



Montana Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes

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

July 21, 2022

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)

Greg Wichman (sheep producer)
Sue Brown (dairy & poultry)
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
Tom Shultz, Centralized Services
Ty Thomas, Brands Enforcement Division

Donna Wilham, Adm. Assistant to EO
Dr. Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Dr. Greg Juda, Director, MVDL
Alicia Love, Meat & Poultry Inspection
Robin O'Neill, Brands Enforcement

Public Present

Rachel Cone, MT Farm Bureau Federation
Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association
Wayde Cooperrider, MT FWP
Kurt Aughney, MT Department of Corrections
Celia Rigler, Governor's Office
Wynn Meehan
Matt Eager

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

(:06) 8:02 AM

Chairman Gene Curry called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

(:06) 8:02 AM

Chairman Gene Curry called for BOL member introductions and comments. All BOL members were present, except for Ed Waldner:

- Nina Baucus, Cattle Representative, north of Helena, said that they had a cattle and sheep operation
 - Ms. Baucus reported they had rain both this month and last month that affected their downed hay, making it not the best, but that she had no complaints
 - Wolves, lions and bears were all hitting at the same time, Ms. Baucus said, and how the Federal trapper would handle that, she didn't know, but they would get it figured out
 - Ms. Baucus did add that they were grazing some sheep over by Helmville and were cautious because that area had a very serious grizzly population
- Sue Brown, Dairy & Egg Representative from Belgrade, reported that they had received a lot of rain
 - Ms. Brown reported that they were still on their first cutting of hay and that they were very thankful to have a first cutting
 - Their problem with the leased land had been resolved, Ms. Brown said, and they were good to go for the next 10 years
- Jake Feddes, Cattle Representative from Manhattan, reported that they had a good first cutting of hay that got rained on and wasn't very pretty, but that it would feed a cow and they were thankful for the rain
 - Mr. Feddes reported that they had started marketing calves all last month, and towards the end of that month, prices seemed to get better and better, with video sales being crazy. He added that the optimism in the cattle industry was a nice change
- Greg Wichman, Sheep Representative, north of Lewistown, reported that the sheep market had dropped seriously and that he had talked to some people who were considering getting out of sheep and moving to cattle because of the good market
 - Although the subsoil moisture was very depleted and reservoirs and wells were pretty tough, Mr. Wichman said that they had received four inches of rain, and so there was grass
 - Mr. Wichman did say that they were short of hay and that if anybody had some, to give him a call
- Alan Redfield, Cattle Representative, Paradise Valley, reported that they had a good spring with lots of moisture, making the mountain grass amazing and the hay okay
 - Many producers in the Valley were struggling, Mr. Redfield said, when the extra water took out miles of fences, washed some of their property down the river, washed out head gates, and he said, even took out a chunk of their road
- Gene Curry, Cattle Representative from Valier, reported that Pondera County was dead center in one of the worst drought areas of the state, even though they had received a couple inches of rain about June 20th
 - Those two inches of rain, according to Mr. Curry, greened things up, but, for the hay crop, the irrigation water was short and they were stretching it
 - A swather that had been broken down for a week put Mr. Curry's operation behind on haying

- Mr. Curry reiterated what Jake Feddes had commented on about the cattle market doing well
- Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau, introduced herself from the audience in the room, saying that she would probably not be attending the meeting for the entire day
- Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, introduced himself, saying that people would be hearing his voice several times that day

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

(7:55) 8:10 AM

(7:55) 8:10 AM – BOARD APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Gene Curry entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Livestock May 26, 2022 Meeting

MOTION/VOTE

(7:59) 8:10 AM Alan Redfield moved to approve the minutes from the BOL May 26, 2022 Meeting. Nina Baucus seconded. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

(8:21) 8:10 AM

(8:24) 8:11 AM – DISCUSS JOB INTERVIEW BEST PRACTICES AND STATE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR INTERVIEWS AND HIRING

Gene Curry reminded the BOL that interviews for the Brands Administrator would be held that day and so they would be taking this time to go through questions to be asked of each candidate to be interviewed:

- Mr. Honeycutt said that they would be following the government hiring process and practices listed in the State of Montana Operations Manual (MOMS), because these interviews were subject to administrative proceedings available to State employees and/or people who apply for jobs with State government
 - Mr. Honeycutt cautioned the BOL to avoid questions or conversations dealing with age, gender, marital status or sexual orientation and instead, as much as possible, ask the candidates experiential and behavioral-based questions, keeping the conversation professional and courteous
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that, as much as possible, the same questions would be asked of each candidate, keeping them in the same order. But, if a clarification about what a candidate said was needed, it could be done, but he cautioned the BOL to stick to the script as much as possible
- Mr. Honeycutt explained that each of the BOL members would be the ones to ask questions and that was part of what they would be going over before the candidates were brought in, was to decide on which questions would be asked and which BOL member would be asking those questions, to keep things consistent for each one being interviewed

- Mr. Honeycutt said that 20-25 people had applied to fill the vacant Brands Administrator position and that he had narrowed that pool down to 12 by looking at minimum qualifications
 - The Screening Committee, comprised of Gene Curry, Greg Wichman and Nina Baucus, then reviewed the credentials of those 12, screening them for areas of high importance listed in the job description
 - Knowledge of the livestock industry
 - Knowledge of government and public administration; Knowledge of Montana laws and the Montana Legislature
 - Knowledge of the commodity organizations that the DOL works with
 - Knowledge of law enforcement or regulatory enforcement
 - Knowledge and experience with supervising and doing performance evaluations
 - Experience and knowledge with budgeting and P&L for a budget similar to the size of what they'd be dealing with in Brands
 - Their level of education and training
 - Experience working with a Board or Commission-led organization
 - Gene Curry said that the Screening Committee scored each of those applicants and ended up with a numerical value from looking at the applicants' resumes and rating them, based on a list of questions, the same for each. Nina Baucus added that scores were based on information from each applicant's resume, and if someone failed to put certain information in their resume, they did not receive a score for it
 - Mike Honeycutt said the Screening Committee was then able to narrow the applicants down to a group of five and that he had placed calls to each of those individuals to invite them to today's meeting for an interview
- The five individuals chosen to interview were, Wayde Cooperrider, Jay Bodner, Wynn Meehan, Kurt Aughney and James Bissett. All applicants agreed to interview during the day's meeting, except for James Bissett, who never returned Mr. Honeycutt's call
- Mr. Honeycutt explained that scoring of each applicant would be based on their answers to questions that would be rated by the BOL members on a scale of one to five, with five being, "exceeds expectations and one being, "did not meet expectations." Scores and notes taken for each candidate by the BOL would become part of the public record for the hiring process and filed

(23:22) 8:25 AM – DISCUSS AND AGREE ON QUESTIONS, ORDER AND SCORING OF INTERVIEWS

Mr. Honeycutt requested that the BOL decide, from a list of 13 questions, which they would want to ask the candidates, or if there were others that they felt should be asked:

- Mr. Honeycutt suggested that questions be kept to an introductory question, experiential-based questions, behavioral-based questions and finishing up with a last opportunity for the candidate to talk about themselves or to ask the BOL questions

- Mr. Honeycutt explained that there was an hour of time set aside for each candidate, and that each candidate should be asked all the questions, even if their time ran long
- Candidates were told to arrive 30 minutes ahead of time, Mr. Honeycutt said, to give them an opportunity to get some water, coffee or anything they needed to help them feel comfortable before coming in the room. It would also assure that the BOL would not be having to wait for any of the candidates to arrive for their interview

The following list of questions were asked of each candidate:

- Gene Curry asked - Why are you interested in this position? What led you to apply? Why are you the best candidate for this position?
- Nina Baucus asked – The Brands Division is spread across 14 locations in the state with most of its employees placed outside of the Helena office. In your past roles, how did you work with remote employees? Please describe any methods used to monitor work and make sure activities were being accomplished in a timely and accurate manner without being able to be present with remote staff daily.
- Greg Wichman asked – This position works with regulatory activities. Tell us about your experiences working with regulatory actions. Please describe a time when you had to work with a constituent or customer who was upset regarding a decision or action that had been taken by the organization or a subordinate. Please detail how you worked through the situation and what was the outcome?
- Alan Redfield asked – Please tell us about a time you had to work through a performance issue with an employee. How did you approach the issue with the individual? What methods or steps did you use and what was the outcome of the situation? In your past roles, when you were new, how did you work with those who had been with the work unit a long time to establish trust, respect and rapport?
- Sue Brown asked – Please describe how you have been involved in budgetary and financial management issues in your most recent role. How would you describe the level of authority you have to make decisions about revenues and expenditures? How would you describe the financial performance of your current work unit?
- Sue Brown asked – Tell us about a time that you faced a critical decision but did not feel you had the experience or knowledge to make an effective choice. Who did you reach out to for advice or more information? How did you weigh differing opinions? What factors did you ultimately use to make a choice? What was the outcome?
- Jake Feddes asked – In the past, the Brands Division has struggled to effectively implement technology and utilize modern tools in delivering service to constituents. In your current or most recent role, how have you led staff and stakeholders in implementing and adopting information technology? How have you worked through the change process with staff and stakeholders? What is your knowledge of hardware and software procurement and deployment?

- Gene Curry asked – What have we not asked about that you would really like us to know about your experience?
- Gene Curry asked this question that was not rated – What questions do you have for us?

(56:17) 8:58 AM RECESS

(56:22) 9:11 AM RECONVENE

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(56:22) 9:11 AM

(56:22) 9:11 AM – INTERVIEWS FOR BRANDS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

The BOL interviewed a total of four candidates to fill the vacant Brands Division Administrator position. Three candidates were interviewed before in the morning and one was interviewed in the afternoon

(56:22) 9:11 AM – Candidate 1 – Wayne Cooperrider

(1:46:56) 10:02 AM RECESS

(1:47:17) 10:10 AM RECONVENE

(1:47:32) 10:10 AM – Candidate 2 – Jay Bodner

(1:46:56) 10:53 AM RECESS

(2:31:24) 11:03 AM RECONVENE

(2:31:40) 11:03 AM – Candidate 3 – Wynn Meehan

(3:13:15) 11:46 AM LUNCH

(3:14:14) 12:46 PM RECONVENE

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

(3:14:14) 12:46 PM

(3:14:27) 12:46 PM – INTERVIEWS FOR BRANDS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

Although five candidates were considered for interview for the position, the BOL interviewed a total of only four candidates to fill the vacant Brands Division Administrator position, as one, James Bissett, did not return Mr. Honeycutt's call to request an interview. Three candidates were interviewed in the morning and one was interviewed in the afternoon

(3:14:27) 12:46 PM – Candidate 4 – James Bissett (Cancelled Out)

(3:14:27) 12:46 PM – Candidate 5 – Kurt Aughney

MOTION/VOTE

(4:13:30) 1:45 PM

Greg Wichman moved to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the personal nature of the Brands Administrator candidates. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

(4:13:55) 1:46 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

(4:14:01) 3:59 PM RECONVENE

MOTION/VOTE

(4:14:15) 3:59 PM

Alan Redfield moved to authorize Mike Honeycutt to offer the Brands Administrator position to the selected candidate. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

REQUEST TO HIRE OPEN POSITIONS

(4:15:23) 4:01 PM

Mike Honeycutt explained to the BOL that for the sake of time, he had grouped together requests to hire open positions in the Brands Enforcement Division and the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau:

- **Brands Enforcement Division Openings**
 - District 16 Investigator
 - This position, which just became available last month, was based out of Chinook and covered Hill, Blaine and Phillips Counties
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that the DOL had already been collecting applicants for the position
 - District 5 Investigator

- This position became available when Mike Hayes retired on July 1, 2022. Mr. Honeycutt gave a shout-out to Mr. Hayes for retiring on July 1st rather than June 30th, as that was very helpful to the DOL finances
 - This position had been posted as preferably being based out of Shelby, and covered Toole, Pondera and Liberty Counties
 - Two Openings for Billings Market Inspector
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that these positions became available when an internal candidate took the Assistant Supervisor position and the other happened when a candidate separated from the DOL since the last BOL meeting
- **Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau Openings**
 - Meat Inspector for Great Falls
 - Mr. Honeycutt explained that the position for Great Falls became available when it had been vacated
 - Meat Inspector for Billings/Forsyth
 - This position had been vacant for a while, Mr. Honeycutt said, because it was thought that Cowboy Meats was imminently going Federal, but, because that had not happened, the DOL was still trying to cover that territory
 - Meat Inspector for Plains/Superior

MOTION/VOTE

(4:17:52) 4:03 PM

Nina Baucus moved to hire all positions, as presented by Mike Honeycutt – District 16 Investigator, District 5 Investigator and two Billings Market Inspectors in the Brands Enforcement Division and a Meat Inspector in the Great Falls area, a Meat Inspector in the Billings/Forsyth area, and a Meat Inspector in the Plains/Superior area in the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS AND PURCHASES

(4:18:27) 4:04 PM

Mike Honeycutt explained to the BOL that he also grouped out-of-state travel requests and any purchase requests from the Animal Health Bureau and the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab:

- **Animal Health Bureau - USAHA Annual Meeting**
 - Although out-of-state travel was approved at the previous BOL meeting for two Veterinarians to attend the USAHA, Mr. Honeycutt explained that this request was to send a third Veterinarian, who was yet to be hired in the Animal Health Bureau, to that same meeting
 - When concern was raised by a BOL member regarding the fact that the third Veterinarian had not even been hired, Dr. Marty Zaluski explained

that through the interviews that had been taking place that week, he felt there would be at least one of the two open Veterinarian positions hired and added that if it wasn't by the time the USAHA Annual Meeting took place, they obviously would not spend the money to send the third Veterinarian

- **Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) – NAHLN Quality Management System Training (QMS)**
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that to maintain Lab accreditation and connection to the National Animal Health Lab Network (NAHLN), the out-of-state travel request was to send a VDL employee to NAHLN's Quality Management System Training

MOTION/VOTE

(4:22:43) 4:08 PM

Sue Brown moved to approve the out-of-state travel for an additional Veterinarian to attend the USAHA annual meeting in Fall 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and also for an MVDL employee to attend the NAHLN/AAVLD Quality Management System Training in Ames, Iowa on August 23-25, 2022. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

- **Animal Health Bureau – FY23 Trich Tag Purchase**
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that because this annual purchase for Trich tags was over the \$5,000 threshold set by the BOL in their BOL's Policies and Procedures, it was necessary to have BOL approval for the purchase

MOTION/VOTE

(4:23:16) 4:08 PM

Alan Redfield moved to approve the Animal Health Bureau's purchase of the FY23 Trich Tags. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

(4:23:38) 4:09 PM

Mike Honeycutt reported that two Administrative Rules that had been approved to publish for public comment at the last BOL meeting had come back for adoption. One of the rules being presented today was a request to publish. Because of the moratorium on adopting rules in the last quarter of the year before a Legislative Session, a decision would need to be made soon on the proposed rule changes, so they would not die:

- **Animal Health Bureau – Brucellosis Administrative Rule Proposed Changes, ARM 32.3.435 – Testing Within the DSA**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski explained that because the number of DSA producers had gone from 150 since its inception to 450 currently, she was requesting that the same variances that were given over and over again to producers, instead, be put into rule saying that if you're following the regulations, these variances were available to you:

- Dr. Szymanski gave an example where if a producer wanted to go into the DSA with animals after the risk period, the test on those animals could be waived. She said this would streamline and make more manageable the management agreements the DSA producers had with the DOL
- Dr. Szymanski said that the requirement to test after July 16th would be removed from the rule because it was far enough beyond the risk period and the cattle wouldn't be exposed to the disease
- Dr. Zaluski explained that both bison and elk calve in off-season times, but those off-season calves didn't usually survive. He added that the point of the rule change was not to make the risk zero, but to mitigate it in a reasonable way. If you want a zero-risk for cattle, he said, then never leave your own ranch and have a quarter-mile buffer around your fence
- Mike Honeycutt said that, why put the producer through the cost and trouble when the risk was so miniscule

MOTION/VOTE

(4:29:56) 4:15 PM

Greg Wichman moved to approve the proposed changes in ARM 32.3.435 – Testing Within the DSA, as presented by Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, putting those proposed changes out for public comment, and adopting those changes in the rule if there were no significant negative comments. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

- **Animal Health Bureau – Adoption of Changes to Camelid Administrative Rule, ARM 32.3.225 – Pertaining to Importation of Camelids / Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Adoption of ARM New Test and Amend Published Fee Schedule – ARM**
 - Mike Honeycutt said that these two rules being presented, one from the Animal Health Bureau and one from the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, had already been approved by the BOL to publish for public comment, and, up to this point, no substantive comment had been received on either
 - Dr. Greg Juda reported that the public comment period on his proposed rule changes ended the next day and that no feedback had been received from the public so far
 - Dr. Marty Zaluski said that he thought the comment period for the Animal Health Bureau's proposed rule changes ended the next day as well
 - Alan Redfield said that he would like to be able to vote on each proposed rule change separately

MOTION/VOTE

(4:39:15) 4:24 PM

Sue Brown moved to adopt the changes in ARM 32.3.225 – Pertaining to Importation of Camelids, as presented by Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, provided there were no substantive negative public comments by the end of the comment period, and also to adopt the addition of one test in the MVDL and to amend the corresponding ARM 32.2.403 – Pertaining to Diagnostic Laboratory Fees

schedule provided there were no substantive negative public comments by the end of the comment period. . Nina Baucus seconded. **Sue Brown withdrew her motion at 4:26 PM (4:41:16) and Nina Baucus withdrew her second at 4:26 PM (4:41:21)**

- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski explained that there was a not a lot of historical data showing that camelids contract Tuberculosis in the United States and that for several camelid species, there were no tests that were validated for Tuberculosis, and so there was very little value in the actual testing process for that species

MOTION/VOTE

(4:41:25) 4:27 PM

Sue Brown moved to adopt the changes in ARM 32.3.225 – Pertaining to Importation of Camelids, as presented by Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, provided there were no negative public comments by the end of the comment period on July 22, 2022. Greg Wichman seconded. (Alan Redfield voted no.) The motion passed.

MOTION/VOTE

(4:44:10) 4:29 PM

Sue Brown moved to adopt the addition of a new test in the MVDL and to amend the corresponding ARM 32.2.403 – Pertaining to Diagnostic Laboratory Fees Schedule, provided there were no negative public comments by July 22, 2022. Nina Baucus seconded. The motion passed.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS

(4:46:56) 4:32 PM

Brian Simonson introduced himself and said that with it being near the end of the fiscal year, he wanted to give kudos to his Business Office team and added that the official close of the books would be July 25, 2022

- Mr. Simonson said that Evan Waters was ahead of schedule as far as submitting his Budget Change Documents (BCDs)
- Mr. Simonson reported that a \$2.18 million Lab inflation adjustment, the MVDL side of the inflation, went through and would be going into the next Legislative Session. He said he did not know the what the inflation numbers of the Department of Ag and the Wool Lab side of the new Lab were
- A HB10 \$1 million Livestock-approved request had also been submitted by July 1, 2022
- The Snapshot was taken on July 12, 2022, which included plus-ups to the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau, Mr. Simonson adding that there was a promise of some help from OBPP for the next year to make that work

- In August, Mr. Simonson said IBARS would open and CSD would start submitting for the operational budget piece

(4:49:17) 4:35 PM – FISCAL BUREAU

(4:49:17) 4:35 PM – Predator Control Aerial Hunting Allocations

Brian Simonson told the BOL that he would need a vote today on the Predatory Control Allocations that go out to Wildlife Services and the three counties that do not participate in aerial hunting through Wildlife Services:

- The three counties that chose to not participate in aerial hunting through Wildlife Services were Carter County, Powder River County and Richland County. Each county would receive a percentage of the per capita fees that came into their counties to use for predator control, this year a total of \$34,298, which would be divided out between the three
- Wildlife Services would be receiving \$371,309 this year, a slightly higher amount than they received last year, Mr. Simonson said
- Mr. Simonson reported that even though there was an extra helicopter to insure, the annual premium to insure them went down. He explained to the BOL however, that there was a 2-3 year lag time in premiums because it was allocated as a fixed cost over the biennium, and that price would eventually change
- Mike Honeycutt explained that he had talked to some County Commissioners and a County Attorney in the non-participating counties who told him that they would not be giving the DOL a detailed report on how they spent the monies that were sent to them for Predator Control, adding that it was money that producers in their counties paid. Mr. Honeycutt said that one county said the money was being used for predator control, but they did not want to be limited in what actions they took, maybe wanting to use it for bounties, trapping or even contracting with Wildlife Services themselves rather than through the DOL
 - Greg Wichman said that in some counties the producers pay additional money into a predator control fund and he said, knowing some of those producers, he would guarantee that somebody would be looking over the County's shoulders, making sure how that money was spent

MOTION/VOTE

(5:00:33) 4:46 PM

Alan Redfield moved to allow the annual payment of Predator Control allocations to Carter, Powder River and Richland Counties (\$34,298 total) and also to Wildlife Services (\$371,309 total), as presented by Brian Simonson. Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

(5:00:54) 4:46 PM – June 30, 2022 State Special Revenue Report

Brian Simonson explained that this month's State Special Revenue Report was pretty much a closeout report as far as per capita fee collection, even though some per capita would continue to be recouped all year long:

- For 2022, Mr. Simonson said that 98% of last year's reporters had filed, 15,435, for a total of \$4,860,940 in per capita fees collected, which was 90% of last year
 - 1.8 million cattle were reported for per capita, an 11% reduction in headcount, equating to about \$511,000 less than last year. However, there was, Mr. Simonson reported, a 13% increase in the number of cattle that went through the markets compared to last year
- Mr. Simonson said that this was the first period in quite a while where Market Inspection fees were less busy than they were for the previous year
- Investment Earnings had gone positive for the first time since COVID began, with interest rates at 1.667 compared to .097
- With the loss of more dairies, including one major dairy in the last few months, Milk Inspection fees were down more, but were tracking with what revenue was coming in
- Mr. Simonson said that the VDL was down for the year by \$21,000, but he reminded the BOL that last year outpaced the year prior to that by \$370,000
- There would be a check cut to Wildlife Services in August or September for Voluntary Wolf Donation funding for \$98,792, an amount similar to last year

(5:07:14) 4:52 PM – End of Fiscal Year Budget Comparison Report

Brian Simonson reported that because it was at the end of the fiscal year, there was nothing to project:

- Mr. Simonson said that the fiscal year books would close July 25, 2022
- Under the Balance of Budget Available column, Mr. Simonson explained that those numbers were what was left in each DOL account as far as actuals versus what the authority was and to close the fiscal year, the driving force was to make those bottom-line numbers positive in Personal Services, Operations and Budget Funding. He added that in Personal Services the DOL spent \$223,000 less than the prior year
- Mr. Simonson explained that there was \$441,943 in additional budgetary authority infused, which included around \$18,000 from an adjustment in the Workman's Compensation rate, \$159,000 of carryforward from 2020 and \$300,000 to beef up the proprietary fund in the VDL
- 1/3 of the \$730,000 in total budget funding would carry forward into next year, Mr. Simonson said
- To help balance the negative in the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau, Mr. Simonson said that \$80,000 was moved from the VDL into Meat & Poultry's general fund account, making them a positive \$17,000 in authority with that addition
- Mike Honeycutt reminded the BOL that during a regular month, not a fiscal-year-end month, the books from the previous month were not closed until the 15th of the month following and it was preferred to not have a BOL meeting until at least the last week of the month to get the most up-to-date numbers

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

(5:18:04) 5:03 PM

Gene Curry opened the BOL meeting to public comments:

- Matt Eager introduced himself as a lifelong rancher who had been in the cattle business and had a job off the farm
- Mr. Eager said he wanted to try and help a friend and members of the community with death of cattle and fraud that stretched across the state and into his state of Idaho
- Mr. Eager explained that a Mr. Nelson purchased cattle from a Montana sale yard and that the DOL had issued him brand certificates of title, but that later, a person he had been dealing with took the cattle, slaughtered them and took possession of the cattle and he was hoping to get some answers on that
- Gene Curry thanked Mr. Eager for his patience and his willingness to share with the BOL, but, said that he did not have any background information from DOL Investigators or the County Attorney into the whole thing. He requested that Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer for the DOL, close it out
- Mike Honeycutt explained to Mr. Eager that he had made some BOL members aware that he had been reached out to regarding the situation
 - DOL standing policy, Mr. Honeycutt said, was to not discuss these types of cases with people who were not a party to the case or not an attorney representing one of the parties in the case, and that was part of the reason he had not communicated with Mr. Eager about the situation. He said the process could go a lot further if the offended party would be initiating the discussion with the BOL
- Mr. Honeycutt said that he wanted Mr. Eager to be aware that on the Montana side of the border, the situation had been investigated by a DOL District Investigator. He added that the DOL was the law enforcement role in the situation
 - The County Attorney in the jurisdiction, Mr. Honeycutt said, made the determination that it was determined to be civil. The prosecuting authority in the case would be the County Attorney, and because of that, it was the County Attorney's discretion as to whether or not they wanted to pursue criminal charges
- Mr. Honeycutt assured Mr. Eager that the DOL's Chief Law Enforcement Officer had been in contact with both USDA Packers and Stockyards and his counterpart in Idaho, and so there were still discussions happening regarding the situation
- Jake Feddes said that Mr. Eager had been gone off the call for a long time

SET DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

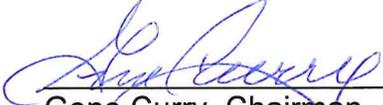
(5:28:58) 5:14 PM

Gene Curry requested dates, he was thinking towards the end of August, to set up for the next BOL meeting:

- Both Jake Feddes and Sue Brown said they would be out of state during that time
- If the meeting were set up the week before, Mike Honeycutt said he was committed to go to a US Fish & Wildlife field day in Ennis on August 17th and 18th
- Gene Curry said they would be harvesting the week of August 29th and 30th
- Mike Honeycutt suggested that the first week of September might work, but not on Tuesday, September 6th, because that was the day after Labor Day
- The next BOL meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED

(5:33:49) 5:19 PM



Gene Curry, Chairman