



Montana Board of Livestock Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

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

Board Members Present

John Scully, Vice-Chair (cattle producer)

Lila Taylor (cattle producer)

Sue Brown (dairy and poultry)

Nina Baucus (cattle producer)

Brett DeBruycker (cattle producer)

(John Lehfeltd and Ed Waldner were not present)

Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, EO

Brian Simonson, Deputy EO

Evan Waters, Centralized Services

Dan Olson, Centralized Services

George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board

Garly Hamel, Meat & Poultry Inspection

Donna Wilham, Adm. Assistant to EO

Dr. Marty Zaluski, State Veterinarian

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health

Dr. Eric Liska, Animal Health

Dr. Gregory Juda, MT VDL Director

Public Present

Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

Ryan Clarke, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services

Scott Beutelschies, USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services

Maggie Nutter, Marias River Livestock Association

Kyle Chenoweth, Legal Services Division

Quentin Kujala, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Barry McCoy, McCoy Cattle

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

8:02 AM

Vice-Chairman John Scully called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM

ROLL CALL

8:02 AM

John Scully requested a roll call of everyone present

- All BOL members were present except for John Lehfeldt and Ed Waldner
- DOL staff members present were Mike Honeycutt, Donna Wilham, Dr. Marty Zaluski, Dr. Eric Liska and Gary Hamel
- Members of the general public present were Rachel Cone, MFBF, Ryan Clarke and Scott Beutelschies, USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

8:03 AM

- John Scully requested approval of minutes for the BOL's past meeting and for BOL conference call minutes

MOTION/VOTE

8:03 AM

Nina Baucus moved to approve the minutes for the 1/23/20 BOL meeting and the 2/5/20 BOL conference call. Lila Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS (BUREAU REPORTS)

8:03 AM

- With no requests to pull any Bureau Reports for discussion, John Scully requested approval of those reports

MOTION/VOTE

8:04 AM

Brett DeBruycker moved to approve the Bureau Reports from the Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau, the Milk Control Bureau and the Milk & Egg Bureau. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ITEMS (OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS)

8:05 AM

- Lila Taylor requested information on the Animal Health Bureau's request for travel to the Foreign Animal Disease Southern Agriculture Functional Exercise
 - Dr. Zaluski explained that the reason for the travel request is that Dr. Forseth had been asked to perform in a simulated animal disease exercise there

MOTION/VOTE

8:07 AM

Sue Brown moved to approve the out-of-state travel requests from the Animal Health Bureau, the Milk & Egg Bureau and the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. Brett DeBruycker seconded. The motion passed.

- John Scully requested that all DOL travel requests list the source of revenue paying for the travel

OLD BUSINESS

8:09 AM

8:09 AM – UPDATE ON PLANNING AND ACTIVITY FOR POTENTIAL NEW MVDL BUILDING

John Scully reported that he did not schedule an MVDL Building Committee meeting prior to today's BOL meeting and that he had no intention to call another meeting unless it is necessary for some other reason:

- Mr. Scully said that he felt that both staff and industry are fairly much up to speed relative to the project
- Mr. Scully felt it was senseless for the Committee to continue meeting, with industry input coming only from the MSGA and the MFBB, as there has been no one from the other pieces of the industry that had taken the time to participate in the project

8:13 AM – Report on Project Manager Concept

John Scully made the decision to postpone the Project Manager Concept discussion until later in the day

8:13 AM – Discuss Funding Mechanisms Used By South Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

John Scully explained that the BOL had been shown a video by the architects working on the new VDL plans, of the new South Dakota VDL, and as a result of that, was requesting information on how that construction was funded:

- Mr. Honeycutt reported that a coalition of partners were able to get the South Dakota VDL project done
 - \$7 million was secured from the South Dakota Board of Regents, as the Lab is part of the SDSU campus. After two years on the Brookings campus, pre-veterinary students can then finish their training at the University of Minnesota
 - \$17 million in State general fund was received from the South Dakota Governor, who went to their Legislature and fought for those funds

- The remaining \$34 million balance was bonded, with bond repayment being around \$3 million/year. The funding source for bond repayment was a property tax credit situation that agricultural organizations fought for and the South Dakota Legislature passed
- Mr. Scully said that the President of Montana State University (MSU), made it very clear in speaking to an Interim Committee during the 2017 Legislative Session, that there would be no financial support from MSU for a new VDL. And, since that time, a letter from the Board of Regents was received, laying out the conditions regarding a proposed new VDL and other labs being constructed on the MSU campus and that has already been presented to BOL members
 - Lila Taylor expressed her disappointment in the lack of support for the proposed new Lab from MSU, Montana's land grant university, and said that she feels it is important that she and Mr. Scully might try one more face-to-face meeting with the President of MSU to see if they would be given the same answer by her regarding her lack of support for a proposed new Lab
 - Sue Brown said that she heard MSU's President state several times she does not want students paying for the proposed new Lab building
 - Nina Baucus said that perhaps one way to get the President's support would be to set the proposed new Lab up in a way that pre-veterinarian classes could be held there
 - Brett DeBruycker said he felt that with the expense of the land, the expense of building in Bozeman and the lack of MSU support, there are other areas for building a new Lab that would be much more affordable and something more feasible could be done
 - Mr. DeBruycker feels that producers today should be rallied for support of the proposed new Lab from their industry associations, such as MSGA, MFBF, MFU and Montana Cattlemen's, and then apply pressure to their Legislators, Senators, Representatives, the Governor and the Board of Regents, telling them about the importance of the proposed new Lab to their industry and how the land grant institution is pushing them to the side
- Mr. Scully said that much of the data had been gathered concerning the building and the instrument particulars needed for the proposed new Lab and that can be presented to the industry associations, showing them what it is we would like them to support

8:27 AM – Discussion of Bond vs Lease, Based on Department of Administration (DOA) Research

Mike Honeycutt reported that a DOA document, relative to HB586 and including bond vs lease financial numbers for funding the proposed new Lab, was submitted to the Legislative Lab Interim Committee a couple weeks earlier:

- Brian Simonson said that the Legislative Committee had not yet had any open meeting or hearing on the document
- The document shows that the lease option costs would be 27% higher annually than the capital option costs, that translating to a million dollars more, utilizing the

\$35 million Option 1 version of the proposed new Lab, which would include the Department of Agriculture Labs and the Wool Lab in a multi-lab complex

- Figuring for a stand-alone new VDL lab, for 20 years at 3.9%, Mr. Simonson estimated about a \$2.5 million/year cost, adding O&M, repair, maintenance and capital replacement

8:32 AM – Update on the Montana Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Support Resolution for New Lab Construction

Mike Honeycutt reported that an MVMA resolution passed at their most recent meeting put them down officially as an organization supporting the proposed new Lab:

- Dr. Zaluski said that he had presented an update at that meeting to the Food Animal and Regulatory Committee and talked about why it is critical that Montana has its own VDL
- Dr. Zaluski helped draft the MVMA resolution which reads, the Montana Veterinary Medical Association commends the recent staff and service improvements of the MDOL-VDL. Construction of a new laboratory facility is critical for animal health, consumer safety and convenient viability and success of the Montana livestock industry

8:37 AM – Update on Any HB586 or HB5 Activity

Mike Honeycutt reported no new information on HB586, but did say that Brian Simonson had been monitoring the HB5 Long-Range Building Plan appropriations:

- As of January 31, 2020, none of the \$100,000 HB5 appropriation had been spent or allocated on by A&E as part of the Long-Range Building Plan
- The proposed new Lab architects had attended meetings with the DOL on January 22nd and February 9th, but according to the last update received on February 10, 2020, Mr. Simonson had received no invoice and so he had no expenditures to report
- Mr. Scully said that to have a sense of what expenditures are left of the \$100,000 allocated to the DOL by the Legislature, there will need to be a monthly update brought to the BOL

8:40 AM – UPDATE ON PER CAPITA FEE COLLECTION AND STAFF RESEARCH

8:40 AM – Non-Paying Per Capita Fee Equine Owner Draft Letter

Brian Simonson requested BOL input on a letter he had drafted to be sent to who are believed to be livestock owners:

- Mr. Simonson hoped to have the letter and an equine mailing list completed so the letter could be mailed out in March, along with a livestock reporting form
 - Currently, the DOR has a list of those people who have paid per capita in the past. The DOL is working on compiling a list of people who are believed to be equine owners, and once that is compiled, submit it to the DOR and request that those names be added to their database of current per capita reporters

- The letter gives explanation of what per capita fee is, what it is used for and why it should be paid
- It was requested that the Department of Revenue (DOR) connection be left in the letter and that the DOL not be the inbound call center for the DOR or take over the DOR's duties in regards to per capita fee collection
- It was requested that the per capita fee form not be printed on the back side of the letter, but that it be on its own page
- Frustration was expressed at the issues experienced in on-line per capita reporting on the DOR website, saying it's difficult to maneuver in, pay in and the website doesn't always work
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that internet peak time for ranchers may be early Saturday or Sunday morning and he thinks more conversation with the DOR needs to happen to help them understand rancher schedules and not to schedule their system maintenance at those times
 - Brett DeBruycker explained that he had some heartache when the DOR combined cattle information from a joint cattle-feeding entity he is part of with his personal cattle information
 - Mr. Honeycutt said that under-reporting per capita can be a critical issue and when more than one entity is filed under one name, the under-reporting issue is much easier to do and much harder to discover. He wants to make sure that this issue is articulated back to the DOR
- It was requested to put an internal process in place that when a new brand is issued or transferred, notify the brand owner that their name and address is being forwarded to the DOR for per capita reporting purposes

MOTION/VOTE

9:10 AM

Brett DeBruycker moved to approve the per capita form and letter to non-per capita paying livestock owners, as presented by Brian Simonson and amended as discussed. Lila Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

- For per capita purposes, sharing the list of brand owners with the DOR would include those that own cattle, horses and some sheep. To find names of other sheep owners, sheep permit lists could be utilized; for bison, the list of bison owners in the state could be utilized and for bees, names might be maintained by the apiary group in the Department of Agriculture and gotten from them

9:18 AM – REVIEW A DRAFT OF BOL IDEA/REQUEST PARKING LOT AS DISCUSSED ON 1/23/20

Mike Honeycutt reviewed the parking lot list of issues and discussed adding a "Parking Lot" segment to BOL meeting agenda as discussed at the 1/23/20 BOL meeting. The "Parking Lot" list would include items that may arise at a meeting, but are not dealt with at that meeting and are held for another time:

- Mr. Honeycutt said that the current parking lot list had items on it from as far back as Thanksgiving and that Nina Baucus was to be given credit for the format of that list
- Several parking lot items were removed from the list because, after BOL and staff discussion, it was found that they had already been addressed
- Several items discussed had either not yet been addressed or were in the process of being addressed
- Mr. Scully said if there were items that the BOL felt needed to be added to the parking lot list, to be sure they come up before the end of the meeting today

9:28 AM – REVIEW A DRAFT LETTER TO HONOR THE SERVICE OF DAN TURCOTTE, FORMER BUREAU CHIEF FOR MILK AND EGG INSPECTION

Mike Honeycutt requested BOL input on a letter Dr. Zaluski had drafted from the BOL to Dan Turcotte, just-retired and long-time Bureau Chief of the Milk & Egg Inspection Bureau, honoring his exceptional service to the DOL:

- It was requested to add to the letter recognition of Mr. Turcotte’s extraordinary management of finances during difficult times and at a personal sacrifice
- It was requested to comment on Mr. Turcotte’s incredible customer service
- It was decided to have the changes made to the letter and have the BOL members sign it while they were in attendance at the meeting today

9:33 AM –RECESS

9:42 AM – RECONVENE

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS

9:42 AM

John Scully made the decision to postpone New Business items until later in the day because he wanted to accommodate the schedules of MT FWP and USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services representatives who were present to hear the Brucellosis Update that included information on the recent find in the Ruby Mountains and the DSA

9:42 AM – ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

9:42 AM – Brucellosis Update

Dr. Eric Liska discussed the January 2020 Ruby Mountain Elk Surveillance Capture Situation Report:

- Each year, MT FWP receives funding from the USDA, which is funneled through the DOL, to capture elk for Brucellosis testing
- This year, the DOL asked MT FWP to capture in-consult with them, requesting them to capture elk in Hunt District 322, located in the Ruby Mountains

- 98 elk were captured and blood samples from 2 hunter-harvest surveillance elk were added to the study, for a total of 100 samples. 43 of the captured elk were collared
 - Although the MT VDL found that the two hunter-harvest samples were negative, two other samples from among the other 98 elk captured were found to be positive in testing done at the MT VDL. Those two Brucellosis-positive samples were then confirmed at the MBSL Lab in Iowa, a procedure requested by USDA
- There are approximately 69 cattle herds (25,000 total cattle) that graze in the area where the two positive elk were captured, which lies between the northern boundary of the DSA and the northern boundary of Hunt District 322. 27 of those herds (16,000 total cattle) already are considered DSA herds
 - If the DSA boundary is moved north, up to and including the rest of Hunt District 322, it would mean an additional 9,000 cattle added to the DSA area. That portion of the DSA northern boundary line would then extend from Alder to Twin Bridges, then drop south on Highway 41 to Dillon
- Dr. Liska explained that for vaccination purposes, those requirements are usually set for counties, but for the DSA purposes, boundaries usually follow highways, making it easier for enforcement purposes
- Quentin Kujala, MT FWP, expressed his appreciation for the easy conversational and working relationship his Department has with the DOL and BOL
 - Mr. Kujala added that over the years, the surveillance has shown that the bulk of that particular unit of elk being discussed have had limited movement across the landscape and those elk in the Ruby Mountains are Ruby Mountain elk
- Dr. Liska reported that an area Biologist shared the results of the January 2020 elk capture with a number of producers and that a press release that included those findings had been sent out, but as of yet, there have been no public meetings to discuss the findings
- Dr. Zaluski cautioned the BOL that this information being presented today was only preliminary, having been received just a week and a half earlier, and so the DOL was not making a recommendation to the BOL for DSA expansion at this point
- John Scully added that if it was decided to expand the DSA this year, it would have to be decided before the budget cycle because of the budget implications that would go into the next session, relative to requests for HB2 general fund for DSA vaccination issues
- Quentin Kujala said he would gather information for Nina Baucus regarding a spike bull elk with painted antlers found on the Eastern Front

NEW BUSINESS

10:05 AM

10:05 AM – EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2019 CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

John Scully postponed Mike Honeycutt's Executive Office Performance Evaluation until later in the day

10:05 AM – DISCUSS CALENDAR FOR EXECUTIVE PLANNING AND BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mike Honeycutt explained that the planning calendar for budget requests and Legislative items had arrived from the Governor's office and that Brian Simonson had edited out information not pertinent to the DOL for the BOL to view:

- Any new incremental budgetary requests beyond the DOL's base budget, or one-time-only expenditures are due to the Office of Budget and Program Planning of the Governor's Office in June
 - Mr. Honeycutt said he has already directed staff to put those budgetary lists together and he will start analyzing those against the budget so the BOL can approve them and then get them submitted to the Governor's Office before the deadline
- The Internet Budget and Reporting System (IBARS) will be open for information submission starting on March 14, 2020
- May 4, 2020 is the due date for agencies to submit legislation proposals concepts and preliminary fiscal notes to the Office of Budget and Program Planning
 - If the staff or BOL are going to propose Legislative changes, those must be approved by the BOL before May 4th, and so, the April BOL meeting is when that is planned to be discussed. Mr. Honeycutt has given DOL staff a March 30, 2020 deadline for those changes to be submitted to him
- Snapshot is scheduled for July 14, 2020, when a snapshot of all employees will be taken and that will set forward the Personnel budget for the next biennium
- Final budget requests, which include the DOL base budget plus any new items that the Governor's Office has signed off on, are due September 1, 2020 to the Office of Budget and Program Planning

10:14 AM – CENTRALIZED SERVICE DIVISION REPORTS

10:14 AM – FISCAL BUREAU

John Scully moved the Fiscal Bureau reports to this time because the Beaverhead Livestock Auction people were not due to arrive until after 11 am

10:14 AM – Aerial Hunting Report

Evan Waters explained a report showing the current number of animals taken by aerial hunting pilots that have been permitted by the DOL:

- Mr. Waters reported that the aerial hunting pilots are required to obtain landowner permission and then submit their hunting requests at least twice a year
 - This year, the DOL has taken a more proactive approach, telling pilots that the DOL will not issue a permit to them until all of their paperwork is sent in, which has made numbers on the report higher than previous years

- In 2019, 37 aerial hunting pilots were permitted to fly in 18 Montana counties; 37 pilots had been permitted to fly in 2020 as well
- It was reported that 2200 coyotes were taken in 2019, compared to 1400 in 2018
- Aerial hunting permits are not required for those people who are flying over their own ground, but, the law does say they still need to notify the DOL that they are flying for that purpose
- Mike Honeycutt said that only one time in four years has there been a complaint of someone flying over their property without permission, and that was in Fergus County
- In the 2019 Legislative Session, up to \$2,500 from the aerial hunting permit fees was allotted to the DOL for administrative work for processing the paperwork, with the balance going to USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services. Currently, however, there have not been enough hunters to reach that \$2,500 mark
- Current Montana law states that non-resident pilots are allowed to apply for a Montana aerial hunting permit, but can only fly in border counties along the South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho borders

10:24 AM – January 31, 2020 State Special Revenue Report

Brian Simonson gave updates on the latest State Special Revenue numbers as of January 31, 2020:

- Market inspection fees remained strong, increasing growth over last year another \$50,000 to \$182,077; Local inspections, however, have improved, but by just a couple thousand dollars
- People appear to be reporting and paying per capita fee early, with \$476,470 already collected, a difference of \$117,543 more than last year at this time
- Lab fees are still down, but were down much more, having tanked in November 2019, and now have an improvement this month of \$8,000 compared to last report

10:27 AM – February 2020 Through June 2020 Expenditure Projections

Brian Simonson reported on overall DOL expenditure projections for the remainder of the fiscal year:

- Total DOL budgeted funds have increased by \$100,000 since last month, with an excess of \$687,536 by the end of the year
- Most of the \$359,000 reported in Personal Services comes from a benefit savings from having vacancies
- Travel was \$37,000 over budget, funds that come against HB2 funds and includes both out-of-state and in-state travel
 - Brian Simonson reported that about half of the negative Travel numbers come from the Meat & Poultry Bureau
- The unexpected gross dollar amount paid out this year by the DOL on retirements was just over \$80,000
 - Brian Simonson said those funds have not yet been made up in the Milk program and that the fund source for making that amount up is the only one that the DOL is projecting negative for the year

- Operational Expenses have gone up since last month by \$110,000 and are tied to some General Fund issues
- In Budgeted Funds, General Fund is a \$100,000 improvement, most of which is tied to less testing being done

10:46 AM – January 31, 2020 Budget Status Report

Brian Simonson updated the BOL on the budget status of the DOL as of January 31, 2020:

- 50% of the budget year is lapsed with 51% of the budget expended
- Several of the programs were front-loaded this year, including the Umbrella Program and the DSA, and so it is not unusual for those numbers to be a little ahead at this time
 - With employments fuller and some payouts that occurred, Personnel Expenses are up compared to last year at this time
 - Brian Simonson explained that State government realizes vacations and sick time when they occur, in the program a person is in at the time
 - If there is a break in service of a State employee, they are paid out their benefits from the agency they leave and then start from 0 if they become employed by State government again
- Operational Expenses are up, except for contractor work, with a big chunk of that increase coming from testing and legal fees
- The Milk Inspection Fees are showing over a \$51,000 reduction, but, the Inspector's Assessment segment in the State Special Revenue comparison shows only a \$1,917 difference between January 31, 2019 and January 31, 2020, indicating that milk production levels are similar for the first six months of both of those years
 - Those numbers may allude to there being fewer dairies but the cows and their production mostly are continuing to stay in the system, but with another larger producer
 - Sue Brown reported that two dairies in her area went down in the last month
 - Mike Honeycutt said that there has been cautiousness in filling every vacant Milk Inspection FTE immediately because the DOL is watching to see what the work impacts will be with fewer dairies

11:00 AM – RECESS

11:11 AM – RECONVENE

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

11:11 AM

11:11 AM – PROPOSED SALE OF BEAVERHEAD LIVESTOCK AUCTION

11:12 AM – Follow Up from Public Hearing and Board Consideration of Proposed Recommendation from Hearing Officer

John Scully reported that the proposed decision and recommended order from the hearing relative to the proposed sale of the Beaverhead Livestock Auction, does not meet the DOL's statutory requirement:

- Statute requires the DOL to have a finding that the assets of the buyer of the Auction are greater than any debt load of the buyer
 - According to John Scully, the proposed buyer applying is identified as Dillon Livestock Auction, LLC but, the financial statements submitted at the time of the application were McCoy Cattle, LLC
 - If McCoy Cattle Company is somebody different and is a single member LLC, the IRS code says it is a disregarded entity for tax purposes and the DOL would have to see the combined assets of both entities, because the buyer's assets must cover the existing debt
 - Barry McCoy said that the owner of all the entities are he and his wife, but they are under one tax ID number. John Scully said that was not included in the findings
- Brian Simonson said he has the submitted balance sheets for the entirety of Barry McCoy, not just the proposed stockyard and that those financials, as of December 31, 2019, show that his total assets do exceed his total liabilities, but, even though those were sent, they were not made part of the hearing
 - Mr. Scully said that legal counsel should then be consulted in case the findings of fact need to be amended and then a public record of fact should be made that those documents meet the statutory authority
- Barry McCoy told the BOL that the sellers are keeping the name Beaverhead Livestock Auction, but that he would own the land and the buildings attached to the land
 - The land asset would be separate from the business and the operating entity would be Dillon Livestock Auction, LLC

11:27 AM – RECESS

11:52 AM – RECONVENE

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (Continued)

11:52 AM

11:52 AM – PROPOSED SALE OF BEAVERHEAD LIVESTOCK AUCTION (Continued)

John Scully explained that the filing papers for the proposed purchase of the Beaverhead Livestock Auction had been gone through and he laid out the findings:

- Although the applicant is Dillon Livestock Auction, LLC, at the hearing there was no financial filing for Dillon Livestock, LLC as the buyer

- In the findings of fact and the documents on file in the Brands Office, the financial statements are McCoy Cattle, LLC that indicate they had assets greater than their liabilities
- Because McCoy Cattle, LLC is a single-member LLC, the McCoy Cattle Company submission, as submitted, satisfies the Hearings Examiner's findings, based upon the conclusions of law, based on materials contained in the application, which was McCoy Cattle Company, LLC's financials and the testimony of Barry McCoy. The Hearings Examiner therefore concludes that the required materials contained in the application were sufficient enough for the transfer of the market certificate and there's no other contrary testimony or evidence that was found by her
- John Scully pointed out that in both of the accountant-prepared McCoy Cattle, LLC's financial documentations, one indicated about a \$380,000 positive finding and the other had some other soon-to-be-arrived revenues, making that positive even greater
- Mr. Scully said there is no evidence to identify any negative financial position and added that with the record as it is, to approve the Hearings Examiner's report

MOTION/VOTE

11:58 AM

Brett DeBruycker moved to approve the recommended order by the Hearings Examiner, based upon her findings of fact and conclusions of law in the record just created by the Board of Livestock regarding the sale of the Beaverhead Livestock Auction Yard. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

For the record, it was noted that there was no one present at the meeting opposing the transfer of the auction yard to the applicant

11:59 AM – LUNCH

12:34 PM – RECONVENE

12:34 PM – BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)

12:34 PM – UPDATE AND PLANNING ON VACANT BRANDS POSITIONS

12:34 PM – Division Administrator

Mike Honeycutt reported that after having left the vacant Brands Division Administrator position open a while longer, more applicants had been received:

- It was decided to continue to leave the Brands Division Administrator position open until it is filled

- A committee was appointed, Nina Baucus, Lila Taylor and Sue Brown, to review Brands Division Administrator position applications and have them choose their top 3-5 applicants, who would then be interviewed in April
- Mike Honeycutt said some reasons the DOL has had a horrible time getting applicants across the board is because of low unemployment in Montana, that some jobs are highly specialized and the DOL has had to meet regulatory criteria
- Mike Honeycutt expressed the importance of putting the right person in a position, adding that he would rather deal with open positions for six months than have the wrong person fill it for six years

12:46 PM – Office Manager

Mike Honeycutt reported that an offer had been extended and accepted for the vacant Office Manager position in the Brands Enforcement Division:

- Kim Dallas, previously an Office Manager from the Board of Investments and currently a Manager of the fleet vehicle program at FWP, accepted the position. Her husband is from a ranching family

12:47 PM – Market Auditor

Brian Simonson reported on the status of filling the vacant Market Auditor position in the Brands Enforcement Division:

- After an interview process, an offer was extended to a Market Auditor candidate, but Mr. Simonson said that the candidate decided to stay in his current position
- Stringent requirements for the position left no second candidate to fall back on because none of the other applicants met the criteria requested
- After extending the application process a second time, no more applicants were gained
- It was suggested to possibly lower the requirement to 3 years of audit experience rather than 5 and possibly hire someone with a training assignment, asking them to work their way in so that they can be successful as soon as they possibly can

12:47 PM – Request to Fill Vacant District Investigator Position - Glasgow

Mike Honeycutt requested to fill a vacant District Investigator position in Glasgow:

- The vacancy was created by an internal movement; the Glasgow District Investigator moved to Lewistown

MOTION/VOTE

12:50 PM

Lila Taylor moved to fill the Brands Enforcement Division vacant District Investigator position in Glasgow. Brett DeBruycker seconded. The motion passed.

12:50 PM – Request to Fill Vacant Western Region Investigator Supervisor

Mike Honeycutt said he was requesting to move forward in filling the vacant Western Region Investigator Supervisor position:

- Mr. Honeycutt said that the DOL had already been able to deal with the payout of the previous Western Region Investigator Supervisor, especially with having additional vacancy savings coming in from the vacant Brands Administrator position
- It was questioned whether or not to wait until a Brands Administrator was hired before filling the vacant Western Regional Investigator Supervisor position, but with stresses and concerns expressed by staff, Mr. Honeycutt said that is why he was requesting to move forward with filling the Supervisor position
- There were questions as to whether or not the Supervisor position needed to be filled and whether it was a full-time position
 - The Animal Health Bureau used to have two full-time Investigators, and since 2008, the two Regional Supervisor positions were established and are paid for from 50% Brands/50% Animal Health Bureau budgets
 - Brett DeBruycker said that having Animal Health totally separate from Brands wasn't an efficient way to go about things
 - The Western/Eastern Region Investigator Supervisors supervise the District Investigators in their area and also deal with animal health cases, such as rabid animals or other animal health issues such as suspect illegal imports
 - Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said she supervises the two Investigator Supervisors who are the go-to people during EIA and TB work, working with producers and coordinating field work. She added that Animal Health Bureau staff have weekly phone calls with them where information is exchanged and that the Animal Health Bureau relies on them heavily
- Mike Honeycutt said with the geographic size of the state, it has been difficult for Travis Elings to supervise the 16 District Investigators across the state during his time as Eastern District Supervisor and filling in for the Western District as well
- Mr. Honeycutt said there have been many internal conversations about the structure of Brands staff, and so far, no better way has opened up to be a better way to divide out the work
- Pay for the Western Region Investigator Supervisor is about \$5/hour different than that of a District Investigator

MOTION/VOTE

12:55 PM

Brett DeBruycker moved to fill the Brands Enforcement Division vacant Western Region Investigator Supervisor position. Lila Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

12:55 PM – DISCUSS LEGAL RESEARCH ON DISTRICT INVESTIGATOR LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

There was discussion to clarify the line of accountability of District Investigators in various investigations:

- Brett DeBruycker said that changes made by new staff joining the DOL have not always been accepted well by staff that has been with the DOL for many years
- Mike Honeycutt said that it has been looked at innumerable ways to figure out how to improve the protocol for District Investigator accountability, but it keeps coming back to the system that is currently in place
 - Mr. Honeycutt said when it was discussed to make a District Investigator a supervisor as well, that idea seemed to fall apart when considering that FTE-wise that person would have to cover a district as well as being a supervisor and if there comes a time when there are two producer problems occurring simultaneously in different areas, only one could be helped at a time

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE

10:59 AM

Kyle Chenoweth said that he had no updates regarding cases but said he was willing to answer questions if there were any:

- Kyle Chenoweth updated the BOL on a case that started in 2019 regarding bison owners in Phillips County that, as of right now, does not include the DOL as technical parties, but the staff will remain available as a witness in the process, if subpoenaed
- Mr. Chenoweth said he had not heard anything on the DOL rabies case in Missoula
- A motion to dismiss had been filed by David Ohler, attorney for Risk Management and Tort Defense, in the tort case with Leachman. That dismissal motion is still pending

1:23 PM – CENTRALIZED SERVICE DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)

1:23 PM – PREDATOR CONTROL

Mike Honeycutt reported that John Steuber sounded poorly on the phone and said Mr. Steuber regrets not being at today's BOL meeting:

- John Scully reminded the BOL that there is still a State process required relative to the purchase of a different helicopter for the DOL
 - Mike Honeycutt said that John Steuber is aware of that process

1:25 PM – BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION REPORTS

1:25 PM – RERECORD RULE CHANGE DRAFT TO ARM 32.2.404

1:25 PM – Instituting of New Fees for 2021 Rerecord Period

Mike Honeycutt explained that the BOL had already approved a new brand rerecord fee, but had not yet approved rule language in ARM 32.2.404, Department of Livestock Brands Enforcement Division Fees, for implementation of the new \$175 fee:

- Brian Simonson explained that there were two language adjustments added that would help clarify what the DOL would be charging during a record year
 - If a brand transfer is made during a rerecord year, the amount charged would be for both the transfer fee and the rerecord fee, two separate transactions
 - If a new brand is requested during a rerecord year, because it is being recorded for the first time, it is not subject to a rerecord fee

MOTION/VOTE

1:28 PM

Lila Taylor moved to approve the language amendments to ARM 32.2.404, Department of Livestock Brands Enforcement Division Fees, as discussed. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

MOTION/VOTE

1:28 PM

Lila Taylor moved to publish ARM 32.2.404, Department of Livestock Brands Enforcement Division Fees as amended. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

1:28 PM – CENTRALIZED SERVICE DIVISION REPORTS (Continued)

1:28 PM – LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD

1:29 PM – Rancher’s Guide to Predator Attacks on Livestock Kit

George Edwards handed out “Rancher Predator Attack on Livestock Kits” to BOL members and gave explanation of them:

- Kits were created by Linda Owens, Madison Valley Ranchlands, in an attempt to give some guidance to producers regarding possible predator kills on their livestock
- Money for the kits came from a \$90,000 Federal grant the Livestock Loss Board received for 2019
- Madison Valley Ranchlands, a rancher group out of Ennis, received a portion of that grant, approved by the Livestock Loss Board, with a check cut from the DOL

1:32 PM – Discussion on Carcass Compost Piles

George Edwards updated the BOL on carcass compost piles in the state:

- Mr. Edwards said that the Livestock Loss Board supports carcass compost piles, but they must be permitted by the DEQ for environmental compliance and safety regulations
- There is a new carcass compost site that has started at Norris and is owned by Madison Valley Ranchlands

- Mr. Edwards said that if people have concerns about what is being dumped in these compost sites, they should get in contact with the DEQ
- John Scully requested that the Livestock Loss Board respond to the BOL relative to what their concern is relative to CWD and other contaminants in the compost piles they are paying for and authorizing
- George Edwards said he would put the following items on the Livestock Loss Board's next meeting agenda - a discussion regarding incinerators versus compost piles and also problems associated with the DEQ not providing information on those compost piles when requested

1:36 PM – Livestock Indemnity Rate Comparison, Montana to Wyoming and Idaho

George Edwards reported on his research regarding indemnity rates in Wyoming and Idaho, compared to Montana:

- Montana's indemnity rate is based on the USDA market report out of Billings that is closest to the date of the death loss
- Mr. Edwards said he was not able to get a response back from Wyoming, but had paperwork showing they do pay a multiplier, and it is listed in statute as only being available in the trophy game area around the Park
- Wyoming's multiplier is a 3.5 on grizzlies and 7-to-1 on wolves
- George Edwards reported that the Wolf Advisory Council established a trust fund in statute where the LLB could collect up to \$5 million in a trust fund, and the interest in that trust fund would have allowed the LLB to pay a multiplier
 - No money was ever put into the trust fund, meaning that the LLB has the statutory authority but no money to pay a multiplier now, and so the LLB has not gone through the Administrative Rule process to set up a multiplier
 - Mr. Edwards reported that \$143,466 has been paid out in grizzly claims and if there were a 3.5 multiplier, such as Wyoming's, the payout would be over \$600,000 to \$700,000, a funding request that would have to go through the Budget Office
- The Grizzly Bear Advisory Council has put George Edwards on their Choteau meeting March agenda to discuss the multiplier
- The building that houses the Livestock Loss Board and the Milk Control Bureau is scheduled to be torn down in the Spring, and so far, no other office space location has been settled on for them. John Scully requested that the subject be added to the BOL April meeting agenda
- Mr. Edwards said that the LLB is involved in basically, start-up money for compost sites, but does not have the authority to monitor them

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS

1:51 PM

1:51 PM – ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

1:51 PM – Brucellosis Update

Dr. Eric Liska reported on the remaining portion of the Brucellosis Update that had not been given earlier in the day:

- There are two Brucellosis affected cattle herds, one in Madison County that was found early in 2020, the other herd is from 2010, the majority of it in Madison County
- There is one suspect cattle herd that is currently under quarantine
- Tissue from the suspect herd is currently at Iowa State Lab being checked for culture. If it doesn't culture, the herd will be released from quarantine
- Dr. Liska said he believes that the new protocol change, from Wrap to FP for Brucellosis testing, had an impact on people backing off from testing but he believes this new protocol the USDA came up with will be very helpful

1:54 PM – NAEBA Request Regarding Interstate Brucellosis Testing Requirements

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski discussed a request to the DOL from the North American Elk Breeder's Association (NAEBA) to eliminate the State Brucellosis testing requirements for farm Cervidae:

- During the 2017 NAEBA annual meeting, Dr. Szymanski reported that a resolution was passed that recommended eliminating Brucellosis testing requirements for interstate movements of farmed elk, deer and other cervid species, excluding the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA)
- Since that time, several states, including Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas, have gone away from requiring the Brucellosis test for cervids moving across state lines
- In the 50 years of the Brucellosis eradication program, there have been no cases of Brucellosis in farmed cervid outside of the GYA, and so the NAEBA is saying there is no risk
 - Dr. Szymanski said that the DOL has done many years of surveillance and can show that the risk is low enough to proceed without having those testing requirements, outside of the GYA
- Dr. Szymanski reported that over the past 4-5 years, numbers show that every other year, only one alternative livestock is imported into Montana and that about 100 elk are exported out of Montana each year, with the majority being shipped to Idaho and Utah
 - Since 2015, Dr. Szymanski reported that 1,300 cervids have been tested for Brucellosis, with 300 of them at slaughter
- There are two Brucellosis-Free certified herds in Montana
- There was no motion from the BOL to approve the NAEBA request

1:59 PM – Announcement That FWP/DOL Elk Study Presentation Was Already Covered

John Scully identified, for the record, that the Brucellosis presentation, scheduled for this time on the agenda, had already been covered earlier in the day, with no BOL action taken:

- The presentation covered the DOL/FWP elk study that occurred in the Ruby Mountains
- Dr. Zaluski added that the elk collaring in the Bangtails may be done already, as they were planning on having that finished at the end of February

2:00 PM – VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

2:00 PM – Discussion of Breakdown of Species Tested at the VDL

Dr. Gregory Juda explained that in the MT VDL's Fiscal Year 2019 report, there is a pie chart that breaks down the percentage of tests by species done by the MT VDL:

- 64% of the testing was done on domestic cattle
- 11% of the testing was done on domestic horses
- 9% of the testing was done on domestic dogs
- 5% of the testing was done on bison
- 1% of the testing was done on sheep
- 594 of the 200,000 tests conducted were done on pigs
 - The Montana Pork Producers support the MT VDL, according to Mike Honeycutt. The MT VDL has the ability to test for Swine Influenza and would like to see the ability of the Lab to conduct even more types of testing
- 400 tests were done on bats
- There were a total of 111 accessions
- Brett DeBruycker requested that some time in the future that Dr. Juda bring a break down of how many of the tests that were done at the MT VDL on cattle were for Brucellosis and for Trichomoniasis

2:06 PM – MVDL New Testing Lab Space Requirements

Dr. Gregory Juda reported that he, Dr. Steve Smith, lead Pathologist from the MT VDL, and Brian Simonson, met on February 10, 2020 with LPW and Clark Enerson, lead architects for the proposed new MT VDL:

- In the meeting, Dr. Juda said that the Option 1 choice for the proposed new MT VDL was pared down in square footage to the bare minimum that was felt it could still function operationally
- The Option 1 choice proposed three conference rooms. Those were cut back
- After consulting with individual lab techs at the MT VDL, the suggested laboratory space in Option 1 was pared down to 32,000 square feet, a reduction of 8,700 square feet for a price tag, with a 3.5 year escalation, of just over \$21 million
- The 32,000 square feet would be stand-alone for the MT VDL, but would include some shared necropsy space that could be shared with MT FWP or the MT Department of Agriculture, but would not include any analytical lab space for either of those Departments
- John Scully said to keep in mind that the architectural plans for the proposed laboratory had been drawn up 2.5 years ago and that construction costs have

escalated since then and that the escalation has also been applied to the numbers

- It was pointed out that the revised Option 1 plan did not include the possibility of including lecture halls or an observation hallway for necropsy in case MSU would consider collaborating with the MT VDL for their pre-veterinary students
- Dr. Juda said that if the BOL was comfortable with the revised Option 1 he had presented, that it be taken to the architects so they could start work on a new lab layout that could then be presented to MSU so it could be told to them, this is what we want to do
- Brian Simonson added that the purpose of the February 10th meeting with the architects was that when Dr. Juda presented this information to the BOL and it met with their satisfaction that the architects would then do an on-campus study and produce design work
- John Scully said that Mike Honeycutt had spoken with the Department of Agriculture and the Committee had spoken with them as well and their response to moving out of their current office on the MSU campus was they are staying in their current location because they love it. The Department of Agriculture vacating that MSU campus premises was a stipulation from the Board of Regents for the new MT VDL construction on MSU property
- A definite price tag of what the architectural planning for the proposed new MT VDL has cost so far and just how much of the \$100,000 allotted by the 2019 Legislature for planning has been spent, is not known because of no invoice being received for services done, up to this point. Mike Honeycutt said that the price tag for the HB661 study that created Option 1, Option 1a and Option 3 was in the neighborhood of \$40,000

2:28 PM – CWD Laboratory Protocol

With the DOL contemplating CWD testing, John Scully said that he wanted to discuss any protocols the MT VDL has in place regarding that type of testing at their laboratory:

- Dr. Juda said that although the CWD testing equipment is in place at the VDL, it is not in use yet and that all protocols will be put into place before that happens
- Protocols will be established and memorialized in SOPs, just like MT FWP has done with their current process
- Dr. Juda said that they are on target for getting both the Immunohistochemical (IHC) and the Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) tests up and running for the late Spring or early Summer time frame
- Protocols need to be complete before any proficiency testing is performed to qualify VDL technicians on the assays
- Actual test protocols are published by NAHLN and are available, but the portion that is being discussed at this meeting still needs to be put in place
- There is published guidance that addresses the destruction of prion-containing carcasses and other tissue waste by incineration that is listed specifically in the BioSafety and Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 5th Edition
 - That publication lists a minimum secondary temperature for the destruction of those prion-containing carcasses by incineration of 1000 degrees Celsius and the VDL's incinerator currently has their secondary

incinerator burner set at 970-1032 degrees. Dr. Juda added, however, that the incinerator temperature can be bumped up even more because it is not currently being operated at its highest range

- For decontaminating instruments, Dr. Juda referred to a paper published in 2019 titled Total Deactivation of Chronic Wasting Disease Prions Using Sodium Hypochlorite
 - The study referred to in the paper showed that a deactivation of prions can occur with a contact of 40% bleach for 5 minutes and Dr. Juda felt that the MT VDL could put that type of decontamination of instruments, surfaces and the like into practice
- Procedures will need to be put into place for safe draping of tables to contain spillage from carcasses and then either have them be disposed of in a Type 2 landfill or potentially incinerated if the DEQ permit allows for incineration of biomedical waste and that type of material
 - If the MT VDL is not allowed to dispose of the drapes within their current facility, there are biomedical services that will truck the drapes to Idaho for incineration at a larger commercial operation
- Dr. Juda said travel is currently being arranged for some MT VDL staff to travel to the Wyoming Diagnostic Lab to look at their IHC and ELISA for supplemental training of MT VDL technicians and also to discuss protocols for staff dealing with CWD and disposal of contaminated materials
 - The travel would be covered with NAHLN grant funding utilizing \$3,600 that had originally been set aside for ELISA training at the National Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (NVDL) in Iowa, but they said they could not do it at this time
 - Travel to Colorado State University's laboratory to discuss their CWD testing has not been arranged
- Once the MT VDL has established protocols regarding CWD, Dr. Juda said that those same best practices would translate to the Meat and Poultry Bureau for meat markets
- Dr. Juda said there has been documented evidence that CWD can leak from cervids to humans and mentioned one controversial study out of Canada where CWD could transfer to primates. He added that there was no transmission of CWD from cervids to cows of which he is aware

2:45 PM – MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

2:45 PM – Discussion of CWD Potential Impacts on Game and Meat Processing in Montana

John Scully requested information regarding protocols for meat markets where CWD-infected wild game is processed that is processing domestic meat as well:

- Gary Hamel reported that all of the state establishments meet requirements that sanitation be carried out in the establishment, but that it does not contemplate CWD. He said that CWD, however, is currently not an adulterant in meat and

FSIS does not consider it a public health issue because there is no evidence it is a zoonotic disease

- Mr. Hamel said that at this point in time, the DOL does not have authority to compel establishments that have game animals come through to specifically clean their establishments with a 40% bleach solution to remove the CWD because the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Code of Federal Regulations simply says the establishment has to prevent adulteration and unsanitary conditions
- John Scully encouraged Mr. Hamel to make sure his processing protocols are equivalent to the protocols of the Lab people who are doing the CWD testing and protecting their laboratory. He said some Legislators are concerned that CWD is a public health issue and are concerned about it spreading
 - Dr. Zaluski said there are many differences between laboratory and meat establishments, and one critical one is cross contamination, whether it is zoonotic or not. But, according to the CDC, CWD is not a public health concern at this point
- Mike Honeycutt said that while Mr. Hamel could educate processors regarding CWD, a change in protocols would require potential changes in statute and rules and the regulatory framework for that does not yet exist. He added that the DOL does not currently have a right to regulate wild game processing, only domestic
- One consideration for what appears to be an increase in CWD in Montana is the fact that there is more testing now being done to find it. Dr. Juda reported that in 2018, MT FWP conducted 2,000 CWD tests and in 2019, there were 7,000 done and 50 years ago, there was no testing done for CWD
- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski reported that as additional cases of CWD have been found in the state, MT FWP has been in regular communication with the DOL and DPHHS. DPHHS has been working with local sanitarians in areas where the DOL has no authority
 - Mr. Scully said the head of the Madison County Health Board, who is a veterinarian, has been trying to contact DPHHS for 2.5 weeks and got nowhere and so that is why the BOL does not have information regarding this issue that was promised for today's meeting
- Dr. Juda said the MT VDL is putting protocols in place to make sure test results are accurate and for the safety of staff, but if an auditor asks what is being done with CWD tissue, we can say, we are incinerating it at over 1000 degrees

3:07 PM – Brucellosis Testing Numbers Review

Dr. Gregory Juda gave an update on the switch of the assay for Brucellosis testing from a Wrap test to a Fluorescence Polarization (FP) assay and how that had affected VDL testing numbers:

- The assay switch was made on October 18, 2019
- The year-over-year testing numbers as it stands currently, is roughly a 15,000 difference in tests run since the switch from Wrap to FP

- Because 40% of Brucellosis testing is voluntary, transitioning to another assay that was more sensitive and may require subsequent confirmatory testing, could have had an effect on the testing numbers
- Subsequent testing means that the testing reports remain open, awaiting interpretation of results. It's only when the test is closed and issued to the producer and veterinarian that an official test number will appear in the MT VDL information system database
- Dr. Juda said one thing to note in those testing numbers is that prior to October 18, 2019, there had already been a 10,000 disparity in Wrap tests done from the previous year,
 - Test numbers could have been affected by the timing of when people sent their cattle to the market
- Mike Honeycutt said that less DSA testing in the Fall also meant less reimbursements to veterinarians, leaving a financial positive at the DOL, but also meaning there was possibly missed surveillance
- Mr. Honeycutt said he felt it is incumbent upon the DOL to do some marketing education to get people back to surveillance, earning back their confidence that issues in the FP test have been ironed out, because testing, particularly in that region of the state, is what is best in the Brucellosis program
- Mr. Honeycutt added that he hoped this would be a one-year anomaly in the MT VDL and that those testing numbers come back up, although some people may never come back
- John Scully reported that Dr. Liska held some informational meetings regarding the Brucellosis testing in the Madison County area and that it was very helpful

3:19 PM – RECESS

3:26 PM – RECONVENE

SET THE DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

3:26 PM

Nina Baucus requested input from the BOL regarding establishing a set date each month for upcoming BOL meetings:

- Brett DeBruycker commented that his work varies a lot from day to day, but that if it were decided by the BOL to do that, he would try to make it work
- John Scully said that all the BOL members have schedules that are unpredictable, but, if the BOL decides on a set date, it would need to be set after the books close for the month
- Lila Taylor said she didn't know, but as of right now, she has no set schedule
- Sue Brown said she does not know what she is doing from one day to another, but that she does not like Monday BOL meetings
- John Scully added that with the BOL on the verge of not having a quorum at some meetings, that setting a fixed date could jeopardize that even further. He

said that there are not that many more BOL meetings to go until a new Board is appointed and those are going to be important meetings that require a quorum

- Nina Baucus said she felt that having a quorum was more important than her suggestion of having a set date for BOL meetings
- It was decided to leave the date of the next BOL meeting open, subject to the BOL Human Resource Committee getting together to review Brands Administrator applications and deciding the outcome of that

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

3:38 PM

Maggie Nutter, President of the Marias River Livestock Association and a rancher in Northern Montana, was the only person who made public comment at this time:

- Ms. Nutter reported that Josh Longwell, HD Highland Ranch, Thermopolis, Wyoming, would be speaking at the Marias River Livestock Association Spring membership meeting on May 18, 2020 in Shelby, Montana at the golf course clubhouse
- Mr. Longwell had put in two livestock loss claims into the Wyoming Board of Fish and Game, one for \$6,000 and the second for \$435,000, due to bear predations
 - Mr. Longwell was only able to recover 80% of his \$435,000 claim after arbitration
 - Only 117 of his sheep could be claimed as a predation loss, as the others killed were trampled to death with no bear bites on them, when the bears came into his lambing ground
 - Many of Mr. Longwell's cattle were lost due to grizzly predation as well, even with him having to move his cattle six times due to the cattle moving back down on their own from high pasture due to a thick grizzly bear presence there
- Ms. Nutter said that along with Mr. Longwell's 45-minute presentation, which will include slides and videos, there will be discussion about multipliers and whether they benefit producers
 - Clayton Gernaat, the Chair for the May 18th meeting, will be calling Mike Honeycutt and George Edwards, inviting them to attend, because he feels it is important for them to be there. Ms. Nutter also invited any member of the BOL to come for the discussion as well
- Ms. Nutter said that Mr. Longwell commented that no state can afford to have the expansion of grizzly bears and losses that come with it, and that there has to be some sort of other management or departments or State governments that would be willing to buck up big bucks because he can't stay in operation without being paid for his losses
- Ms. Nutter reported that Dr. Anna Forseth from the DOL will be coming there on April 20, 2020 to do a Johne's disease presentation and talk about the DOL program for livestock producers

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

3:42 PM

3:42 PM – Executive Officer 2019 Calendar Year Performance Evaluation

Mike Honeycutt opted to have his 2019 Calendar Year Performance Evaluation done during an Executive Session

3:43 PM – EXECUTIVE SESSION

5:01 PM – RECONVENE

MOVE FOR ADJOURNMENT

5:01 PM

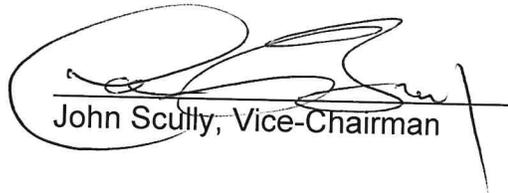
MOTION/VOTE

5:02 PM

Brett DeBruycker moved to adjourn the meeting. Sue Brown seconded. The motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

5:02 PM


John Scully, Vice-Chairman