



Montana Board of Livestock ZOOM Call Minutes

January 13, 2021
Scott Hart Building, Room #308A
Helena, Montana

Board Members Present

Brett DeBruycker, Chairman (cattle producer) Lila Taylor (cattle producer)
Gilles Stockton (sheep producer) Sue Brown (dairy and poultry)
Nina Baucus (cattle producer)

(Wendy Palmer and Ed Waldner were not present)

Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer
Ethan Wilfore, Brands Administrator
Abby Williams, Market Auditor

Public Present

Travis & Jenny Buck
Dexter & Karla Buck
Kevin & Jen Elias
Larry Klingaman

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

1:01 PM (0.00:07)

Chairman Brett DeBruycker called the ZOOM call to order at 1:01 PM

ROLL CALL

1:01 PM (0.00:15)

Brett DeBruycker requested that Mike do a roll call of all persons present on the ZOOM call:

- BOL members present were Lila Taylor, Nina Baucus, Gilles Stockton, and Sue Brown
- DOL staff present were Mike Honeycutt, Ethan Wilfore and Abby Williams, Dan Olson

- Members of the public present were Travis and Jenny Buck, Dexter and Karla Buck (owners of Bear Paw Livestock) Kevin and Jen Elias, and Larry Klingaman.

1:03 PM (0.02:18) - PROPOSED SALE DAY CHANGE OF BEAR PAW LIVESTOCK

Brett DeBruycker stated that this was a hearing not a BOL meeting. The hearing is to listen to a presentation from Bear Paw Livestock on a proposed sale day change. Brett DeBruycker asked if Mike Honeycutt would call on members of the public for comment.

- Mike Honeycutt asked for the owners of Bear Paw Livestock to talk about the proposed sale day change and why they want it.
 - Travis Buck said, “We want to change the date from a Friday to a Monday sale date, just to better serve the community we already serve in. I think we could get a better following of buyers to show up on a Monday sale. Fridays, it is getting a little tough on a feeder sale to get some buyer participation to travel to Chinook with so many other sales going around the state. So, I guess that’s the main reason. And, the other reason is just a family reason. And our help is the same way. We’d like to spend some time following the kids around, I guess. And, a lot of their events take place toward the end of the week. And, a lot of our help have kids and they would like to do that, also. But the main reason is just to do a better job marketing cattle so these guys will bring feeder cattle to us.”
- Mike asked for public comment for anyone on the call in Chinook.
 - Kevin Elias said “Yeah, so, this is Kevin Elias. E-L-I-A-S. Uh, local producer and helping here at the yard. I think Monday will be real good, not only for the buyer end of it, but, you just look at the way people in society are now and as far as getting help, Fridays, Saturday and Sundays, people are wanting to be gone. And, it’s just a fact of life and the way that things are going. And I think that it is beneficial, even as a producer. It’s pretty easy to go and do something on a Monday and get going. It is a fight and a struggle to do anything on a Friday or the weekend anymore. And, I think it would really be beneficial to get more buyers here into the sale and doing better for our producers in the area. And, the help aspect of it, too. I think all the way around it will be a much, much better deal.”
 - Larry Klingaman said, “I believe it will just stay, uh, it will be a good thing, just to elaborate on Kevin, just, a good start to the week and finding help. It will be really good. I think it will be good for the community. That’s all I got.”
- Mike Honeycutt stated for last call for public comment. Mike also offered comment from Ethan Wilfore or Abby Williams
 - Ethan Wilfore said he said he talked to Rob Matteson and there was no impact on his duties, nor would this change impact the Helena office staff.

1:08 PM (0.08:51)

Mike Honeycutt advised that the BOL close the hearing and start a BOL meeting.

1:11 PM (0.11:09)

Brett DeBruycker closed the hearing.

1:11 PM (0.11:11)

Brett DeBruycker opened a BOL meeting. Mr. DeBruycker asked for comments or questions from board members.

- Mrs. Baucus asked if there was any response from other markets.
 - Ethan Wilfore stated the DOL has received no responses. Mr. Honeycutt also stated he talked to Les Graham representing the Livestock Marketing Association and he indicated no response from his membership.
- Lila Taylor asked if this BOL meeting was legal
 - Mike Honeycutt confirmed that it was a legal BOL meeting.

1:13 PM (0.13:13)

Brett DeBruycker advised that the BOL wait to take action until the next board meeting on January 20, 2021.

- Gilles Stockton asked the owners of Bear Paw Livestock to elaborate on the number of buyers they currently receive verse how many they would expect to receive with the proposed change.
 - Travis Buck said, "On a regular basis, our feeder sales, there are three there are four feeder buyers that would, I don't know if they would regularly attend feeder sales, because they have prior commitments to country shipping or something like that. There are roughly about four that show up to the feeder sales. There's two cattle buyers that show up every week that buys for Long Prairie. So, Mark _____, and Owen Essbach and sale advise for them. And then occasionally you get a few other guys to show up to buy some cows. I think on Friday, or changing to a Monday sale, I feel that would draw some of those feeder calf buyers from that south and Billings area, just like I was on the phone trying to sell some calves to Fridays, about 2500 calves coming, and everybody I talk to south of the river says well, I gotta attend the sale in Billings, so I won't be able to make your sale in Chinook. Maybe those guys would potentially free 'em up a day to make a trip up to Chinook. So, it's hard to say how many would come. I'm just going off the, I am pretty positive we would get some more participation on a Monday."

1:17 PM (0.17:52)

Mike Honeycutt stated there was no further comment.

MEETING ADJOURNED

1:18 PM (0.18:42)


Brett DeBruycker, Chairman