



BOARD OF LIVESTOCK MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2014

PHONE CONFERENCE CALL

301 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59601

*Agenda times may vary as much as one hour-earlier or later.
Items may be added or deleted up to 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

Look for changes at www.liv.mt.gov.

4:08 PM THURSDAY Call to Order

Board Members Present

Jan French, Chair, cattle producer
John Lehfeldt, sheep producer
Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer

Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
John Scully, cattle producer

Board Members Absent:

Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

Ed Waldner, swine producer

Staff Present:

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer
George Harris, Centralized Services
Steve Merritt, Public Information
Dr Bill Layton, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
Tyler Bond, District 16 Investigator

Sherry Rust, executive assistant
Dr Marty Zaluski, Animal Health
Gary Hamel, Meat Inspection
Shawn Hando, Billings Market Supervisor
Mark Simenson, District 16 Investigator

Public Present:

Chelcie Cremer, Montana Farm Bureau
Tom Lute, Billings Gazette
Dr Jeanne Rankin
Les Graham, Montana Livestock Market Assn

Gene Curry, MT Stockgrowers Assn
Justin, Montana Farmers Union

Action Item: All Department Financial and Budget Issues

- Christian Mackay reviewed his meetings with division administrators to complete fiscal year end predictions by comparing the first 5 months of 2014 and 2015 expenditures. Applying the percent and adding the pay raise predictions came out as follows:

- Animal Health \$20,000 over budget at fiscal year end
- Diagnostic Lab \$14484 over
- Brands \$200,000 over

If expenditures continue as per last year the department will be \$225,000 over budget at fiscal yearend.

Reductions through November 30:

Division:	Position	FY 2015 Savings:	Date Vacated
CSD	IT position	\$62,931.25	7/28/14
Diag Lab	Clinical Tech	\$47,803.91	6/28/14
Brands	Inspector	\$23,821.67	10/4/14

Total reductions through November 30 \$134,556.92



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Going forward for the rest of the year the following actions are suggested:

<u>Division:</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Remainder FY 2015 Savings:</u>
Diag Lab	Clinical Technologist	\$25,939.78
CSD	IT	\$27,572.56
	PIO	
Brands	Admin Clerk	\$ 2,699.49
	Admin Clerk	\$ 3,428.68
	Admin Clerk	\$ 5,050.50
	Admin Clerk	\$ 4,126.37
	.5 compliance tech	\$ 9,838.18
	Compliance tech	<u>\$23,576.74</u>
Total additional savings:		\$129,329.43

The administrative clerk positions work less than 20 hours a week in the markets. Their efforts can be replaced by fully utilizing the Fort Supply Market Program with inspectors inputting data through the use of Archer handhelds to preload into the program.

District Investigators, Mark Simonson and Tyler Bond, said they would rather take the reduction of hours than to be out there looking for a job. When asked how tight their districts were being run, Tyler replied he is the only state employee in his district and he supervises about 35 local inspectors to get the job done. Mark said he has one part time person and if that person was eliminated he could still get the job done if other employees could float in during heavy sale days.

Christian continued that an additional \$96,000 in reductions is needed between now and fiscal 2015 year end. This amount could be attained through a four hour per week or 8 hour per pay period furlough without pay for all employees paid from the per capita fund between now and May 1.

The board discussed if this suggestion would meet the real goal or if more cuts or reductions are needed. The board also has a subcommittee meeting prior to the January meeting for suggestions to maintain reductions going forward 3 to 5 years.

John Lehfeldt moved to authorize the suggested reductions immediately and the furlough of 8 hours per pay period through the end of June. Brett DeBruycker seconded. In a voice vote the motion carried: John Lehfeldt, yes; Jeff Lewis, yes; John Scully, yes; Brett DeBruycker, yes.

Christian Mackay and George Harris are to monitor expenditures and income monthly to assure the reductions are being met. The furlough plan may be expanded if reductions are not met or eliminated should the goal be met sooner.

Public Comment

Gene Curry, MSGA, questioned if the \$96,000 included pay raises and a lower headcount.

Les Graham, MLAMA, asked if the board has a plan to carry forward 3 to 5 years



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Replies were:

all possible expenditures were included in the analysis
and the board subcommittee on carrying forward is meeting prior to the January meeting

5:31 PM

Adjourned

Jan French, Chair