



Montana Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes

(This Meeting was Virtual to the Public)

June 30, 2021

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

Board Members Present

Gene Curry, Chairman (cattle producer)
Alan Redfield (cattle producer)
Jake Feddes (cattle producer)
(Ed Waldner was not present)

Sue Brown (dairy and poultry)
Greg Wichman (sheep producer)
Nina Baucus (cattle producer)

Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, EO
Brian Simonson, Deputy EO
Evan Waters, Centralized Services
Buddy Hanrahan, Centralized Services
Dale Haylett, Centralized Services
Darcy Alm, Milk & Egg Bureau
Ethan Wilfore, Brands Administrator
George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board

Donna Wilham, Adm. Assistant to EO
Dr. Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Dr. Gregory Juda, MT VDL Director
Dr. Anna Forseth, Animal Health Bureau
Dr. Eric Liska, Animal Health Bureau
Gary Hamel, Meat & Poultry Inspection

Public Present

Rachel Cone, MT Farm Bureau Federation
Jenny Bloomquist, MVMA
Dalín Tidwell, USDA Wildlife Services
Rachel Meredith, Governor's Office
Kristin Juras, MT Lieutenant Governor

Julia Swingley, Agency Legal Services
Lauri Hanauska-Brown, MT FWP
Dr. Jennifer Ramsey, MT FWP
Cheryl Curry

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

(0:16) 8:01 AM

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

INTRODUCTION OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

(0:26) 8:01 AM

Chairman Gene Curry introduced Lieutenant Governor Kristin Juras, who was present at the BOL meeting:

- Lieutenant Governor Juras announced that she would only be able to sit in on the meeting until 9:00 am, but, said that the Governor's Office was pretty worried about going into a drought season. She added that the work the BOL members did was important

BOL ROLL CALL

(0:52) 8:02 AM

Chairman Gene Curry requested comments from each BOL member who was present:

- Nina Baucus commented that like everyone else, they were dry, and that the sheep had gone over to summer range. She reported that they were tippytoeing around predators and that they had lots of grasshoppers that even had gotten into the house
- Sue Brown, Dairy & Egg Representative from Belgrade, reported that the hay they just finished putting up didn't look great and that yields were less, as some hadn't germinated
 - Although the vegetables they grow are irrigated, Ms. Brown said, with the drought, they would be needing to purchase certified organic grain this year
 - Ms. Brown said that luckily, their goats could graze every day on 180 acres with a stream and had shade as well
- Jake Feddes from Manhattan, said that in his travels around marketing calves, that there was drought throughout the entire state and for those having to purchase hay right now, some is selling for \$250/ton
 - Mr. Feddes reported that the cattle market was good right now, but said that in the next month or two there would be big problems as lots of cows, a large majority of them cow/calf pairs, were going through the Billings market
- Lieutenant Governor Juras reported that probably the next week, the Governor's office would be coming out with a statewide drought proclamation. She added that their office is watching the situation daily and working with the Federal government to open up both the CMR and CRP for grazing
- Greg Wichman from Hilger, commented on how hot and dry it was and said that their normal 1200-bale crop was lucky to be 200 this year
 - Although they had probably three weeks of grass left, Mr. Wichman said that if there was no rain, it would be a problem with the lambs going early and the cows having to eat straw. He added that they had a grasshopper problem as well
- Alan Redfield of Livingston, reported that although his hay doesn't look too bad, the water is going down and that it was drier than in 1988
- Gene Curry of Valier, said that reservoirs had been overflowing in their area and some of the water out of Birch Creek had to be wasted because people weren't using it up, even offering water for half price if they did. Now though, water use picked up and stream flow had slowed down a bit
 - Mr. Curry said they had summer grass, but he wasn't certain how the reservation would fare

- On their pasture that borders Glacier Park, Mr. Curry said they just had their first verifiable grizzly bear kill, and that the bear had still not been caught. He added that he and those in the Northern Rockies feel those bears have pretty well recovered and that Hillary Cooley, the Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator's job is complete
- Mr. Honeycutt said that Ed Waldner was out of state dealing with family issues, so he would not be participating in the day's meeting

BOARD APPROVAL OF BOL MEETING MINUTES

(9:12) 8:10 AM

Chairman Gene Curry requested approval of the minutes for the May 5, 2021 BOL meeting

MOTION/VOTE

(9:21) 8:10 AM

Nina Baucus moved to approve the minutes from the BOL May 5, 2021 meeting. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

(9:42) 8:10 AM

(9:42) 8:10 AM – UPDATE ON COVID-19 DOL RESPONSE & CONTINUITY

(9:42) 8:10 AM – Discuss Organization Initiatives and Strategies for December 2021 Time Horizon

Mike Honeycutt reported that the Report on the DOL's Response to COVID-19 gets better every time the BOL meets:

- Mr. Honeycutt announced that 80%-90% of the employees had returned to the Helena office and he suspected that after this week, everyone would be back except for those who might have some sort of extenuating circumstance or something that required special accommodations
- For worker safety, the State was running vaccination clinics for employees who wanted to get the vaccination
- Mr. Honeycutt reported that persons could attend today's meeting in person, but that it was available by ZOOM as well. He said that because the conference room was small, presenters would come in one at a time
- For future BOL meetings, Mr. Honeycutt said that with ZOOM having proven itself a capable option, it would probably always continue to be offered as an option for the public to attend meetings, but that the BOL was open for business for anyone who wanted to come in and be part of a meeting in person

(14:20) 8:15 AM – UPDATE ON GOVERNOR'S OGSM STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT IN RELATIONSHIP TO BOL AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER STRATEGIC GOALS

Mike Honeycutt updated the BOL on the Governor's OGSM (Objectives, Goals, Strategies and Measures) program, a strategic management planning program State agencies are coordinating with the Governor's office each month:

- Mr. Honeycutt reported that the DOL had been working through, with the Governor's office, OGSM items that had a June time horizon, but was now looking forward to a December horizon
- Mr. Honeycutt said that the Objectives, Goals and Strategies for the DOL do not change, but the initiatives and how those are measured, do change
 - The Objective of the DOL is to serve all of Montana's livestock producers and livestock-related businesses by fostering, growing, promoting and protecting the livestock industry
 - The DOL's goal is to try and maintain market access for livestock producers and support any new marketing channels that exist for livestock businesses
 - The four main strategies to achieve those is: supporting value-added processing in the state; effectively monitor animal health disease prevalence in Montana; maintain integrity in livestock identification, marketing and movement; and protect livestock producers from predation and reimburse for losses
- The BOL was given an OGSM draft list, showing ideas put forward from staff for December-horizon initiatives and Mr. Honeycutt requested ideas and priorities from the BOL to add to that December horizon list
 - Maintain USDA certification of the State-inspected meat program
 - Submit the Cooperative State Shippers application into USDA
 - For the Red-Tape Review, bring forward some rule changes regarding milk dating that would bring clarification, such as, the 12-Day Rule would not apply to Food Bank donations
 - Have Montana State Inspectors train our own State Ratings Officers (SROs)
 - Track DSA compliance monthly rather than annually
 - Mr. Honeycutt explained that even though movement data is large during some months and not others, tracking of non-compliant movements are more effective when done on a more consistent basis
 - Complete a functional or even a table-top exercise to respond to a foreign animal disease
 - Increase and improve services offered by the MVDL, moving to become a more full-service lab
 - Conduct a brand policy stakeholder review that would reach 100% of brand owners
 - Design an online dealer and market renewal process in 2022
 - Alan Redfield requested that it be added that the owners of all Montana markets be visited by Ethan Wilfore by December
 - Purchase the helicopter for Predator Control that had funds appropriated for it during the 2021 Legislative Session

- George Edwards' list showed that he wanted to increase the number of grants that have sustainable funding and also increase the diversity of grant applicants, trying to get more ranchers themselves to apply for grants
 - Mike Honeycutt said that he feels that outreach and marketing is a piece to reaching ranchers
 - Gene Curry said that perhaps NGOs could help ranchers apply for the grants because the application and the followup for grants can take a lot of time
- Brian Simonson identified that there are some predator control rule reviews and reforms that need to happen to loosen up those in place
 - Current laws and rules limit out-of-state aerial hunters to only border counties, limiting the effectiveness of the private aerial hunting process for interior counties
 - Some of the predator control funds provided for county programs are restricted to aerial hunting only, and Mr. Simonson has some ideas to allow county boards more flexibility with those funds
- Nina Baucus said she would like to help producers to become aware of this thing called per capita and what types of things those monies cover
 - Sue Brown agreed that the DOL needs to continue trying to locate people who should be paying per capita as she knows a lot of horse people that have no idea about per capita
 - Alan Redfield said that those using the MVDL should be checked to see if they're paying per capita
 - Mike Honeycutt said that several hundred new per capita reporters were picked up after the DOL did a cross-reference on horse owners project
- Nina Baucus wanted to be sure that there are enough Inspectors, whether Milk or Meat, trained up and ready to cover should anybody suddenly retire or get sick
 - Alan Redfield said that some of those types of items are covered Legislatively
- Nina Baucus would like to match people up who have custom meat businesses with potential employees, possibly graduating Meat School students or maybe contact the Montana Meat Packers Association
- Nina Baucus would like to see the Brands Enforcement Division "blow their horn" more
- Mike Honeycutt agreed with the BOL that having more of a presence at fairs, shows and sales as that was a good opportunity to educate, but added that it was also a good time for enforcement, checking for health papers, brand inspections, etc.
- Mike Honeycutt reported that the Governor has a major focus on customer service and so, transactional customer service surveys have been launched internally in the State
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that the Governor asked every agency to pick one high-transactional service to receive customer feedback from, and that he

feels the MVDL is a good test case, but wanted to get the BOL's thoughts on that

- There was a discussion about the locked doors to the DOL
 - Mr. Curry said that people wanting to get brands had approached him wanting access into the building and that the locked doors had caused some frustration
 - Mr. Honeycutt explained that the door is not locked because of COVID, but because of security issues that had surfaced in the building, especially since the Motor Vehicle Division moved from Deer Lodge to Helena a few years ago
 - Sue Brown said that the building looks closed and that having a beeper to someone's phone in the building might help
 - Mr. Honeycutt explained that the capitol building is open to the public, but that there are security people in place. The DOL's building does not have security people in place, but do have a camera system has been put into place and added to some people's computers to see who is at the door. He added that there is also no building receptionist posted at the door
- Jake Feddes shared that he had two interactions with veterinarians concerned and discouraged about the biosecurity of animals being imported with CVIs from other states into Montana
- Mr. Feddes said that Kansas had really cracked down on their biosecurity for incoming animals
- Mr. Honeycutt shared of two cases of roping steers coming into Montana that were caught and added that, we may not need more regulations, we just need to be better at enforcing the ones we have

NEW BUSINESS

(1:20:12) 9:21 AM

(1:20:16) 9:21 AM – NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF BOL VICE-CHAIR

Gene Curry said he would open the floor for nomination of a BOL Vice-Chairman, or postpone it for one more month if the BOL was not comfortable in doing that yet:

- Nina Baucus nominated Alan Redfield, noting that he had a good Legislative background, had traveled the state, had a sharp mind for money and had been in the Stockgrowers

MOTION/VOTE

(1:21:30) 9:22 AM

Nina Baucus moved to nominate Alan Redfield as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Livestock. Sue Brown seconded.

Gene Curry asked if there were any more nominations. Hearing none, he requested a motion to close the nominations for BOL Vice-Chairman

MOTION/VOTE

(1:22:03) 9:22 AM

Greg Wichman moved to close nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Livestock. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

Gene Curry requested a motion to acclaim Alan Redfield as Vice-Chairman of the BOL

MOTION/VOTE

(1:22:29) 9:23 AM

Alan Redfield moved to accept the acclamation of Alan Redfield as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Livestock. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

(1:23:12) 9:24 AM – RECESS

(1:23:32) 9:27 AM – RECONVENE

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(1:23:32) 9:27 AM

(1:23:32) 9:27 AM – UPCOMING INTERACTIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE (EAIC)

Mike Honeycutt reported on the upcoming DOL Interactions with the Legislative Economic Affairs Interim Committee, the Legislative Committee that provides oversight to the DOL:

- The DOL is required, according to Mr. Honeycutt, to be in attendance at Economic Affairs Interim Committee meetings if requested. The Committee has the power to stop or pause DOL rulemaking if they see the need to do that, sometimes because of constituent input
 - The DOL will be one of the first agencies to present their oversight report to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee meeting on July 22, 2021 and has been asked to give an update on the operations of the DOL. Mr. Honeycutt invited the BOL members to attend if they desired
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that the Committee was looking to cover major impacts from this year's Legislative Session, and so the MVDL would definitely be very high on the list of things covered during that meeting
- Mr. Honeycutt explained that the Environmental Quality Committee does not provide oversight over the DOL, but, engaged quite a bit with the DOL because of CWD, Brucellosis and wildlife issues. He said they will occasionally request that the DOL come before them and report on specific issues
- With the Legislative Finance Committee meeting the following day regarding drought, they have requested that Mike Honeycutt be in attendance to assist DNRC if questions regarding the livestock industry should arise

- Gene Curry reported that he had heard rumblings at Farm Bureau and Stockgrowers that there is some feeling that some DOL responsibilities should be moved to the Department of Agriculture
 - Mr. Curry said that he feels if some of those responsibilities are given over to the Department of Agriculture, they would become more political and so he exhorted the other BOL members to stand for keeping what is in the DOL house as far as inspections and everything else they do
 - Nina Baucus pointed out that the DOL is both an inspection and enforcement agency, separating them from the Department of Agriculture, which is not an enforcement agency
 - Sue Brown pointed out that the DOL is unique in that it is mostly self-sustaining, and that producers are providing most of the capital for the Department, where the Department of Agriculture receives most of their money from the State and Federal government. She added that it would be a hardship at the State level to try and fund what the DOL does

(1:32:45) 9:36 AM – DISCUSS RESULTS OF DOL EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Mike Honeycutt reported on the results of the recently-completed Employee Engagement Survey:

- Mr. Honeycutt explained that the Employee Engagement Survey was one of the new initiatives that was done across all State agencies, with answers reflecting how engaged employees are, with the outcome being how Departments can better retain employees
- 67 of the DOL's 130 employees filled out the survey form, as it was not mandatory that they complete it. The Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau submitted the least number of surveys in the DOL
- The DOL scored in the top 20% with answers to the following questions:
 - Employees in my work group share job knowledge with each other
 - I know how my work directly impacts our agency's customers
 - In the last 6 months, my supervisor has talked with me about my performance
 - My co-workers treat me with respect
 - My supervisor is approachable and easy to talk to
 - The vision and goals of my agency are important to me personally
- The DOL scored in the bottom 20% with answers to the following questions:
 - How satisfied are you with the recognition you receive for doing a good job
 - I have opportunities for advancement in our agency (This was the lowest score)
 - I would recommend this organization as a great place to work
 - Managers support collaboration across work units/division to accomplish the agency's mission
 - My work is valued by this organization
 - Senior managers within the agency care about employees and foster a positive working environment

- Mr. Honeycutt reported there was one person that strongly disagreed with every question on the survey
- For the holistic State results, the Director of Administration reported that survey participation for all State agencies ranged from 33% to 74% with the highest score received as a 4.46 out of 5.0 on any one question. Mike Honeycutt said that the DOL's top 20% and lower 20% almost mirrored the Statewide surveys
- Mr. Honeycutt said that the DOL needs to do a better job with recognition and advancement of employees and commended the new Administration with putting the DOL in a position to do so

(1:51:23) 9:55 AM – UPDATE ON MVDL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROCESS AND PROGRESS

Mike Honeycutt introduced Marina Little, Department Planning Manager for the DOA Architecture and Engineering Division, who reported on the Construction Process and Progress of the New MVDL:

- Ms. Little said that she had been with the State for over 14 years, was a licensed architect and had been working with the consultants that were working on the new MVDL/Ag Lab. She said she will be the Project Manager for the project from start to finish
- No solicitation would be required for architects or consultants, according to Ms. Little, as Lheureux Page Werner (LPW) out of Great Falls and Clark-Enerson Partners, the Laboratory Consultants, who have already been working on the plans for the MVDL, would be working on the project until the end
 - Clark-Enerson Partners are Lab Architects who have built labs around the world, and they will recommend contractors for the job
- Ms. Little gave a general timeline of events for construction of the new Lab
 - In the Fall of 2021 the contract would be put together
 - Building design would probably take 12-18 months
 - Construction would be starting in Spring of 2023 through the Winter of 2024
 - Occupying the building should be sometime in Spring of 2025
- Dr. Greg Juda said that he did not foresee having to expand the footprint of the building they currently occupy, but said he thought there would be an opportunity to look at other options with basic space or even personnel, if the need should arise and he was pretty confident that the new building plan would give them the means to serve the livestock industry
- Dr. Juda said that the MVDL was back into full accreditation, at least until the end of 2021 and felt that funding being approved for a new Lab took a lot of weight off and put the MVDL in a good spot
- Ms. Little said that they are working with MSU on an exact location of the new Lab on 19th in Bozeman, somewhere between the college and the present Lab, but do not have it staked out as of yet. She said that Clark-Enerson Partners will work with the City of Bozeman regarding permits for the incinerator
 - MSU is working on a master plan as well, and Ms. Little said that in a communication with them, they mentioned about moving the facility even

further north, but, that she would be meeting with them again to verify the property

- Alan Redfield pointed out that perhaps the incinerator at the new MVDL could be used to help fund the maintenance by incinerating items for people
 - Dr. Juda said that in discussions with Clark-Enerson, they had a solution regarding inactivation of potential pathogenic substances, such as prions and other select agents, and that was by using capture tanks and incineration
- Dr. Juda explained that Dr. Steve Smith frequently has students from the MSU Veterinary Program come over to the MVDL for necropsies and that in the new MVDL plans, there will be a small viewing area with necropsy
 - Dr. Steve Smith and Dr. Schwarz-Collins have expressed interest in guest-lecturing for MSU, and Dr. Juda said that things like that to supplement the income for MVDL professional staff would not only develop a stronger tie with MSU, but also give staff chances to develop their career paths forward
- Ms. Little reported that there is \$9,850,000 of LRBP cash available to get the new MVDL started, but, they are waiting on HHS to confirm the CDC use of the \$26,000,200 and also the use of Federal dollars
- Ms. Little reminded the BOL that the funding amounts she is talking about are conservative estimates and that the schedule she laid out is going to fluctuate as they get deeper into the project
 - Although there was concern raised by the BOL regarding the project cost being higher than the funding approved, Ms. Little said that with the new MVDL project being out as far as it is, she is hoping that material costs will stabilize by then
- Ms. Little said she is very confident and comfortable with the partners they have for completing the new MVDL and is very comfortable in the position they are in and added that because the DOL and BOL kept after construction of a new MVDL, that is why it is now a reality

(2:27:36) 10:31 AM – RECESS

(2:27:44) 10:45 AM – RECONVENE

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS

(2:27:44) 10:45 AM

(2:28:01) 10:45 AM

LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD (LLB)

George Edwards introduced himself as the Executive Director for the Livestock Loss Board

(2:28:42) 10:46 AM – General Claims Numbers Update

George Edwards explained that the claims stat sheets that he had given the BOL were numbers from June 15, 2021:

- Mr. Edwards said that claims were beginning to come in heavy now, with one day picking up 7 claims and that another five had come in that morning
- Mr. Edwards explained that he is receiving April 2021 claims right now because once Wildlife Services does a predation investigation for a producer, claim forms are given to them to fill out and return to the LLB for compensation, but some producers wait 7-8 months to turn in that form

(2:30:40) 10:49 AM – Livestock Loss Board Update

George Edwards updated the BOL on LLB activities:

- Evan Waters told George Edwards that the LLB was doing okay, something different for the LLB, as Mr. Edwards said they usually just skip by budget-wise, by the skin of their teeth
- Mr. Edwards provided the BOL members with an agenda for the Livestock Loss board meeting scheduled for July 2, 2021
 - Mr. Edwards said that the LLB is back to doing remote meetings, or listening sessions, where producers from different areas can meet and talk to LLB directors informally, and that is where they get a vast majority of their best ideas between directors and producers
 - Mr. Edwards said that he contacted the Choteau and Fairfield papers to have them publish information about the July 2, 2021 LLB meeting agenda
 - Mr. Edwards said that at the upcoming LLB July 2nd meeting, they hope to discuss with ranchers about applying for prevention grants and how they can make it work better for them so that the vast majority of the grant monies will go to ranchers rather than non-profit groups
 - Mr. Edwards said that he had suggested to his board to scrap the current prevention grant form and simplify it, making it more of a check-box situation
 - SB58, passed this Legislative Session, according to Mr. Edwards, and gave the LLB \$100,000 of State-dedicated prevention money, much easier for ranchers to acquire, because the previous prevention money was Federal and the LLB had to match it with a 50% cost-share
- Mr. Edwards said that to a degree, some producers may not have faith in prevention measures for grizzly bears, but, with those bears becoming more prevalent, especially on the prairies, there is more electric fence going up
 - Mr. Edwards shared that Rockport Colony, for the last 3-4 years, had been putting up a couple miles of barbed wire electric fence each year and would probably be attending the LLB meeting to try and get some of that financed to be able to continue that fencing. He said that just a couple years ago, that Colony had 18 grizzly bears in among their buildings
 - Although some ranchers told Mr. Edwards that putting up electric fence concentrates the bear problem on the neighbors, the LLB won't force people to use it, but will continue to try and get the word out about prevention measures

- Mr. Edwards explained to the BOL his process for calculating the amount given for each predation claim that comes into his office
 - The current funding through the Legislature, according to Mr. Edwards, allows pay for predation for confirmed or probable loss, direct head loss, but there is no funding available to pay a multiplier
- When questioned why the LLB pays predation claim costs for ewes comparable to the Miles City ewe sale, which tend to be for yearlings and registered stock, Mr. Edwards explained that because the LLB had not been able to pay the multiplier, his Board wanted to err towards more the top ewe value rather than the cull ewe value to pay producers' predation claims
- Mr. Edwards said that Lieutenant Governor Kristin Juras spoke with him after a grizzly bear meeting in Augusta, telling him that there needs to be more money in the LLB program so that a multiplier can be paid
- Because of challenges from some NGOs regarding the LLB paying a multiplier, the LLB asked to have multiplier language inserted into statute so that there would be no challenge down the line when multiplier money does become available

(2:49:00) 11:06 AM – PREDATOR CONTROL

(2:49:00) 11:06 AM – Update on Activities of USDA Wildlife Services

Dalin Tidwell, Acting State Director of USDA Wildlife Services, introduced himself and gave an update of their activities:

- Mr. Tidwell explained that his normal job is the Eastern District Supervisor for Wildlife Services, covering the eastern half of the State, but, that John Steuber, former State Director of USDA Wildlife Services, had taken a position with the Western Region office as Assistant Regional Director and he was covering for him
 - Mr. Tidwell said that Mr. Steuber's new position allows him to perform his duties in Billings and that he will be the direct supervisor over the heads of Montana's Eastern and Western Districts for Wildlife Services
- Tim Graff, a pilot for Wildlife Services for 28 years, announced his retirement, and that his final day was today. His replacement had been selected but won't be starting until September 12, 2021
 - Tim Graff's replacement, according to Mr. Tidwell, is a local Montana pilot who has over 3300 hours of flight time in mostly light helicopters and knows mountains
- Regarding the DOL purchase of a helicopter, Mr. Tidwell announced that the Army flight school program out of Fort Rucker announced that all of their aircraft had been sold and that there would not be any more coming available
 - Another helicopter purchase option for the DOL was a Wildlife Services helicopter, which was assigned to a different state, and cannot be processed for resale for another year
 - Mr. Tidwell raised a concern that with those government constraints, that the Wildlife Services helicopter wouldn't be for sale until at least spring and that even then, they may decide to not sell it. If they would decide to

- sell it though, the \$180,000 to \$200,000 price that the DOL was going to give Fort Rucker for a helicopter may be much less than what Wildlife Services would be asking for their helicopter
 - Although bound by spending authority, Mr. Honeycutt told the BOL that the DOL had been given more than \$180,000 in spending authority for the helicopter. It had been given \$180,000 for the purchase of the helicopter and \$120,000 was set aside for the retrofit
- Mr. Tidwell said that there is a designated GSA contact who has been assigned to look across the whole government and glean anything, in regards to a helicopter, that would fit the bill of what the DOL is looking for to purchase
- Mike Honeycutt said that he is always hoping the military will surplus something and reminded the BOL that there is a time frame of two years to purchase the helicopter
 - Mr. Honeycutt also explained that the DOL has two helicopters and was only going to release the one on loan from the Department of Defense (DOD). It was decided though, once a different helicopter was purchased, to not release the DOD loaner immediately and use it as long as possible because the DOL would not be receiving any value for it and using it for as long as possible would extend the life of the newly-purchased helicopter
- Mr. Tidwell said that it had been nice to see some of the more active bear management activities play out in the last two years, because bear work, specifically grizzly, had plateaued except in counties such as Glacier and Pondera
 - Mr. Curry said that in his conversation with Hillary Cooley, US Fish & Wildlife Service Grizzly Bear Coordinator, he could not get a specific number from her regarding how many grizzlies can be eliminated if they become problem bears. He also said that new State law pinches down on where problem grizzlies can be released

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (Legal Update from BOL Legal Counsel, Julia Swingley)

(3:16:48) 11:34 AM

Mike Honeycutt introduced Julia Swingley, replacement for DOL counsel Lindsey Simon, who had taken a job with the Department of Labor:

- Ms. Swingley had been getting a transition period with Lindsey Simon and had been meeting with staff
- Mr. Honeycutt said that he had spent about 1.5 hours on the phone the previous week, bringing Ms. Swingley up to date with the DOL and BOL
- Ms. Swingley gave the BOL a little background about herself
 - She started working at Agency Legal Services in November 2020 and is currently advising several boards, other than the BOL. She added that she volunteered to represent the DOL
 - She was Chief Counsel at the Office of Public Instruction for a year and a half

- Prior to that, she ran her own business for 11 years where she was a litigator in representing businesses and doing collection
- She worked at the Department of Labor for four years, advising several licensing boards that had come over from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Labor

(3:19:54) 11:37 AM– Update on Legal Research Regarding DOL Obligations and Liabilities Under SB199, the Montana Local Food Choice Act

Julia Swingley opened herself up for questions regarding a memo from Lindsey Simon to the BOL addressing the validity of the testing of raw milk and the liabilities that occur for doing that:

- Mike Honeycutt gave some history of why Lindsey Simon had put together the memo for the BOL
 - When SB199-Montana Local Food Choice Act passed, it required those who sell raw milk to test it once every six months. Some raw milk producers came forward, wanting the MVDL to test their milk
 - The BOL on May 5, 2021 put a moratorium on accepting raw milk samples for testing at the MVDL
 - When testing Grade A milk, the DOL is regulatory-bound to take action if there is a problem with the milk. Does that regulatory action extend to private individuals' raw milk?
 - What is the liability of the DOL if a problem with raw milk is found and the DOL does not put out a public health alert or make the situation known?
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that if the BOL did elect to conduct raw milk testing, the DOL should have some kind of procedural protocols in place to reduce the risk of liability
 - The producer should qualify that they are a small dairy producer and fit into the raw milk exemption as listed in the statute
 - It should be noted that the sample to be tested was not collected by DOL staff
 - The DOL will run the tests but will not submit the results for interpretation by a Sanitarian. If, however, the MVDL staff test results show a public health concern, the DOL would notify DPHHS of that because they have jurisdiction over that
- Mr. Honeycutt reported that raw milk producers had been reporting on each other that some raw milk producers were selling milk from more than the 5 or less lactating cows and 10 or less lactating goats or sheep, the number that SB199 lists for them to receive the raw milk exemption
 - Ms. Simon told Mr. Honeycutt before she left that the DOL does have a duty to deal with that situation, because if a producer was selling raw milk from more than the number of lactating animals listed in statute, they would not come under the raw milk exemption and would have to come under licensure
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that if a DOL investigation shows that a producer has 40 cows, but the producer says they are only milking 5 of them, his interpretation is, the investigation is ended, because SB199 doesn't say

they can't have 40 cows, it says they can only be selling milk from 5 of them

- Although some of the BOL members swayed towards the DOL staying away from testing raw milk, Gene Curry said he felt that the DOL not testing raw milk was a disservice to the public
 - Sue Brown said that people should be able to drink raw milk, but there is no one regulating the raw milk testing according to SB199 and that she could never agree to putting raw milk into people's mouths without some kind of regulation
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that SB199 does call for those selling raw milk to test every 6 months and keep those records
- The type of testing required by SB199, according to Mike Honeycutt, could show a high coliform count or bacterial count, but, without a Sanitarian's analysis, it would not be known whether or not that is from TB
 - Nina Baucus reminded the BOL that Dr. Szymanski had said that Q-Fever, TB and Brucellosis can all be passed through raw milk
- Mr. Honeycutt shared that the raw milk information listed online since the passage of SB199 was amazing, showing places to find raw milk, different producers and also one site that mentioned that the DOL will not accept your samples for testing and gave information on where to purchase test kits
- Ms. Swingley said she agrees with all of Ms. Simon's findings and especially agrees with her recommendation that this is a perfect instance for acknowledgement and consent to testing. Ms. Swingley said she does not feel it is a big deal for the MVDL to require that type of disclosure but said she doesn't quite understand how it would be disclosed to the public
 - Mr. Honeycutt reminded the BOL that even though the BOL would like more clarity regarding SB199, that clarity would come through the rulemaking process and the statute prohibits rulemaking by the DOL on this topic
- Julia Swingley said that there is broad public support, if not strong public support, for SB199, but she felt that Lindsey Simon's findings show that the BOL still plays a role in protecting the public safety and the industry, even though regulatory authority has been stripped from them regarding the raw milk portion of the statute

MOTION/VOTE

(3:48:46) 12:06 PM

Greg Wichman moved to maintain the moratorium on raw milk testing at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for a period of 6 months. Alan Redfield seconded. Gene Curry voted no. The motion passed.

Sue Brown questioned whether anything could be amended on SB199 before the next Legislative Session and Alan Redfield said he didn't see it, but that Economic Affairs could choose to put it on their agenda and discuss it, otherwise, no changes could be made until the next Legislative Session

- Mike Honeycutt's thoughts were that people who were engaged in the raw milk sales business would probably be the ones to come back to the Legislature with revisions to the raw milk portion of SB199, because he assumed that at some point, those people may want enforcement of some kind
- Mr. Honeycutt relayed a story about early on when SB199 was being crafted, the sponsor of that bill worked with the DOL and ended up narrowing the language down in the raw milk portion because the bill language prohibited any agent from the DOL from entering in, which meant that a Brand Inspector couldn't even come on a producer's property to perform a brand inspection. In the just-passed statute, the DOL is precluded from doing typical milk regulation work, but a Brand Inspector can enter the property if there is a problem and a State Veterinarian has animal health quarantine ability
 - Most likely, Mr. Honeycutt said, if there is a problem with the raw milk facilities, it would be found out through a public health investigation
- Sue Brown said that Ed Waldner wanted the BOL to be aware that the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) are making sure in their contracts with producers, that those producers are not selling raw milk outside of that contract, because their concern is if somebody got sick from a DFA producer's milk, it would take their whole system down

(4:01:05) 12:18 PM – LUNCH

(4:02:19) 1:00 PM – RECONVENE

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

(4:02:25) 1:00 PM

Gene Curry requested that Ethan Wilfore, Brands Administrator, introduce himself

(4:02:35) 1:00 PM – RERECORD UPDATE

Ethan Wilfore reported that as of today, the DOL is halfway through the rerecord year:

- Mr. Wilfore reported that 53% of the brands had been rerecorded in the state
- Since January 1, 2021, 700 new brands were recorded and there had been a large transfer of brands
- Of the 12,000 returned first notice rerecord mailing envelopes, the Brands Enforcement Division has been through about 40%-50%, according to Mr. Wilfore, and they are doing Secretary of State searches if the returned envelope was to a business and trying to contact people by phone to get the correct mailing addresses. He said that his goal is to reach everybody that has a brand and they are making every effort to reach out to folks
- Second notices for brand rerecord, in the form of a postcard, will be sent out at the end of August or first of September

(4:10:03) 1:08 PM – PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARM

Ethan Wilfore requested two rule changes to ARM

(4:10:12) 1:08 PM – Proposed Change to ARM 32.2.404 – Brands Enforcement Division Fees

Ethan Wilfore requested a change in the market consignment permit fee when obtained online:

- According to Mr. Wilfore, the cost of the market consignment permit is \$1, but, with credit card fees from the current vendor, that cost is \$2.19
- Mr. Wilfore's proposed change to the fee would be to charge, for paper permits, a dollar to cover the cost of the books, but if the permit is obtained online, it would be free of charge
 - There would be a projected loss of revenue from making the online permits free of charge, and, according to Mr. Wilfore, that would be around \$15,000/year to transition, but with the increased revenues from rerecord, he said he would feel comfortable doing that
- Mike Honeycutt said the proposed change came about after conversations with several Legislators who talked to him about paying fees more than the value of the market consignment permit
- Mr. Wilfore said that taking the fee charge away could encourage more use of the online system and it would save on data entry time spent on inputting information from a paper permit. He said that information would be real-time because online entries are automatically saved and uploaded
- Some BOL members suggested raising the permit book fee by \$2.50, but it was pointed out by another BOL member that the DOL isn't getting that book fee, that it went to the individual keeping the book
- A BOL member concern with making the online permits free was the loss of revenue to the DOL and one BOL member added that it's just a part of life to pay a transaction fee when a credit card is used

MOTION/VOTE

(4:31:59) 1:30 PM

Greg Wichman moved to leave the market consignment permit fees, listed in ARM 32.2.404-Brands Enforcement Division Fees, the same. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

(4:33:33) 1:31 PM – Proposed Change to ARM 32.18.109 – Freeze Branding and ARM 32.2.404 - Brands Enforcement Division Fees

Ethan Wilfore requested to formalize a freeze brand rule and then add freeze branding to the Brands Enforcement Division Fees list:

- Mr. Wilfore explained to the BOL that the DOL had been charging an additional \$200 to add a freeze brand to a hot-iron brand, and when reviewing brands rules, he found that the DOL did not have the power to charge that extra \$200, as it is not listed in the DOL's fee rules
- Mr. Wilfore said he is proposing that when a hot-iron brand is recorded and a freeze brand is added, either at that time or at a later time, the fee would be \$10.

He said there would not even have to be a charge at all for adding the freeze brand

- Mr. Honeycutt explained that you cannot get a freeze brand unless you have an established hot-iron brand. To establish a hot-iron brand, it already costs \$200. When a freeze brand is added, the only work being done by Brands Enforcement staff is changing the certificate

MOTION/VOTE

(4:37:58) 1:36 PM

Greg Wichman moved to accept the proposed change presented by Ethan Wilfore to ARM 32.18.108-Freeze Branding, that would charge a \$10 fee to add a freeze brand to a current hot-iron brand certificate. The proposed fee charge would also be added to ARM 32.2.204-Brands Enforcement Division Fees. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

(4:38:38) 1:36 PM – REQUEST TO HIRE POSITIONS

Ethan Wilfore requested that the BOL approve filling two vacant positions in the Brands Enforcement Division

(4:38:48) 1:37 PM – Request to Hire a Glasgow Market Inspector and a Temporary Rerecord Clerk

Ethan Wilfore reported to the BOL that there were two vacant positions in the Brands Enforcement Division, a part-time Glasgow Market Inspector and a Temporary Rerecord Clerk:

- Mr. Wilfore said that a .5 FTE Market Inspector in Glasgow had resigned at the end of May and so he was requesting to fill that position
- Mr. Wilfore explained that person currently working as the Rerecord Clerk had been hired to fill the vacant Market Auditor position. He said that Rerecord Clerk position that he is requesting to fill is temporary and only goes through March of 2022

MOTION/VOTE

(4:39:36) 1:37 PM

Sue Brown moved to hire a Market Inspector in the Glasgow Market and also a temporary Rerecord Clerk in the Brands Enforcement Division. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

(4:40:06) 1:38 PM– BRAND POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

Ethan Wilfore requested some clarification and guidance on any pre-work or research he needs to do and direction he should be going in regard to the Brand Policy discussion:

- Gene Curry said that he had been working on getting a Brand Policy Committee together that he would Chair
 - Larry Schweitzer was proposed by Farm Bureau, and he is willing to serve

- Watty Taylor was suggested by Farm Bureau as well, and Mr. Curry said that he had spoken with him and he is willing to serve
- Ed Pryor and Justin Iverson were proposed by the Montana Stockgrowers Association
- Wally Congdon was proposed by the Montana Cattlemen's Association
- Jake Feddes said that he would probably serve as well
- Gene Curry welcomed any other BOL members who would like to serve a place on the Committee as well
- Mike Honeycutt said that Representative Josh Kassmier told him he would like to participate in the Brand Policy review process. Representative Brandon Ler was the author of the legislation that led to the Governor's directive to do the Brand Policy review
- Mr. Curry said that Ethan Wilfore can suggest a seasoned Market Inspector to be part of the Committee as well
- Gene Curry said he is hoping to have the first Brand Policy Committee meeting in July and have results by Fall before the ag organizations hold their annual meetings
- Mike reminded the BOL that the Governor gave a directive during the 2021 Session for this Brand Policy review and it is part of the DOL's OGSM
- An 8 am meeting was planned the following day for Gene Curry, Mike Honeycutt and Ethan Wilfore to look at Brand Policy

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS

(4:54:20) 1:52 PM

(4:54:20) 1:52 PM - ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

Mike Honeycutt explained that he had requested that out-of-state travel for the upcoming fiscal year be put on the day's agenda so that the BOL did not have to deal with out-of-state travel requests every month

(4:54:20) 1:52 PM – Request for Out-of-State Travel

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski introduced herself and reviewed each out-of-state travel request for a final vote by the BOL:

- **(4:56:22) 1:54 PM – *Western States Livestock Health Association Annual Meeting***
 - Scheduled for August/September 2021 in Boise, Idaho
 - Dr. Marty Zaluski and Dr. Tahnee Szymanski would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Federal Cooperative Agreement funds
 - Meeting is for the 17 Western states forum of the USHA region, covering subjects specific to the Western states region. Trichomoniasis, Brucellosis, traceability and Tuberculosis had been discussed in recent years. One item of importance to discuss at this year's meeting is the delisting of Brucellosis, to expand research opportunities

- **(4:58:05) 1:56 PM – Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) Meeting**
 - Scheduled for July 21, 2021 in Lapwai, Idaho
 - Dr. Marty Zaluski and Mike Honeycutt would attend the event. Clay Vines and Mike Himmelspach will be attending by ZOOM this year because the event is being held out of state
 - Event would be paid for with per capita (Mike Honeycutt) and Federal Cooperative Agreement (Dr. Zaluski) funds
 - Mike Honeycutt said that the IBMP meeting is court-ordered and is being hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe at their reservation

- **(5:01:40) 1:59 PM – Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agriculture Functional Exercise**
 - Scheduled for November 2021 in Manhattan, Kansas
 - Dr. Anna Forseth would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Federal Cooperative Agreement funds
 - This is a functional exercise, similar to the ARMAR (Agriculture Response Management and Resources) national Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak simulation the DOL participated in a few years back and would expose Dr. Forseth to other states' planning and their emergency response structure

- **(5:03:03) 2:01 PM – National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Meeting**
 - Scheduled for May 2022
 - Dr. Anna Forseth would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Federal Cooperative Agreement funds
 - This is a biennial conference, and with almost 20 participating flocks in Montana, it would be an opportunity for Dr. Forseth to become familiar with changes in the program especially with the emphasis on the 2014 HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) outbreak and the DOL's incorporating better disease surveillance and bio-security measures into the NPIP Program

- **(5:04:11) 2:02 PM – National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) Annual Summit**
 - Scheduled for June 2022 in Twin Cities, Minnesota
 - Dr. Anna Forseth would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Federal Cooperative Agreement funds
 - Dr. Szymanski said this meeting is heavily focused on animal disaster response. Mr. Honeycutt said that this meeting is one where the DOL has a vote, another reason to have a representative there

- **(5:05:02) 2:03 PM – Swine Health Improvement Plan Meeting**
 - Scheduled for August 23-24, 2021 in Des Moines, Iowa
 - Dr. Anna Forseth would attend the event
 - Event would hopefully be paid for with Animal Health Funds or possibly by a National Pork Board grant

- Modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan, Dr. Szymanski said the goal is to develop an African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever Monitoring program within the industry. This would be the first time this conference is held and Dr. Forseth would be Montana's attendee
- **(5:06:33) 2:04 PM – United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Meeting**
 - Scheduled for October 22-26, 2021 in Denver, Colorado
 - Dr. Marty Zaluski and Dr. Tahnee Szymanski would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for by Federal Cooperative Agreement funds
 - Dr. Szymanski said that there is a lot of policy discussion and veterinary-focused subject matter covered at this meeting, that this year will be held in a hybrid format. Because of the hybrid format, Dr. Zaluski and Dr. Szymanski will not have to physically attend what was traditionally a week-long event for several Animal Health employees, but only a couple days. She added that Dr. Zaluski is the Immediate Past President and Dr. Liska is a Sub-Committee Chair of USAHA

With concern raised by a BOL member regarding the presence of veterinarians in the office during the USAHA meeting time, Mike Honeycutt said that in this situation, it will not be a case where all four veterinarians would be out of the office at one time

MOTION/VOTE

(5:11:36) 2:09 PM

Sue Brown moved to approve all of the out-of-state travel requests, presented by Dr. Szymanski, including,

- **travel by Dr. Marty Zaluski and Dr. Tahnee Szymanski to attend the Western States Livestock Association Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho, scheduled for August/September 2021,**
- **travel by Mike Honeycutt and Dr. Marty Zaluski to attend the Interagency Bison Management Plan Meeting in Lapwai, Idaho, scheduled for July 21, 2021,**
- **travel by Dr. Anna Forseth to attend the Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agriculture Functional Exercise in Manhattan, Kansas, scheduled for November 2021,**
- **travel by Dr. Anna Forseth to attend the National Poultry Improvement Plan Biennial Conference, scheduled for May 2022,**
- **travel by Dr. Anna Forseth to attend the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs Annual Summit, scheduled for June 2022 in the Twin Cities, Minnesota,**
- **travel by Dr. Anna Forseth to attend the Swine Health Improvement Plan Meeting, scheduled for August 23-24, 2021 in the Des Moines, Iowa,**

- travel by Dr. Marty Zaluski and Dr. Tahnee Szymanski to attend the United States Animal Health Association Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, scheduled for October 22-26, 2021.

Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

(5:15:29) 2:13 PM – Board Discussion on Electronic Health Certificates

Gene Curry said that a veterinarian had expressed to him a concern about online-only export paperwork because of having problems with internet and cell service and he was wondering if there was still an opportunity for paper to be used:

- Dr. Szymanski explained that about two years ago a policy was established that beginning January 1, 2021, all export health certificates would be issued electronically with a modification that through 2021 veterinarians could write up to 20 paper health certificates
- By the end of 2021, Dr. Szymanski said the DOL is expected to have two new electronic platforms for veterinarians to issue health certificates that will be free of charge and will work without internet service
- Dr. Szymanski said if somehow technology fails to issue an electronic health certificate (e.g., someone runs over their I-Pad) a paper health certificate can be written
- Dr. Szymanski reported that since January 1, 2021, 96% of the export certificates submitted have been electronic

(5:19:23) 2:18 PM – Board Discussion on Brucellosis

Gene Curry requested information regarding delisting Brucellosis as a select agent and the research doors that would open, especially in developing an oral Brucellosis vaccine for elk:

- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski explained that when diseases are on the select agent list, research on them must be done indoors in a certain bio-security laboratory, which limits the ability to do research on large animals. Delisting Brucellosis would expand research opportunities, allowing research on a larger number of animals in a setting more like the wild
- Research has been done on small study groups of elk with oral/nasal exposure vaccines that has shown initial promise

(5:21:41) 2:19 PM – USAHerds Annual Maintenance Agreement Renewal

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski requested that the BOL approve the renewal of the annual maintenance agreement for the USAHerds software program:

- Dr. Szymanski explained that the USAHerds software program is used internally to track most of the DOL's Animal Health data
- With a 3% inflationary increase in cost, cost to renew the annual maintenance contract with 75 support hours is around \$27,000
 - There is an additional \$3500 charge if an additional enhancement is included, and that is the maintenance of the VET CVI/TB/Brucellosis, the

software which allows veterinarians to issue online health certificates for free of charge

- Dr. Szymanski said that about 92% of the maintenance fees are paid out of Federal Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) funds and the remaining 8% is covered by general fund and DSA funding
- USAHerds allows that locations of all DSA producers, movements and testing to be tracked, along with import and export health certificates done for the State of Montana. The State of Montana owns the data and both Animal Health staff and in some instances, Brands field staff, can access the information
- Mike Honeycutt explained that regarding public information requests, the caveat in there says that the public's right to know has to outweigh the individual's right to privacy. He also added that information cannot be given by the DOL to people who use it as a distribution list
- Dr. Szymanski said that there are currently 17 states using USAHerds, but, if you add in the states that use USA-LIMS (laboratory program) and USA Meat and Food Safety, there are over 20 states utilizing the platforms

MOTION/VOTE

(5:34:47) 2:32 PM

Sue Brown moved to renew the USAHerds annual maintenance agreement for 2021-2022 for \$27,318.17 plus \$3500 in enhancements, as presented by Dr. Tahnee Szymanski. Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

(5:40:34) 2:38 PM – Request for Order of Depopulation for Flathead County CWD-Positive Herd

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski requested that the BOL approve an Order of Depopulation for a Flathead County CWD-positive alternative livestock herd:

- The herd was diagnosed as CWD-positive in September 2020
- The positive animal exhibited no clinical signs consistent with CWD but was found dead on the property and when tested, came back positive for CWD
 - A State-required certification program requires that all animals in an alternative livestock herd that are over 12 months of age, if they die, must be tested for CWD
 - With no approved live animal test for CWD, at depopulation, the necessary samples from the remainder of the animals will be collected and tested
 - There had been no movement of the alternative livestock on or off the premises in over 20 years, so movement was not the source of introduction into the herd
 - At the time the positive was detected, there had not been any CWD detected in wildlife in Flathead County, which had been thought as a possible source of introduction of CWD to the herd
 - Dr. Szymanski explained that the rationale for asking for depopulation was because of the risk of spreading CWD to wildlife and other alternative livestock operations in Flathead County

- USDA last week, according to Dr. Szymanski, ranked the Flathead County herd as #2 in the nation for priority in indemnity funding, with a deadline associated with that indemnity of August 16, 2021
- USDA limits the amount they will pay for indemnity of any individual animal to \$3000
- Dr. Szymanski said that USDA has a document that provides guidance of how to move through a CWD-positive herd and the steps required, including, scraping of all organic material out of enclosures, maintaining fences around the facility, disposing of feeders and waterers and leaving the facility fallow for the next 5 years
- Dr. Szymanski said that in early 2020 there was a second alternative livestock facility in Eastern Montana that was depopulated because of being diagnosed CWD-positive, but, in the close proximity of that premises, there was CWD in wildlife...a potential route of introduction. That herd as well, had been enclosed for better than 20 years
- Montana started the herd deer certification program in 1999, which Dr. Szymanski says is the reason there is such extensive testing history of all alternative livestock facilities in the state
- According to Dr. Szymanski, there are about a dozen alternative livestock facilities left with animals on them in Montana and that several of those producers export bulls out of state to shooting facilities

MOTION/VOTE

(5:52:51) 2:50 PM

Sue Brown moved to allow, per MCA 81-2-102 (1)(h), for the depopulation of a CWD-Positive alternative livestock herd in Flathead County, as presented by Dr. Tahnee Szymanski. Nina Baucus seconded. The motion passed.

(5:53:26) 2:51 PM – Discussion of ID Requirements Between Idaho and Montana on Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs)

Alan Redfield said he had followed up on the presentation done by Mr. Hagenbarth at a previous BOL meeting regarding ID requirements when livestock is moved between Idaho and Montana:

- Mr. Redfield said he had spoken with an Idaho State Representative regarding interstate brand agreements and said he was left with the impression that the Montana State Veterinarian had opted Montana out of the program
- Dr. Szymanski said that the interstate brand agreements made with Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, and possibly Oregon, were intended to be transitional and set to expire on an annual basis
 - In 2014, according to Dr. Szymanski, USDA passed the Animal Disease Traceability program that required animals 18 months of age to get fully identified and listed on a health certificate when moving interstate. Because the interstate brand agreement caused Montana to lag on a trace performance measure, they opted out of the interstate brand agreement,

knowing it was transitional and had expired and doing so would correct Montana's lag in trace performance

- Mr. Honeycutt said that reinstating the interstate brand agreement would help some producers sending livestock out of state for seasonal grazing, but, would Montana be willing to accept the risk for livestock coming into the state with no ID or ability for traceability into a market
- Dr. Szymanski explained that animals entering Montana just on a brand do not step up to what the full animal disease traceability of what the Federal regulations look like and without the ID being listed on a health certificate or tied to a movement, if an animal comes in positive for TB, they have no idea how the animal got here
- Mike Honeycutt reminded the BOL that animals crossing state lines direct to slaughter do not require an individual ID. A bred heifer going across state lines can be a problem for a state for years because it could be sold multiple times along its lifespan and be a part of different herds
- Nina Baucus explained that the number listed on sheep scrapie tags leads back to the premise and the old-style Brucellosis tag would take you back to the vet who put the tag in the animal's ear
 - Dr. Szymanski explained that the scrapie program is a national disease eradication program and that Brucellosis has been eradicated from the nation except for the area we happen to reside in, meaning there are a lot of cattle that aren't getting vaccinated for Brucellosis
- Jake Feddes said that RFID is coming and the only way to trace. Sue Brown added that you can't complain about not being able to trace if you're not willing to go the mile to take care of it
- Regarding the red tag on the import page for the State of Idaho, Mr. Honeycutt said that Dr. Zaluski had spoken with them about it and language was added to their website even though the big, red, bold letters remain, saying that Montana no longer participates in the program
- Dr. Szymanski reported that in May 2021, there were 1,693 imports into the state, and to date, four had been identified as being illegal. She said that things that catch a lot of illegal imports into Montana are electronic documentation, because it is received so rapidly and the brands system and Brand Inspectors, who last month caught two cattle shipments, an illegal goat shipment and an illegal horse shipment
- Mr. Honeycutt said for illegal importation the penalty is a maximum fine of \$500, six months in jail, or both, but that is probably not enough of a financial deterrent and that statute should maybe be rewritten to adjust for inflation

(6:28:58) 3:27 PM – RECESS

(6:29:30) 1342 PM – RECONVENE

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)

(6:29:40) 3:42 PM

(6:29:45) 3:42 PM – MILK & EGG BUREAU

Darcy Alm Program Coordinator for the Milk & Egg Bureau, introduced herself and explained that she was sitting in for Dr. Zaluski

(6:30:16) 3:43 PM – Request for Out-of-State Travel

Darcy Alm said that she had a few out-of-state travel requests:

- **(6:30:16) 3:43 PM – *United Egg Producers (UEP) Training***
 - Scheduled for July 12-14, 2021 in Seattle, Washington
 - Alex Dachs would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Shell Egg Program funds
 - UEP certifies humane conditions for hens laying in cages. Mr. Dachs already has a portion of the training completed that will allow him to audit flocks so they can be certified for humane conditions. This portion of the training would be for hands-on experience

- **(6:32:19) 3:45 PM – *National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers (NCIMS) Conference***
 - Scheduled for April 7-12, 2022 in Indianapolis, Indiana
 - Rosemary Hickey would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with Milk Program funds
 - With representatives from each state and all of the territories, NCIMS is the governing body who make up the Grade A milk rules. This conference, held every two years, is where regulations are reviewed, current proposals are considered and decisions are made on what to keep or remove. Rosemary Hickey would be the voting delegate from Montana

- **(6:34:01) 3:47 PM – *Western Regional Milk Seminar***
 - This seminar has not yet been scheduled or a location established
 - One or both of the Sanitarians and the Lab Evaluation Officer (LEO) from the Milk Lab would attend the event
 - Event would be paid for with possible grant funds from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) plus, there are two flight credits for Milk Lab staff due to the cancellation of the seminar in 2020
 - This bi-annual seminar brings together our Sanitarians and Milk Lab professionals to connect with their counterparts in the region, receive industry updates, basic training, with the bonus of receiving continuing education credit

MOTION/VOTE

(6:35:54) 3:48 PM

Sue Brown moved to approve two out-of-state travel requests, presented by Darcy Alm including,

- travel by Alex Dachs to attend the United Egg Producer Training in Seattle, Washington scheduled for July 12-14, 2021,
- travel by Rosemary Hickey to attend the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers in Indianapolis, Indiana, scheduled for April 7-12, 2022.

Travel to the Western Regional Milk Seminar would be considered at a later date. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

Darcy Alm shared with the BOL that the budget is all in line, holding steady and that there was a comfortable cushion. The balancing factor, she said, was that with fewer dairies, there was less work and less mileage, travel and inspection time to pay

(6:39:39) 3:52 PM – MEAT & POULTRY INSPECTION BUREAU

Gary Hamel, Bureau Chief of the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau, introduced himself to the BOL

(6:39:39) 3:52 PM – Request to Fill Inspector Positions

Gary Hamel said that he needed permission to fill three vacant Meat Inspector positions:

- Forsyth
 - Mr. Hamel said that the hiring process for the vacant Forsyth Meat Inspector position had started and that interviews would be conducted
 - Mr. Hamel said that there is one plant in Forsyth that operates five days a week and so he moved a Billings position to Forsyth so that he could hire that position
- Kalispell
 - According to Mr. Hamel, the Kalispell Meat Inspector was offered a position in an out-of-state research laboratory, which lined up with his career goals
- Dillon
 - This position has historically been a hard one to fill, but, Mr. Hamel said that one of the inspectors in Missoula has family in Dillon and was hoping to transfer and take the position there
- Mr. Hamel said that he had been through several postings with the vacant Bozeman Meat Inspector position but had gotten zero applicants so far. He added that he had not been getting a lot of applicants for any of his open positions, saying that Missoula is difficult and Billings is next to impossible to hire from
- Mike Honeycutt said that the Feds recently added three new positions in Montana and that the prime people to recruit would be the DOL's current Meat Inspectors. Mr. Hamel said the position differential is about \$4/hour more than what the DOL is paying
- It was suggested for Mr. Hamel to check into hiring MSU Meat Lab students and even though they are being trained to be meat cutters, that would be a valuable skill set for a Meat Inspector to have

MOTION/VOTE

(6:47:35) 4:00 PM

Alan Redfield moved to fill the three vacant Meat Inspector positions in Forsyth, Kalispell and Missoula, as presented by Gary Hamel. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion carried.

(6:48:04) 4:01 PM – Request for Out-of-State Travel

Gary Hamel presented two out-of-state travel requests for the BOL's approval:

- **(6:48:04) 4:01 PM – National Association of Meat and Food Inspector Directors (NAMFID) Fall and Spring Meetings**
 - Fall Meeting is scheduled for October, 2021 in Denver, Colorado; date and location for the Spring Meeting has not yet been determined
 - Gary Hamel and possibly the EIAO would attend the events
 - Events are included in the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau budget
 - The NAMFID Meetings provide an opportunity for State Directors in Montana and 26 other states to gather, usually in conjunction with either the Southern or Western Animal Health Association meetings or with the USAHA meeting

MOTION/VOTE

(6:50:44) 4:03 PM

Greg Wichman moved to approve travel by two Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau staff to attend the National Association of Meat and Food Inspector Directors Fall Meeting, scheduled in Denver, CO for Fall, 2021. The BOL can decide on the Spring Meeting travel when a destination is established. Nina Baucus seconded. The motion passed.

(6:51:03) 4:03 PM – General Updates

- Gary Hamel announced that Alicia Love had passed her Enforcement Investigation Analysis Officer (EIAO) Test
- There is an onsite Federal audit scheduled for July 19, 2021, that will have an emphasis on Montana's custom exempt plants, because of SB199 and the custom poultry operation 1,000-bird and 20,000-bird exemption
 - Mr. Hamel said that they should be getting a list of those plants the auditors plan to look at in about a week or so and when they do, they will send the Inspectors and Supervisors out to those plants to make sure that they're walking through the plant, taking extra precautions and making sure records are accurate ahead of the audit
 - The auditors, according to Mr. Hamel, made it very clear that the audit is about the Inspector, not the plant
- Mr. Hamel reported that his office had not received an application back from the potential establishment owner to do bison slaughter

- Mike Honeycutt said that the one tribe that still consigns and is still taking Yellowstone bison for slaughter are the CSKT, but that it is up to them to find a place that will do the slaughter
- Mr. Honeycutt said the Big Timber and Ronan used to do bison slaughter. He said there were lots of mobile units around the state, but, he wasn't certain of their certification status, because some may have chosen to make application for Federal inspection rather than State inspection
- Jake Feddes said there is a modular plant going into Park County called Producer Partnership that will be federally inspected that should be ready to open in the Spring. It will help the Food Bank because to get a kill slot for your other animals, you are required to donate a cull animal to the Producer Partnership

(7:04:10) 4:17 PM – VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Greg Juda, Director of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Bozeman, introduced himself to the BOL

(7:04:49) 4:17 PM – Out-of-State Travel Requests for FY2022

Greg Juda presented his out-of-state travel requests for MVDL employees for FY2022, for the BOL's approval:

- Dr. Juda explained that his handout listed the individual trips, showing that the bottom-line amount not paid for by grants, is roughly \$10,340 and in comparison, he said that for FY2021, that budget number was a little over \$12,000
- **(7:06:17) 4:19 PM – Milk Analyst Workshop**
 - The date and location for the Workshop has not yet been determined
 - The newly-hired Milk Lab Technician would attend the event
 - Event has historically been paid for by an FDA grant
 - This workshop, held annually, is required by the FDA for new hires who need to be certified by this program, who do testing on milk within the central milk program
- **(7:08:29) 4:21 PM – Laboratory Evaluation Officers (LEO) Workshop**
 - The date and location for the Workshop has not yet been determined
 - Erin Burns would attend the event
 - This event is typically funded by an FDA grant
 - This workshop is a triennial workshop that LEOs, those who conduct milk testing and also audit satellite labs within the state, are required to attend
- **(7:10:39) 4:23 PM – CDC Rabies Workshop**
 - The date and location for the Workshop has not yet been determined
 - Brian Eilers would attend the event
 - This event is typically funded by a CDC grant that is managed by Public Health

- This workshop, according to Dr. Juda, historically has been attended for the past several years by MVDL staff involved in rabies testing. Last year, Tegnor Jacobson was sent from the MVDL to attend the workshop
- **(7:11:44) 4:24 PM – American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Annual Meeting**
 - Scheduled for October 22-26, 2021 in Denver, Colorado
 - Dr. Greg Juda, Tess Moore (Quality Manager), Dr. Erika Schwarz-Collins (Veterinary Microbiologist) and Dr. Steve Smith (Chief Pathologist) would attend the event
 - This event is partially funded by NAHLN
 - This meeting is educational in nature and provides continuing educational credits for professional veterinarian staff. Topics of interest include changes in regulations, new test methods, emerging technologies and trends in infectious diseases
 - Dr. Juda said that the meeting could be hybrid in nature, but, if all four attendees were out at the same time, there is an additional Pathologist who would likely assume the supervisory role for the Lab. Mike Honeycutt also pointed out that there would be no Serology Section personnel attending the meeting, who are the ones handling Brucellosis testing, which happens for the DSA during that time period
- **(7:15:23) 4:28 PM – ACVM Board Examination for Veterinary Microbiologist Erika Schwarz-Collings**
 - Scheduled for November 12-13, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - Dr. Erika Schwarz-Collins would attend the event
 - This event is funded by the DOL
 - Consistent with the Terms of Training Assignment and included with Dr. Schwarz-Collins' employment agreement, the DOL will allow and approve reasonable expenses for travel, lodging and study time necessary for attendance and preparation for the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists Board Certification

MOTION/VOTE

(7:18:14) 4:31 PM

Nina Baucus moved to approve all out-of-state travel requests for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, as presented by Dr. Greg Juda, including,

- **travel by the newly-hired Milk Lab Technician to attend the Milk Analyst Workshop that has not yet been scheduled,**
- **travel by Erin Burns to attend the Laboratory Evaluation Officers Workshop that has not yet been scheduled,**
- **travel by Brian Eilers to attend the CDC Rabies Workshop that has not yet been scheduled,**

- travel by Dr. Greg Juda, Tess Moore, Dr. Erika Schwarz-Collins, and Dr. Stephen Smith to attend the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, scheduled for October 22-26, 2021 and
- travel by Dr. Erika Schwarz-Collins to attend the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists Board Certification testing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, scheduled for November 12-13, 2021

Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

(7:18:44) 4:32 PM – Request to Hire Replacement Milk Lab Technician

Dr. Greg Juda requested to hire a replacement Milk Lab Technician:

- Dr. Juda explained that Julie Armstrong was retiring today after 15 years and that the other Milk Lab Technician would be going on maternity leave in the Fall
- Even with the 20% housing inflation rate in the area, Dr. Juda said he felt the pay was attractive enough to incentivize people to apply for the position

MOTION/VOTE

(7:22:51) 4:35 PM

Alan Redfield moved to fill the vacant Milk Lab Technician position at the Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

(7:23:18) 4:36 PM – Proposal to Adopt MAR 32.21.317 – Lab Tests

Greg Juda requested that the BOL approve the adoption of the amended rules in MAR 32.21.317, approved to publish for public comment at the last BOL meeting:

- Dr. Juda reported that there were no comments received for the modifications to the fee schedule that included the 50-cent modification to the pregnancy test that had been discussed

MOTION/VOTE

(7:25:32) 4:38 PM

Greg Wichman moved to adopt the changes to MAR Notice 32-21-317, that includes amendments to ARM 32.2.403 – Diagnostic Laboratory Fees, as presented by Dr. Greg Juda. Nina Baucus seconded. The motion passed.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)

(7:28:00) 4:41 PM

(7:28:00) 4:41 PM – FISCAL BUREAU

Brian Simonson, Deputy Executive Officer, CFO, Centralized Services, introduced himself to the BOL:

(7:28:22) 4:41 PM – Request to Hire Purchasing Tech

Brian Simonson requested that the BOL approve the hiring of a Procurement Specialist:

- Mr. Simonson reported that Ray Pellen had retired and that today was his last official day
- A retirement barbecue and plaque ceremony had already been held for Mr. Pellen who had already been gone from the office for a couple days prior to that

MOTION/VOTE

(7:28:57) 4:41 PM

Sue Brown moved to fill the vacant Purchasing Tech position in the Centralized Services Division. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

(7:29:22) 4:42 PM – CSD Turnover Updates

Brian Simonson reported that including Mr. Pellen, in the last four months, about a third of his personnel had turned over:

- Mr. Simonson reported that Alisa Odell, who had been with the DOL about three years ago, had returned, coming from the Department of Labor and Industry, and had filled the vacant Grants Accountant position
- A new IT Bureau Chief, Buddy Hanrahan, had been hired and started about eight days ago, coming to the DOL from DPHHS
 - Mr. Simonson commented that the ITS had done a good job of employing the new DOL web page with pictures and table that look better with more consistency across the board
 - Improvements are still needed in the Brands area, according to Mr. Simonson, and some instructions have been done to help people who have bookmarked the old pages to get on the right page
- A new Milk Control Bureau Chief, Darryl Ford, was scheduled to begin at the DOL on July 6, 2021. Mr. Ford had been a Bank Examiner at the Department of Administration
 - Mr. Simonson reported that Mark Curtis, the sole employee in the Milk Control Bureau at the present, had done a good job in the interim and would do a good job training up Darryl Ford, when he arrived at the DOL
 - Mr. Simonson was relieved that the Milk Control Audit pooling results for the previous month were out
- Even with all of the employee turnover, Mr. Simonson said that the Accounting Fiscal Bureau had done a good job staying on top of things and that in July, they would be going through fiscal year end

(7:35:31) 4:48 PM – Per Capita Fee Collections Update

Brian Simonson gave an update on per capita fee collections:

- May 31, 2021 was the deadline for per capita money to be in, and even though this would be the last time the BOL would see a per capita report, Mr. Simonson said there would still be more money rolling in
 - Mr. Simonson said that the Department of Revenue would be transitioning to the GEN Tax System, and for next year's per capita, late fees would come into play, but he wasn't certain what those fees would be, but they would not come to the DOL
- Mr. Simonson reported that there were 1,423 more per capita reports filed than the previous year
 - Evan Waters said that he thought that there were a lot of new reporters because of the question on the rerecord form, asking whether or not you own livestock
- Comparative to last year, the DOL had collected just over \$200,000 more than at the time of this reporting last year
- Cattle reporting was up 100,000 more head than last year at this time and reporting for horses was down
 - Gene Curry said not to count on those same cattle numbers next year. But, Brian Simonson said the DOL could weather that

(7:41:33) 4:54 PM – May 31, 2021 State Special Revenue Report

Brian Simonson gave highlights of the May 31, 2021 State Special Revenue Report:

- With the exception of Milk Inspection Fees and Investment Earnings, Mr. Simonson pointed out that the report shows that every other category, for the most part, is positive
- In the Brands section, New Brands and Transfers are \$176,000 over this same time last year, and Market Inspection Fees are \$141,451 over this time last year
- Other than a donation of equipment in the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab realized in the "Other Revenue" section, everything else was pretty standard, with Lab Fees outpacing last year's amount by \$417,000
 - Mike Honeycutt said that some of the MVDL increase was attributable to the Lab fee increases that kicked in and he also thought the Lab should be credited for better marketing themselves and trying to retain business in Montana more so than they did in years past
- Mr. Honeycutt said, the attrition of dairies had caused the Inspectors Assessment numbers under Milk Inspection to be negative, but, the number of cows and volume of production had not really been lost, so those negatives were small
 - Another reason the Inspectors Assessment numbers are negative is because as the dairies get bigger, they get capped faster at the maximum, and that is where the DOL is losing ground
 - Sue Brown said the cost is \$50 minimum and \$1050 is the maximum, so even the larger dairies just pay \$1050, so the DOL is not getting any farther ahead
 - Regarding a BOL question of raising the cap, Mike Honeycutt said that there had been some adjustments of the minimums and maximums in the past, but he gave kudos to Dean Foods (now DFA and Darigold), who at the time committed pay larger fees,

pretty much eliminating their cap, so that cost would not be passed on to the producer

- According to Mr. Simonson, 47 dairies remain in Montana, but six had closed
- Mr. Simson said, that to-date, the DOL had collected \$280,492 and their total projected budget expenditures for this year is \$255,000
- Gene Curry commented that when a new Hutterite colony is built, it used to be, 20 years ago, they would fight to get a quota, but now he's heard from them that there isn't any money in the dairy so they are not building dairies
- Regarding the voluntary Wolf Mitigation Donation Fund, as of May 31, 2021 it was about \$77,295, and Mr. Simonson said at the next BOL meeting he wanted to discuss transferring the balance to Wildlife Services

(7:49:42) 4:37 PM – May 31, 2021 Cash Balance Report

Brian Simonson said that this report may only be seen once or twice a year, but with it being the end of the year, it is a good time to give an assessment of where the ending fund balances will be and the health of the DOL:

- The nearly 14 million per capita fee balance can be divided into three buckets
 - \$5 million for Operations next year
 - \$2 million (35%) is a safety net of expenses
 - \$7 million is earmarked for the new MVDL. Mr. Simonson said until ARPA money comes through, that money is not touched, but when it does, decisions will have to be made about what to do with the \$7 million
- Mr. Simonson explained that the Milk Inspection Fees and the Shielded Egg Grading, Animal Health Fees and Milk Control balances are spent when they come in, a rolling, revolving account
- The \$7.7 million in Brand Inspection fees is that high, according to Mr. Simonson, because it is predominantly rerecord money
 - The Unearned Revenue number of \$6.3 million consists of brands 10-year rerecord fees, new brands and transfers that are amortized over the 10-year rerecord period ending December 31, 2031
 - Doing the math between Brand Inspection Fees and Unearned Revenue, Mr. Simonson said that there is about \$1.4 million of available cash in the bank to spend, that's liquid
- Mr. Simonson said that 47% of the brands haven't yet been rerecorded, but, when they are, the 10-year amortized amount for the DOL should be around \$800,000/year because of the increase in rerecord fees
- The Livestock Loss Reimbursement shows that there is roughly a \$103,000 balance that hasn't been spent. At the end of the year, it is planned to transfer that amount, and it is voted on by the LLB, to Operations, grants and Wildlife Services
- The Proprietary Funds, which are Enterprise Funds or Lab Fees, had a balance at the end of last year of around \$170,000 and the \$300,000-\$400,000 figure is what will be left in the bank to start the next fiscal year
- The STIP funds are investments of the DOL that have not been making much money since before the pandemic, but, are not losing money either

(8:00:26) 5:13 PM – June, 2021 Expenditure Projections

Brian Simonson explained that the Expenditure Projections report looks quite a bit different than it did the last cycle because it has been showing a static budget, but this report will show what is being done with resources available to make the budget whole for closeout:

- Mike Honeycutt explained that in the DOL's Central Services, Animal Health and Brands programs, as a whole, the DOL spent less money than they were authorized to spend in the total. There were troubles, however, in the Meat & Poultry Inspection Program (under the Animal Health umbrella) and the Brands Enforcement Division (personnel expenses)
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that the DOL did not put carryforward into the beginning budgets of Bureaus, because it gives a false sense of security. But, in the Brands Enforcement Division, you can't control long-standing employees retiring and receiving \$40,000 payouts, or, you can't control 70,000 head of cattle going through the markets this year, causing employee overtime to go way out of whack
 - Brian Simonson said that with COVID, the Federal money normally received did not transpire this year, and that would have cut the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau financial problem in half
- About \$271,000 of FY2020 carryforward was brought into the budget to help make each Division of the DOL whole before closing out the books for FY2021. The carryforward is comprised of general fund, per capita fees, brand inspection fees, milk control assessment fees and Federal funds
- Mike Honeycutt said he is holding out hope that contract negotiations for the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau will be moved out for another year, something that was discussed at the end of the last administration, which would mean the negotiations would follow along the Legislative cycle, making budgeting a lot simpler for that Bureau
- Mr. Honeycutt said that the Legislature decided to not give a 50-cent/hour raise to employees in January 2022
- Mr. Simonson reported that FY2020 carryforward was \$271,000 and the FY2021 carryforward was \$231,000 a \$40,000 difference because employees are getting paid better and they were staying
- Mr. Honeycutt said, also adding to that is that when employees stay there is no vacancy savings, and the new administration had requested a 5% vacancy savings factor rather than the 4% that it had been in years past
- Mr. Simonson said that the DOL has exceeded last year's budget by \$723,000, but they have not exceeded the budget and is pretty healthy as far as an organization is concerned
 - Reasons for the increase, according to Mr. Simonson' are fuller employment and DSA and CWD testing
- Mr. Honeycutt reminded the BOL that September is the month that the BOL decides whether or not to raise per capita fees, and he said he felt the DOL was heading towards another year of recommending no increase
- Mike Honeycutt said that with the DOL being in a better financial place than in the 2014-2015 period, he was wondering if the DOL should go back to some of

the services they had cut out back then, such as decreasing the number of District Investigators and reducing the predator control fund

- Nina Baucus said that Wildlife Services, during that time cut their budget from \$650,000 to \$350,000 to help the DOL and she thought it should be brought back up

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

(8:26:25) 5:39 PM

Mike Honeycutt said that none of the public was left on the ZOOM call or in the audience except for Cheryl Curry:

- Cheryl just commented that she enjoyed looking at brands at the Historical Society

SET DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

(8:27:16) 5:40 PM

Gene Curry requested that BOL members get out their calendars to decide on the next BOL meeting:

- Nina Baucus reminded the BOL that they usually take the month of July off from meetings because of year end
 - Evan Waters said that the books do not close for year-end until that last week in July
- Mike Honeycutt said that the Stockgrowers T-Bone Event in Billings is August 25-26, 2021, with the dinner on the evening of the 25th and the golf tournament on the 26th
- The BOL thought that would be a good time to hold their meeting and scheduled their meeting for August 25, 2021 in Billings. The exact venue would be decided at a later time

MEETING ADJOURNED

(8:36:17) 5:49 PM


Gene Curry, Chairman