



# Montana Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes

**(This Meeting was Open to the Public & By ZOOM)**

April 21, 2026

MT Department of Livestock Board Room #319  
302 N Roberts, Helena, Montana

## Board Members Present

Gene Curry (cattle producer)

William Kleinsasser (swine producer)

**(Alan Redfield, Greg Wichman, Jake Feddes, Eric Moore and Lily Andersen attended meeting by ZOOM. Greg Wichman left the meeting at 10:00 AM (42:27) and eventually returned. Contact was lost with Jake Feddes at 12:41 PM (2:31:53))**

## Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, EO

Donna Wilham, Adm Asst to EO

Lindsey Simon, Centralized Services

Evan Waters, Centralized Services

Rick Corder, Centralized Services

Dale Haylett, Centralized Services

Tom Shultz, Centralized Services

Carolyn Johnson, Centralized Services

Brian Simonson, Deputy EO

Dr. Emily Kaleczyc, Animal Health

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, MT State Vet

Dr. Emily Kaleczyc, Animal Health

Dr. Kelsey Martin, Animal Health

Dr. Greg Juda, MVDL

Jay Bodner, Brands Enforcement

## Public Present

Karli Johnson, MT Farm Bureau Federation

Dalin Tidwell, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services

Mr. Kleinsasser (William Kleinsasser's Father)

Jenny Jones

Hayley Masterson

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**(0:08) 8:01 AM**

Chairman Gene Curry called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM

## CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

**(0:08) 8:01 AM**

Chairman Gene Curry called the meeting to order, requested introductions and made note that including those BOL members present online, there was a quorum:

- **William Kleinsasser**, Swine Representative, Augusta
- **Lily Andersen**, Dairy & Poultry Representative, south of Livingston

**Alan Redfield**, Cattle Representative, Paradise Valley, south of Livingston  
**Greg Wichman**, Sheep Representative, Hilger  
**Eric Moore**, Cattle Representative, Miles City  
**Gene Curry**, Cattle Representative, Valier  
**Jake Feddes**, Cattle Representative, Manhattan, was not online for introductions

- Gene Curry, William Kleinsasser and Eric Moore expressed concern about water available for irrigation. Cold had prevented much grass growth, but William Kleinsasser reported that their winter wheat looked exceptionally well. Eric Moore had started seeding. Lambing was done and most reported calving was done or nearly done. Hog prices were reported as average, coarse wool was reported as worth something and cattle prices were “amazing”

## **BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**(11:14) 8:12 AM**

### **(11:14) 8:12 AM – BOARD APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

Gene Curry requested approval of the minutes of the last BOL meeting, held on February 27, 2026

## **MOTION/VOTE**

**(11:22) 8:12 AM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to approve the minutes from the Montana Board of Livestock February 27, 2026 meeting. Eric Moore seconded. The motion passed.**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE UPDATES**

**(12:00) 8:13 AM**

**(12:59) 8:15 AM – EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (BOL Moved into Executive Session)**

**(11:15) 8:15 AM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**(14:00) 9:31 AM RECONVENE**

Gene Curry called the meeting back to order and requested that a motion be made to accept the BOL evaluation of Executive Officer, Mike Honeycutt

## **MOTION/VOTE**

**(15:07) 9:32 AM**

**Alan Redfield moved to accept the BOL evaluation of Executive Officer Mike Honeycutt. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.**

**(16:03) 9:33 AM – EXECUTIVE PLANNING PROCESS APPROVALS**

**(16:03) 9:33 AM Review and Act on Agency Legislative and Budget Items for Submission to Governor’s Office for the 2027 Legislative Session**

Mike Honeycutt reported that Legislative Concepts from different areas of the DOL would be brought to the BOL for approval today. Proposed Legislative Concepts were due to the Governor’s Office by May 6, 2026:

- **Animal Health**
  - Clarification of language in MCA 81-2-115 regarding confidentiality for producers who participated in surveillance and do testing
  - Update current State Egg Law to be consistent with Federal Standards
  - Language cleanup in MCA 81-9-218 for readability of the law
  - Removing language in MCA 81-9-227 and MCA 81-9-229 that was outdated and not reflective of current DOL procedures

**MOTION/VOTE**

**(41:28) 9:59 AM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to move forward the Legislative Concepts to the Governor’s Office, as presented, for proposed changes in Animal Health statutes. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.**

- **Brands Enforcement Division**
  - Change MCA 81-3-222 to allow the DOL to reimburse producers the value of an animal taken and killed at an amount not to exceed the fair market value of the livestock
  - In MCA 81-3-107, remove the responsibility of the DOL to do research and history of a brand and charge a fee for it, as those duties had been moved to the Montana Historical Society
  - Update language in two Hide Dealer statutes, MCA 81-9-402 and MCA 81-9-421, regarding prescribed identification tag requirements, that were no longer a current practice

**MOTION/VOTE**

**(41:28) 9:59 AM**

**Eric Moore moved to move forward the Legislative Concepts to the Governor’s Office, as presented, for proposed changes in Brands Enforcement statutes. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.**

Mike Honeycutt, Brian Simonson, Jay Bodner, Dr. Tahnee Szymanski and Dr. Greg Juda presented the proposed Budget Priorities for the next biennial HB2 budget, to be considered by the BOL, before submitting it to the Governor’s Office:

- **Centralized Services Division**
  - Adding an additional \$100,000 of per capita fee for aerial hunting into the next biennial budget, raising that budget from \$575,000 to \$675,000

--The Livestock Loss Board had already approved requesting an additional \$100,000 of general fund in each year of the next biennium to USDA Wildlife Services

- **Brands Enforcement Division**

- One-time-only, use \$170,000 in per capita fee to purchase three trailers to help upgrade the Brands fleet, purchase used pickups for use at the markets, three to five handheld law enforcement radios and some protective vests for enforcement staff

- **Veterinary Diagnostic Lab**

- Hire two additional Veterinary staff and one Microbiologist support person for \$511,000 of per capita fee
- Purchase one piece of equipment to replace two FPA Plate Readers and an ELISA Plate Reader for \$50,000
- E Monitoring System in the new Lab Facility for a \$15,000 per year recurring expense
- Quality Management System Software for 25 licenses at a \$40,000 implementation fee, followed by a \$20,000 annual fee (this might be slotted for HB10)

- **Animal Health**

- Transition two Bison Program FTE's salaries from Federal Cooperative Agreement funding to per capita fee funding
- Raise Brucellosis testing reimbursements for Veterinarians and Producers utilizing general fund

## **MOTION/VOTE**

(1:42:06) **10:50 AM**

**Alan Redfield moved to move forward the proposed Budgetary Requests, as presented, except for the Predator Control operation. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.**

The End-of-Year Request list was discussed by staff and by the BOL:

- **Animal Health**

- 10 additional captive bolt guns for District Investigators for \$25,000
- 23 elk collars for the 2027 elk capture for \$52,000
- Quality Management System for the VDL for \$60,000
- Clinical Pathology Hematology Analyzer for \$125,000
- FPE Plate Reader for the VDL for \$50,000

- **Brands**

- One used market truck for \$30,000
- Light/Siren packages and grill guards/running boards/hitches to outfit new

leased vehicles for \$48,000  
--12 Hand Clippers for markets and enforcement staff for \$5,400

## **MOTION/VOTE**

**(1:53:40) 11:11 AM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to use excess year-end funds to purchase the equipment, as presented. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.**

**(1:54:22) 11:12 AM – EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATES**

**(1:54:22) 11:12 AM Special Presentation**

Mike Honeycutt recognized Donna Wilham's 10-year anniversary with the DOL

**(1:55:23) 11:13 AM YNP Bison/EIS/IBMP Operations Update**

- Mike Honeycutt reported that less than 100 Yellowstone National Park Bison had been removed from the population so far and he put the projected number of those bison in the Park to be at 6,000 or more
- The next IBMP meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2026 in West Yellowstone

**(1:57:37) 11:15 AM VDL Moving, Contracting and Cost Allocation Update**

- Mike Honeycutt reported that Brian Simonson was working on MOUs between the DOL and the Ag Analytical Lab and the MSU Wool Lab for ongoing maintenance, utilities and facility costs in the new Lab, as the DOL would be the owner of the new building, with a scheduled "take possession" date of June 12, 2026. A ribbon-cutting ceremony would, hopefully, be scheduled sometime in July, once all three Labs were moved into the new building

**(2:00:15) 11:17 AM – HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

**(2:00:15) 11:17 AM Staff Openings, Recruitment Updates**

- With Mike Spatz not present at the meeting, Mike Honeycutt reported on Mr. Spatz's handouts
- The biggest item to note, according to Mr. Honeycutt, was that there was an offer out for the Veterinary Microbiologist position at the Lab

**(2:01:21) 11:19 AM – LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (May Require Executive Session)**

**(2:01:25) 11:19 AM Update on Conversations with Rocky Vista Veterinary University**

Mike Honeycutt and Lindsey Simon brought the BOL up-to-date regarding the negotiations between the DOL and Rocky Vista Veterinary University:

- No contract had been reached between the DOL and Rocky Vista, even though agreement drafts and edits to those drafts had been exchanged. Now it

appeared that negotiations had been somewhat stalled, with the DOL awaiting a response back from Rocky Vista's attorneys to see if there was something that could be agreed upon

**(1:41:51) 11:23 AM LUNCH**

**(2:06:03) 12:15 PM RECONVENE**

Gene Curry called the meeting back to order

**CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS**

**(2:06:44) 12:16 PM**

Brian Simonson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced himself

**(2:07:05) 12:16 PM FISCAL BUREAU**

**(2:07:11) 12:16 PM Aerial Hunting**

Brian Simonson reported that normally this report was given in February or March, but aerial hunting duties had just been assigned to Leslie Doely and so, the report was a little late:

- In 2025, 30 pilots were permitted, but only 17 reported, with 1,783 coyotes and 9 foxes harvested. So far, in 2026, 19 permits had been issued, but those numbers were expected to increase

**(2:11:23) 12:21 PM Per Capita Fee Collections Update**

Brian Simonson reported that with the payment and per capita reporting both due on March 1<sup>st</sup>, this would probably be the only report seen this year, with anything coming after this basically being stragglers or collection efforts by the Department of Revenue:

- 2026 livestock reports filed were 96% of those filed in 2025, and the \$4,996,000 was 98% of what we should realize. Mr. Simonson added that the 3% increase in per capita fee last September was how there was a 96% reported, but a 98% in revenue
- Cattle headcount reports were 95% of last year; chickens were 7% more than last year, with a 125% increase in their per capita fee revenue; horses had 181 more reporters but showed fewer animals

**(2:17:00) 12:26 PM March 31, 2026 State Special Revenue Report**

Brian Simonson reported that this Special Revenue Report represented two months' worth of revenue, with 60%-67% of the financial year elapsed:

- Although Field Inspections were halved from last month, down \$3,614 from last year. Market Inspection gained \$24,000 from last period. Investments were down 21% from last year, a combination of lower interest rates and less revenue in reserve. Both Milk Inspection Fees and Egg Grading numbers looked just like they should. Although Diagnostic Lab Fees were down 6.7% from last year,

\$30,000 was gained over this last period. Wolf Donations were right on par with last year, taking in \$29,000 in February and March of this year

### **(2:23:54) 12:33 PM April 2026 through June 2026 Budget Projections Report**

Brian Simonson reported that there was \$1,048,063 projected excess authority at the end of the year, going up from \$880,000 projected in January:

- A big mover for this period, Mr. Simonson said, was \$191,000 in DSA testing. And then, the VDL had a \$77,000 expense this month in Repair & Maintenance, bringing a negative \$148,000 into that category which would probably adjust positive by the end of the year. Other Expenses were down by \$36,000 from last month, driven up by indirect money for Meat & Poultry Inspection. Last pay period, \$61,000 of the LLB's personnel dollars were moved into the Claims numbers, increasing that budget from \$150,000 last month to \$211,000 this month. Milk Inspection numbers were good now, with the addition of general fund added last year. Lab fees that were positive last month were a negative \$38,000 this month due to that Repair & Maintenance expense

### **(2:32:12) 12:42 PM March 31, 2026 Budget Comparison Report**

- Personal Services was a \$500,000 decrease compared to January's report, probably because of the \$330,000 in an extra pay period in salaries plus a jump in benefits as well. The VDL's expense in Repair & Maintenance and the indirects in Meat & Poultry Inspection raised Other Expenses to \$164,000. The General Fund number of nearly \$360,000 was mostly in the VDL due to more emphasis on using general fund than spending per capita this time around. The \$266,000 number in Per Capita Fee looked pretty normal. But, the \$866,000 total budget over this time last year, due to that extra pay period, should correct itself, and numbers would be better next cycle
- For budget amendments, the \$100,000 the BOL voted to add to Predator Animal Control a few months ago was put into the budget and was now at \$675,000. \$142,000 was spent in computer application upgrades this last period. Nearly \$600,000 in grant dollars was spent in February and March, but most all of the Federal dollars would expire and so we do want to get that money spent. Mr. Simonson said that most things would be under warranty in the new Lab for a while, meaning there should be a reduction in operating and maintenance expenses for a time

## **PREDATOR CONTROL**

### **(2:46:08) 12:55 PM**

### **(2:46:22) 12:55 PM Update on Activities of USDA Wildlife Services - (Presented by Dalin Tidwell, Montana State Director)**

Dalin Tidwell, State Director for USDA Wildlife Services, gave a status update of where they were in their operations around the state:

- Mr. Tidwell reported that they had challenges with the lack of snow cover and wind and were tracking about 10 days behind all season, but with lambing and

calving season, they were trying to keep up with individual needs. They had, however, been able to keep up with the maintenance on the helicopters

- Mr. Tidwell announced that USDA Wildlife Services had switched from the Management Information System (MIS) to an Operations and Reporting System (OARS) on March 12, 2026, to collect data for NEPA reports and paperwork. Also announced was that some of the Federal hiring freeze positions had been opened, including the ability to fill a vacant Budget Analyst position in their Billings office
- Seven or eight IRs for grizzly bears and a couple for Wolves had just come within the past week and a half

### **(3:00:39) 1:10 PM LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD (LLB) REPORT TO THE BOL**

Brian Simonson reported on livestock loss claim information gathered by Leslie Doely, LLB Program Manager:

- Mr. Simonson said that total depredation losses for 2025 were 217, and within the last two months only four producers had filed, for a total of seven losses
- Greg Wichman requested that along with the new “visual” reports format Ms. Doely put together, that she also include a spreadsheet, listing claim depredations by species and county to allow quicker finding of information

## **ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS**

### **(3:05:41) 1:15 PM**

### **(3:05:56) 1:15 PM – MEAT, MILK & EGG INSPECTION BUREAU**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski reported for Alicia Love, Meat, Milk & Egg Inspection Bureau Chief, who was out of state at a conference

### **(3:06:10) 1:16 PM Out-of-State Travel Requests**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said she would be requesting that the BOL approve two out-of-state travel requests:

### **(3:06:18) 1:16 PM National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Conference**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said that Alicia Love had been asked to speak at the NEHA Conference being held in Kansas City, Missouri in August, and because of that, NEHA would cover her travel, registration and per diem. The meeting agenda also contained several relevant courses in Food Safety, Leadership and Emerging Issues in Public Health

## **MOTION/VOTE**

### **(3:07:15) 1:16 PM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to approve out-of-state travel for Alicia Love to attend the National Environmental Health Association Conference in Kansas City, Missouri on August 1-7, 2026. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.**

**(3:07:48) 1:17 PM National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials (NADRO) Conference**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said that this annual conference was being held in Virginia in July and would provide Alicia Love and the DOL's new Sanitarian an opportunity to collaborate with other State and Federal regulatory programs and learn about current issues and upcoming challenges in the realm of milk regulation

**MOTION/VOTE**

**(3:09:20) 1:18 PM**

**Alan Redfield moved to approve out-of-state travel for Alicia Love and one staff member to attend the Summer 2026 National Association of Dairy Regulatory Officials (NADRO) Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, on July 12-15, 2026. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.**

**(3:09:55) 1:19 PM – VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**

Dr. Greg Juda, Director of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, introduced himself and updated the BOL on happenings at the Bozeman laboratory:

**(3:12:28) 1:22 PM Upcoming Lab Equipment Purchases**

Dr. Greg Juda made the BOL aware of some upcoming equipment purchases at the MVDL, some covered by NAHLN grant money set to expire soon, some covered with new NAHLN grant money and some to be paid for utilizing end-of-year authority

**(3:22:00) 1:31 PM NAHLN Financial Plan Items for Next Grant Cycle**

Having just been notified of the next NAHLN funding cycle, and a deadline of the following week for submission of financial plan items, Dr. Greg Juda presented the MVDL's list:

- Dr. Juda said that the MVDL had \$350,000 in combined NAHLN and Farm Bill funding that would be available and plans were to use it for equipment, equipment set-up and preventative maintenance for the equipment

**(3:29:34) 1:39 PM New Lab Moving Plan Discussion**

Dr. Greg Juda presented a draft moving plan into the new MVDL building that he said should be considered in the next several months:

- Although completion of the new lab was scheduled for mid-June, Dr. Juda said that with an AAVLD regulatory response due by the end of June, he and Dr. Szymanski had discussed possibly pushing the physical relocation back until that had been submitted. Summer was a less busy time in the Lab, Dr. Juda said, and even with some pieces of equipment taking a little longer to move and requalify once being moved to the new lab, he thought that downtime for Lab sections would be minimal

**(3:46:51) 1:56 PM Out-of-State Travel Request**

**(3:47:08) 1:56 PM National Poultry Improvement Plan Salmonella Workshop**

Dr. Greg Juda requested that the BOL approve out-of-state travel for a Microbiology Lab Section employee to attend a National Poultry Improvement Plan Workshop for Salmonella, an every-four-year requirement for a person involved in that type of testing at the Lab to be NPIP compliant with their program standards

**MOTION/VOTE**

**(3:49:33) 1:59 PM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to approve out-of-state travel for a Microbiology staff person to attend the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Workshop in Gainesville, Georgia on June 8-12, 2026. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.**

**(3:50:47) 2:00 PM RECESS**

**(3:50:56) 2:11 PM RECONVENE**

Gene Curry called the meeting back to order

**(3:51:14) 2:11 PM Announcement of Governor’s Directive Regarding Use of AI (Non-Agenda Item)**

Lindsey Simon, Agency Legal Counsel, announced to the BOL that since the meeting had commenced, the DOL had received written direction from the Governor’s Office, advising BOL members to not use Artificial Intelligence tools during virtual public meetings that take notes, transcribe what had been said or summarize what had been said

**ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)**

**(3:53:16) 2:13 PM**

**(3:53:22) 2:13 PM – ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU**

**(3:53:39) 2:14 PM Program Updates**

**(3:53:52) 2:14 PM USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Brucellosis Research Priorities Update**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski reported on a proposed objective, in cooperation with USDA-ARS (Agricultural Research Service), where sero-positive females, who were still pregnant in the Fall, would be purchased by ARS, transported to Iowa for study through their pregnancy rather than being euthanized for study

**(4:01:36) 2:22 PM Brucellosis Research and Ungulate Health (BRUH) Updates**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski updated the BOL on the activities of the Brucellosis Working Group that the DOL participated in:

- The DOL, along with MSU, FWP, the Wyoming Livestock Board, USGS and USDA-ARS would be working over the next several months to put together a

grant application for next year through the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) that would, hopefully, land and, would allow more research on Brucella

**(4:04:31) 2:24 PM Wyoming Upcoming Brucellosis Vaccination and Risk Period Rule Change**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski updated the BOL about Wyoming and some upcoming rule changes that might be coming out for public comment in May:

- The Wyoming Livestock Board recently voted to approve removing the Brucellosis vaccination requirement from the eastern half of Wyoming. Wyoming was also going to be updating their risk period dates to mimic Montana's

**(4:06:27) 2:26 PM ADT Tag Distribution Updates**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski updated the BOL on ADT tag distribution:

- Dr. Szymanski reported that Montana had not yet received any Fiscal Year '26 allocation of no-cost RFID tags, adding that the DOL was told that Congress had allocated an additional \$2.5 million for tags with the emphasis being that they be used for Brucellosis vaccination. She said that the DOL currently had 63,000 tags plus 10,000 tags marked for emergency disease response at the DOL office

**(4:06:27) 2:26 PM New World Screwworm Discussion (Non-Agenda Item)**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski reported that on April 19<sup>th</sup>, Mexico diagnosed an additional case of New World Screwworm in a one-month-old calf in Nuevo Leone, just 66 miles from the US border, and so, conversations were continuing in the DOL about New World Screwworm preparedness

**(4:17:12) 2:37 PM Requests for Out-of-State Travel**

Dr. Emily Kaleczyc introduced herself and said she would have two out-of-state travel requests for the BOL to consider today

**(4:17:23) 2:37 PM National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Meeting**

Dr. Emily Kaleczyc requested that the BOL approve out-of-state travel for a Veterinarian to travel to Salt Lake City to attend the National Poultry Improvement Plan annual meeting in August, with funding coming from the Avian section of the Federal Cooperative Agreement

**MOTION/VOTE**

**(4:18:51) 2:39 PM**

**Alan Redfield moved to approve out-of-state travel for a Veterinarian to attend the annual National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 10-15, 2026. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.**

**(4:19:34) 2:39 PM International Mortality Management Symposium**

Dr. Emily Kaleczyc requested that the BOL approve out-of-state travel for a Veterinarian to attend the International Mortality Management Symposium, a once-every-three-years

meeting, covering recent advancements in depopulation and carcass disposal methods. The meeting would be held in Wisconsin and funding was provided by USDA for one State Animal Health Official to attend

## **MOTION/VOTE**

**(4:20:45) 2:40 PM**

**William Kleinsasser moved to approve out-of-state travel for one Veterinarian to attend the International Mortality Management Symposium in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on June 29-July 2, 2026. Eric Moore seconded. The motion passed.**

## **BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

**(4:21:57) 2:41 PM**

Jay Bodner, Brands Division Administrator, introduced himself

### **(4:22:03) 2:42 PM BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION UPDATE**

#### **(4:22:03) 2:42 PM Market and Dealer Licensing**

Jay Bodner reported that 436 market and dealer licensing renewal notifications were sent out by State Print & Mail on March 13<sup>th</sup> to active dealers and agents with about half of them responding. May 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline to have those renewals into the DOL

#### **(4:25:04) 2:45 PM ServiceNow**

Jay Bodner reported that the Brands Enforcement Division was on the tail end of the Lifetime Horse Inspection enhancement being completed. There was an issue with the Sales Summary on the markets that would go into fix this week. Also being worked on was slowness in the ServiceNow System, but that was not affecting producers

#### **(4:30:04) 2:50 PM Google AI**

Jay Bodner reported that Google AI was running well with the replacing of Google Warehouse and implementing a Snap app, now allowing search by a partial name

#### **(4:31:25) 2:51 PM Blackfeet Land Department**

Jay Bodner reported on, what he called, a “very productive meeting,” the annual meeting with the Blackfeet Land Department, held at Tribal Headquarters in Browning with both Tribal representatives and DOL staff in attendance:

- Discussed at that meeting was drafting an MOU that would allow our District Investigators some additional authority on Tribal lands and discussion about a former employee who had retired and had worked closely with the Tribe. Disease issues, especially on the equine side of things, was also discussed

#### **(4:44:26) 3:05 PM General Board Discussion**

Eric Moore expressed his concern about glitches in the Brands software systems and having them fixed before Fall Run. Jay Bodner also updated the BOL on some recent hires in Brands and some positions that were still vacant

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS/COMMENTS FROM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS**

**(4:49:38) 3:10 PM**

Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, thanked the BOL for letting her join the meeting. William Kleinsasser introduced his father, who was in the audience, but, he gave no comment

## **SET DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**(4:50:50) 3:11 PM**

Gene Curry requested that a date be set for the next BOL meeting:

- Although the Memorial Day holiday, Montana Stockgrowers Association Mid-Year meeting, and with Jay Bodner being gone during that last week of May, the BOL scheduled their next meeting for Wednesday, May 27, 2026 in Helena

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

**(4:55:09) 3:15 PM**

  
Gene Curry, Chairman