



Montana Board of Livestock Conference Call Minutes

September 12, 2017

Montana Department of Livestock
Helena, Montana

Board Members Present

John Lehfeldt, Chairman (sheep producer)

Lila Taylor (cattle producer)

Ed Waldner (swine producer)

John Scully, Vice-chair (cattle producer)

Nina Baucus (cattle producer)

Brett DeBruycker (cattle producer)

Sue Brown was not present until 9:05 am (dairy and poultry)

John Scully exited the meeting at 9:24 am

Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, EO

Leslie Doely, Brands Enforcement Division

Public Present

Les Graham, MALAM

Ted Odle, Montana Livestock Auction

Mary and Jerry Olson, Headwaters Livestock Auction

Bob Cook, PAYS

Joe Goggins, PAYS and BLS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

9:00 AM

Chairman John Lehfeldt called the conference call to order at 9:00 AM

OLD BUSINESS

9:01 AM

Consideration of a Request by BLS and PAYS to Change Market Sale Days

Leslie Doely said the DOL had received a petition on August 25, 2017 from Joe

Goggins and Bob Cook requesting that sale days for the two Billings livestock markets be modified:

- BLS would switch to a year-round sale on Monday and a seasonal sale on Friday
- PAYS would switch to a seasonal sale on Wednesday and a year-round sale on Thursday

Per the request of the BOL, Ms. Doely sent a letter to state livestock markets requesting their input, should the modifications be allowed:

- Positive input was received from the Glendive Livestock Exchange, Lewistown Livestock and Beaverhead Livestock
- Joe Goggins listed some of the reasons for his request for the change in sales days
 - For the betterment of their consigners and buyers
 - To improve the competition level
 - Safety of the BLS and PAYS staff, especially not having to work in the dark
- Opposition to the modification was expressed by Jerry Olson of Headwaters Livestock in Three Forks
 - The switch would make more competition for buyers with the feeder cattle
 - BLS' switch to a year-round sale on Monday conflicts with Headwaters' Monday sale day

Ms. Doely said if the sales days change, adjustments needed to be made with DOL staff could be accommodated:

- Staff would need to be shifted around as needed
- Work week would increase to six days

A public hearing will be held before the September 26, 2017 BOL meeting because of opposition expressed to the modification of the sales days schedule

MOTION/VOTE

9:18 am

Ed Waldner moved that the BOL send a Hearings Officer to preside over a hearing that will take place before the September 26, 2017 BOL meeting, regarding the "Consideration of a Request by BLS and PAYS to change Market Sale Days." That Hearings Officer will collect the information from the hearing and then report to the BOL at the September 26, 2017 BOL meeting where the BOL will be able to deliberate and make a decision on the proposed changes at that same BOL meeting. Sue Brown seconded. Motion passed by all.

The BOL would not allow BLS and PAYS to go forward with changing any of their schedule until after a decision is made by the BOL at the September 26, 2017 BOL meeting

MOTION/VOTE

9:29 am

Ed Waldner moved to adjourn the conference call meeting. Sue Brown seconded. Motion passed by all, except John Scully who wasn't present for the vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED
9:29 AM


John Lehfeldt, Chairman