Jr presented the information regarding the estrays in question.

Brand Inspector Mitchell presented how she determined the 18 head of cattle in question could belong to Mr. Otero.

**Public Comment:**

Shawn Davis presented a resolution adopted by the NM Cattle Growers Association.

Lindsay Cutler, General Counsel for Isleta Pueblo presented information regarding the stray cattle in question.

Officer Virgil Lucero presented information regarding tracks between property lines.

Member Reyes moves to deny payment to Mr. Otero for Estray Cattle.

Member Switzer-McGinley seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Conniff – Yes  
Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Board Member Casados – Yes

Board Member Denetclaw – Yes  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to deny payment to Mr. Otero passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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Pueblo of Isleta: 045-8-16001, 045-8-16003, 045-8-16004, 219-8-00267, 219-8-00245, 219-8-00264, 219-8-00266, 045-8-16057, 045-8-16054, 045-8-16060, 045-8-16085, 045-8-16087, 045-8-16086, 225-8-00011, 045-8-16109, 045-8-16108, 045-8-16139, 045-8-16142, 045-8-16138, 219-8-00302, 181-8-03844, 181-8-03966:

Member Reyes moves to remit the proceeds of 110 cattle that were originally part of the motion that was made whenever the original date was to pay Isleta.  
Secretary Conniff seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Switzer-McGinley— No	Board Member Denetclaw – Yes
Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present	Board Member Perez – Not Present
Board Member Casados – Yes	Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to pay Isleta Pueblo passes by majority vote of the quorum 5-1.

**Public Comment:** No Public comments made.

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**Charlene Herbert – Johnson: 211-23-01409**

Livestock Inspector Begay presented circumstances of the Estray 211-23-01409.

Charlene Herbert-Johnson presented circumstances of the Estray 211-23-01409

**Public Comment:** No Public comments made.

Member Casados moves to release funds to Charlene Herbert-Johnson for Estray 11-23-01409.  
Secretary Reyes seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Switzer-McGinley -- No	Board Member Denetclaw – Yes
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Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Secretary Conniff – Yes

Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to pay Charlene Herbert- Johnson for Estray 11-23-01409 passes by majority vote of the quorum 5-1.

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**Teresa Gonzales: 182-13-04005**

Livestock Inspector Sheldon Milton presented circumstances of Estray 182-13-04005.

Teresa Gonzalez presented circumstances of Estray 182-13-04005.

**Public Comment:** No Public comments made.

Member Casados moves to deny payment to Teresa Gonzalez for Estray 182-13-04005.  
Member Dr. Clark seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Switzer-McGinley - Yes  
Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Secretary Conniff – Yes

Board Member Denetclaw – Yes  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Reyes - Yes

Motion to deny payment to Teresa Gonzalez for Estray 182-13-04005 passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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**Roger Yazzie: 225-8-00178**

Regional Operations Manager Justin Gray presented circumstances of Estray 225-8-00178.

Roseann and Roger Yazzie presented circumstances of Estray 225-8-00178.

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**Public Comment:** No Public comments made.

Member Casados moves to release payment to Roger Yazzie for Estray 225-8-00178.  
Member Reyes seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Member Switzer-McGinley - No  
Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Secretary Conniff – Yes

Board Member Denetclaw – Yes  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Reyes - Yes

Motion to pay Roger Yazzie for Estray 225-8-00178 passes by majority vote of the quorum 5-1.

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**DISTRIBUTION OF HORSE RESCUE FUND**

Director Garland presented and reviewed the recommendation of the payment of FY24 and FY25 horse rescue funds.

Member Reyes moves to approve the distribution of the horse rescue fund. Member Switzer-McGinley seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Conniff – Yes  
Vice Chair Tafoya- Not Present  
Board Member Denetclaw – Yes

Board Member Casados – Yes  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to approve distribution of the horse rescue funds passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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**2026 LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

- A. **Budget Request** – Director Garland updated the board on the budget requests for the legislation and hoping to get support for funding to give all employees a pay increase.

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B. **Proposed Resolutions:** Cattle Growers adopted resolutions and Director Garland would like to review and put together resolutions to support them.

Member Reyes' moves to give the NMLB Chair authority to sign a letter to show support of the two resolutions discussed. Member Casados seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Conniff – Yes

Vice Chair Tafoya- Not Present

Board Member Denetclaw – Yes

Board Member Switzer-McGinley – Yes

Board Member Perez – Not Present

Board Member Dr. Clark - Yes

Motion to approve to give the NMLB Chair authority to sign a letter to show support of the two resolutions discussed passed by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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C. **2026 Possible Legislative Proposals:** Director Garland updated the board on the current budget situation.

**RESOLUTION 01-2024 – OPEN MEETINGS ACT 2026**

Director Garland asked the board to adopt Resolution 01-2024- Open Meetings Act 2026.

Member Switzer-McGinley moves to readopt Resolution 01-2024-Open Meetings Act. Member Denetclaw seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Secretary Conniff -Yes

Vice Chair Tafoya- Not Present

Board Member Casados – Yes

Board Member Dr. Clark – Yes

Board Member Perez – Not Present

Board Member Reyes - Yes

Motion to readopt Resolution 01-2024 Open Meeting Act 2026, passes by majority vote of the quorum 6-0.

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Member Reyes leaves the meeting at 3:52pm.

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**MEETING DATE FOR 2026** – Director Garland and the Board discussed locations for the next board meeting to be Monday or Friday in March. Once a location is found a date will be set. The Board decided to hold the next regular meeting in Silver City, NM.

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**OVERVIEW OF GOVERNOR’S REPORT 2026 - No action.**

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Member Switzer-McGinley moves to go into Closed Executive Session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (7) Threatened and Pending Litigation at 3:56 p.m.

Secretary Conniff seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Board Member Casados – Yes  
Board Member Denetclaw – Yes

Member Reyes – Not Present  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark – Yes

Motion to go into Executive Session at 3:56 p.m. passes by the majority vote of the quorum 5-0.

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**RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Member Switzer-McGinley moves to leave Closed Executive Session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (7) and confirms nothing else was discussed in Closed Executive Session other than items listed on agenda. Secretary Conniff seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Board Member Casados – Yes  
Member Denetclaw – Not Present

Member Reyes – Not Present  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Dr. Clark – Yes

Meeting re-convened at 4:13 p.m.

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**BOARD CONCERNS**

Director Garland presented the buckle given to the NMLB from the NM Beef Council.

Member Switzer-McGinley stated her disappointment in the other voting board members by ignoring the hard work of the inspectors and directors involving estray matters, Chair Dolan concurred .

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Switzer-McGinley moves to adjourn the NMLB Board Meeting. Member Dr. Clark seconds the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**


Vice Chair Tafoya – Not Present  
Board Member Denetclaw – Yes  
Secretary Conniff – Muted

Member Reyes – Not Present  
Board Member Perez – Not Present  
Board Member Casados – Yes

Chair Dolan adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

APPROVAL:

  
John Conniff, Secretary

  
Toby Dolan, Chair