



MINUTES BOARD OF LIVESTOCK MEETING

JANUARY 14 & 15, 2013
LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE ROOM 319 (MONDAY)
SCOTT HART AUDITORIUM (TUESDAY)
HELENA, MT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan French, chair, cattle producer
Ed Waldner, swine producer
John Lehfeltdt, sheep producer
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer
Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
Dr Marty Zaluski, Animal Health
George Harris, Centralized Services
Dr Eric Liska, Animal Health
George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board
Gary Hamel, Meat Inspection
Sherry Rust, BOL secretary -minute taker

George Harris, Centralized Services
Steve Merritt, Public Information Office
Dr Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Marty Clark, Brands Enforcement
Dr Bill Layton, Diagnostic Lab
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS WS
Brent Roeder, Montana Woolgrowers Assn.
Chaley Harley, Montana Beef Council

Les Graham, Montana Livestock Markets Assn.
Ariel Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Assn.

1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

MONDAY JANUARY 14, 2013

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board Communications:

- Jan French, Hobson
 - received a little moisture, plenty of wind, cold
- Jeff Lewis, Corvallis
 - dairy prices are good for now, dropping off in the next month
 - feed prices still going up, unless you are growing your own feed you're in a hard place
- Stan Boone, Ingomar
 - cold, with plenty of snow
 - hay is so dry from last summer's dry weather cattle are still picking through the fields rather than eat the dry hay
 - sold a Charolaise-cross weighting about 625 pounds for \$1.75
- Ed Waldner, Chester
 - have gotten quite a bit of snow, but not too cold
 - hog prices are stable
- Brett DeBruycker, Dutton
 - cold weather as across the state
 - feedlots are fairly full

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- 890 pound steers sold on Northern Ag Video for \$1.435
- John Lehfeldt, Lavina
 - snow and cold
 - wool has picked up a bit
 - lamb market is starting to move
 - things are looking positive
- Linda Nielsen, Nashua
 - 2,600 head at last sale, that was more than all last January
 - next two sales should be just as good
 - winter up here, cold - zero or so

Approval of Minutes:

BRETT DEBRUYCKER moved to approve the November 2012 board meeting minutes as presented. JOHN LEHFELDT seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Interim Authorizations and Activities:

The chair approved out of state travel for Tyler Bond to attend the 5 State Brand meeting.

JEFF LEWIS moved to approve the chair's interim activities as presented. LINDA NIELSEN seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Officer Reports:

STAN BOONE moved to approve the executive officer reports as presented. ED WALDNER seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Division Reports

Centralized Services Division, George Harris

- FY2014-15 Budget Requests/Subcommittee
 - fiscal division has completed its report. George responded to the issues discussed and updated the Board on budget items that may be at issue before the Legislature from appropriation and throughout the session.
 - took the starting budget back to 2012 and will look at inflation and rising costs
- Fiscal notes/proposed legislation
 - explained the requirement of providing fiscal notes for any proposed legislation impacting the department
- FY2013 Budget status/State Special Revenue Review
 - reviewed the major state special revenue funds: Brands, Per Capita, and Animal Health.
 - brand fee funds and lab fee revenues suggest the board should consider fee increases to keep them at an appropriate level
 - per capita fund looking better since the increase
- Internal control/standard operating procedures
 - Legislative Audit has instructed the department to compile internal control and standard operating procedures for the department
- Information Technology Update
 - Jim Newhall explained how the security policy will affect all the agency due to the disaster recovery and state mandate
 - the new SOP and internal control will impact IT for systems and implementation

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- Livestock Loss Board, George Edwards
 - 117 claims so far this year with more coming, compared to 92 last year
 - might add grizzly bears to the loss predator list
 - still working on other funding sources
 - loss report is available on the website

3:00 P.M. RECESS

3:15 P.M. RECONVENE

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Dr Bill Layton

- Christian Mackay mentioned the attempt to obtain funding for a building plan
 - not in the long range planning bill
 - not in the development grant(MSU)
 - legislators are interested in lab funding so we still in their sight
 - also relooking at partnership with FWP
- AAVLD accreditation review
 - received report today, not read it yet
 - 12 pages of nonconformance - mostly easy fixes - out of 23 total pages
 - building has very few nonconforming issues
 - LIMS has several issues including security
 - need a disaster recovery plan through IT
 - will forward the report with lab's reply to board members
- Action Item #1 - Fee schedule for board review
 - proposed fee increases average about 10% across the board
 - reviewed additional tests/fees and deleted tests
 - have not been increased since 2009, necessary with major increases in lab costs

JOHN LEHFELDT moved to go forward with the intent to raise lab fees as presented. STAN BOONE seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pin Awards

Chair Jan French presented Margie Kelley of Animal Health with her 15 year employee pin.

Wildlife Services, Kraig Glazier

- no federal budget yet
- Cattle petitions recently passed in several counties:
 - Pondera County - with funding available in 2014 (about 18,000 cattle in that county)
 - Madison County - 50 cents a head through the livestock board - use for predator control, brucellosis or other needs as deemed necessary by the 3 person board
 - Beaverhead added a 50 cent increase to \$.75
 - McCone - put \$15,000 in for control and met and signed an MOU -becoming the 21st county to co-op with wildlife services
 - Toole County is looking at \$1.00 up from 50 cents
 - Sheridan, Dawson, and Phillips County are looking for petitions
- Predator updates
 - busiest flying has just begun with calving and lambing season starting

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- coyotes need attention in addition to wolves
 - Montana rivals all other states in coyote numbers
- wolves
 - working on five wolf projects right now
 - 105 have been taken in the wolf hunt and 45 by trappers
- grizzly bears
 - continue to be an issue with increasing numbers and moving down from the mountains
 - have observed bears hanging around wolf kills

Meat Inspection, Gary Hamel

- Action Item # 2 Out of State Travel Request
 1. PHIS (public health information system) training February 21 through March 1 in Dallas TX
 - new federal system tracking input
 - feds are paying for one, wants to take another person for the training for redundancy
 2. Birmingham, Alabama for poultry slaughter training, February 4 - 8

LINDA NIELSON moved to authorize the requested travel as presented. ED WALDNER seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Beef Council

- Christian Mackay introduced Chaley Harnet, the incoming Executive Director
- Action Item # 3 Approve changes to the Beef Council Contract:
 - a review of costs showed we are pretty close to the dollar so no change is needed

PRODUCER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Pork Producers, Ed Waldner

- Annual Meeting is in Great Falls later this week, everyone invited to attend

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:20 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

8:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

TUESDAY JANUARY 15, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan French, Chair, cattle producer
Ed Waldner, swine producer
John Lehfeldt, sheep producer

Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer
Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

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Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
Dr Marty Zaluski, Animal Health
George Harris, Centralized Services
Dr Eric Liska, Animal Health
Janet Sharp, Animal Health
Sherry Rust, BOL secretary, minute taker

George Harris, Centralized Services
Steve Merritt, Public Information Office
Dr Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Marty Clark, Brands Enforcement
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS WS
Brent Roeder, Montana Woolgrowers Assn.
Chaley Harnet, Montana Beef Council
Kirk Donsbauch, Fergus Co. Livestock Assn.
Justin Gude, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Les Graham, Montana Livestock Markets Assn.
Ariel Overstreet, Montana Stockgrowers Assn.
Todd Olsen, Fergus Co. Livestock Assn.
Neil Anderson, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Richard Douglas, Brucellosis Working Group
Tom Linfield, USDA APHIS - AVIC

Division Reports Continued

Animal Health, Dr Zaluski

- Action Item # 4 CWD administrative rule changes
 - revised prior proposed changes approved by the board in July 2012 to include changes to meet federal rules

BRETT DEBRUYCKER moved to accept the draft rule as presented. LINDA NIELSEN seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item # 5 Trichomoniasis MSGA resolution
 - 1) the first resolution:
 - addresses the movement of higher risk animals from trich affected herds
 - the resolution would require "high-risk" cows from positive herds be consigned to slaughter channels
 - affected herd owners, if retaining ownership to be required to participate in a herd health plan including best management practices, neighbor notification, and protection of neighboring cattle concerns trich quarantine rule
 - need to harden quarantine and testing criteria, and review penalties for non-compliance

The board directed Dr Zaluski to proceed with disease management plan that incorporates necessary changes in the ARM.

- 2) the second resolution:
 - seeks to limit non-virgin bulls sold at markets to a trich feedlot or slaughter
 - does not allow for a negative test to change sale designation
 - more restrictive than the 2011 rules but may require less department oversight
 - only applies at markets and no provision for negative test to allow the bull to be resold for breeding
 - issues concerning the board included:
 - burdensome on markets

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- market owners have not be approached to see if this would be more burdensome
- does not address country sales (neighbor to neighbor, etc.)

JEFF LEWIS moved to have Animal Health draft a rule change. JOHN LEHFELDT seconded. Brett DeBruycker abstained from voting citing conflict of issues. The motion failed with Stan Boone, Linda Nielsen and Ed Waldner voting no.

LINDA NIELSEN moved to bring the resolution back and table the issue until the next board meeting in March. This would allow markets to be informed and their comments solicited. ED WALDNER seconded. The motion carried with John Lehfeltdt voting no and Brett DeBruycker abstaining.

- Animal Disease Traceability
 - new federal rule on animal ID (ADT) takes effect March 9, 2013
 - several changes from initial proposal including:
 - brands, tattoos and brand registration accepted as official identification under certain circumstances
 - continued use of backtags as alternative to official eartags for cattle and bison going directly to slaughter
 - identification of beef cattle under 18 months will be addressed in separate rules
 - the state will implement necessary rules as necessary to assure compliance with federal requirements

9:45P.M. RECESS

9:55 A.M. RECONVENE

- FWP Elk Working Group and Elk Collaring study
 - the elk working group was formed to address management options for elk in brucellosis identified areas and where there is concern about transmission between elk and livestock
 - the 12 member group represents both producer and wildlife interests
 - presented recommendations to the FWP Commission on January 10
 - Elk surveillance methodology and elk collaring monitoring in the DSA
 - the presentation is available on the FWP website
- Action Item #6 Out of State Travel Request
 - 2013 Western States Meeting in March in Salt Lake City
 - brucellosis and trich will be prominent issue on the agenda
 - requests all 3 veterinarians as well as Travis Elings
 - will travel by state vehicle
 - Animal Health and federal funds for expenses

ED WALDNER moved to approve out of state travel request as presented. BRETT DEBRUYCKER seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Zaluski introduced Dr. Tahnee Szymanski as the new Assistant State Veterinarian.

Brands Enforcement, John Grainger

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- Action Item # 7 Brand Inspection Fee
 - last fee increase in 2002 to 50 cents
 - presented proposed fee increase to producer groups with no negative resolutions
 - a 75 cent increase would create an addition \$435,000 to help restore a balance budget (more commensurate to inspection costs)

JOHN LEHFELDT moved to proceed with the intent to increase inspection fees to 75 cents and to increase new brand, transfer and rerecord fees (at next rerecord year) to \$150. ED WALDNER seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item # 8 Brand Policy Update
 - brand policy requires a certified documents to transfer a brand
 - recent state law states only land transactions require certified copy - not personal property
 - request approval to delete that requirement in the policy unless we need to assure the authenticity of the documents
 - also allowing a freeze brand be added to 2 d as subsection i

LINDA NIELSEN moved to approve the update as presented. STAN BOONE seconded. The motion carried unanimously

- Action Item # 9 Daniels County
 - presented petition and resolution from Daniels County to discontinue the County Livestock Protection Committee
 - John recommended placing Daniels County in District 7 and assuming duties therein

JOHN LEHFELDT moved to place Daniels County into District 7 as proposed. LINDA NIELSEN seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- District Boundary Changes
 - 1) District 5 change to include Glacier, Toole, and Pondera County in its entirety
 - 2) District 14 (L&C) and 25 (Cascade) change boundary to go from the SW corner of Cascade northwest to the NE corner NW of Red Mountain in Lewis & Clark County.

Brett DeBruycker moved to accept the proposed changes as presented. Jeff Lewis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item # 10 Electronic Brand Books
 - propose putting all 56 counties on a CD allowing purchasers to print whichever counties they want
 - cuts department costs in printing various counties
 - approximately \$15 per CD to be produced as request comes in
 - no leftover printed copies
 - will also continue to provide state-wide brand books at the cost of production

The board directed Mr. Grainger to proceed as proposed.

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- Horse rescue/sanctuary questions
 - animal given to "rescue" entity only to have the animal sold
 - look at is there a need for licensing and overseeing these entities
 - Gary Hamel, former dealer licensing person - it is not a large issue but being questioned why get a dealer license when the neighbor gathers and sells under the "rescue" title
 - Dr Zaluski - if we license horse sanctuary - next will be why not small animal facilities

The board directed department to keep an eye on this to see if it becomes more of an issue.

- Brands issues
 - 1) Doug Greenwald - lost 3 brands after rerecord
 - suing for loss of property
 - recommends the board fight this one or face multiple lawsuits from others who lost their brands

Information only

Request from rancher who owns the L7 brand in several positions for board to suspend brand issue policy

- originally denied by brand recorder according to policy
- suspension of brand policy would allow the brand recorder to work it for conflicts

The L7 request died for lack of a motion.

Public Information Office, Steve Merritt

- working on a guide for horse owners
- press releases
- brucellosis updates
- planning a summer project to visit board members and markets for articles

Milk and Egg, Dan Turcotte

- busy with licensing - going well
- temporarily holding on the part time position at the egg plant

Legislative Updates, Christian Mackay

- over 2,000 bill draft requests so far
- proposal to revise the Board of Livestock is on hold
- a large variety of bison bills
- Senator Moore drafted proposal to move BOHR to Justice
- revise laws related to milk - concerns raw milk

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- sunset brucellosis DSA rules - second time around - passed last time and was vetoed

Bison hunt

- 57 have been shot on the west side
- not much movement on the north side
- Tribal hunts commence after FWP season

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHRISTIAN MACKAY PRESENTED STAN BOONE WITH A PLAQUE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE BOARD FROM 2007 TO 2013.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

MARCH 18 & 19, 2013

12:14 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

JAN FRENCH, CHAIR