**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH MEETING**

**November 29, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**Veterans Memorial Auditorium**

**5825 Florida Boulevard, 1st Floor**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806**

**Proceedings**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Craig Fontenot, DVM at 10:05 a.m.

**PLEDGE**

Dr. Fontenot led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by John Walther, LDAF Assistant Commissioner Agriculture and Forestry.

**Members present:**

Giles Brown, James Clark Cooper, DVM, Thomas Early, Lennie “Tim” Crawford, Craig Fontenot, DVM, William Holdman, Bob Pitre, Law Ponder, Butch Racca, Eugene Robertson, Donna Jean Heinrich, Rayburn Smith, Randy Toups, and Maxwell Lea, DVM

**Members absent:** Cyd Collins, Gary Greene, DVM, and Anne Chapman, DVM.

**Guests Present:**

Scott Perry, Jesse Bellard, Jonathan Roberts, DVM (Director of the Feed Lab), Ashley Prejean, DVM, Matt Traylor, DVM, Daniel Myrick, DVM, Ron Harrell (Farm Bureau), Jim LaCour, DVM (LDWF), Curt Degeyter, DVM, LDAF Attorney Amy McInnis, Hearing Officer Michael Heier (Attorney General’s Office) and Jacob Thompson of Thompson Horse Lot.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comment was made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bob Pitre made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2018 Board of Animal Health Meeting.

Motion was seconded by Randy Toups. Motion passes, minutes of October 2018, BOAH meeting have been approved.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

John Walther informed the Board that their ethics training is due by January 31st. Mr. Walther also said reindeer and Muntjac deer have been added to the list of banned cervid for import into the state due to concerns of Chronic Wasting Disease.

Dr. Diane Stacy discussed changes made to the USDA regions of operation and introduced Dr. Curt Degeyter as the new Assistant AVIC and other new state/federal personnel present for the meeting. Dr. Stacy discussed USDA plans to phase out the use of free metal ID tags for cattle and to transition to mandatory electronic ID tags as official cattle ID by 2021 in animal disease traceability. Dr. Stacy went on to discuss the new LDAF private database USAHerds and our phasing to electronic records including our LA eCVI that has been well received by private practitioners and the new electronic Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) coming in 2019. Dr. Stacy spoke concerning the recent Virulent New Castle Disease outbreak in California as well as new biosecurity protocols in place to assist backyard flock owners in the detection, prevention, and eradication of diseases to their flocks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Rocking I Auction House change of address**
2. **Change of Ownership of the EIA Lab at Deridder Vet Clinic to Hayes Veterinary Clinic**

Diane Stacy informed the Board that Dr. Ted Hoerner of Deridder Vet Clinic has retired and sold his EIA lab to Dr. Hayes.

Motion to approve: Thomas Early

Motion is seconded by: Butch Racca

Motion to accept the change of ownership to Hayes Vet Clinic is approved.

1. **Adjudicatory Hearings**

Hearing Officer Michael Heier, Assistant Attorney General, conducted the hearings. Attorney Amy McInnis, counsel for LDAF, presented the following cases:

**Gary Thompson (AH-18-05)**

Gary Thompson was not present. The Department charged Gary Thompson with one (1) violation of **LA R.S. 3:2137(A):** *It shall be unlawful for anyone to knowingly bring into the state, or to transport within the state any adulterated meat or diseased livestock or animal without the express written approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry, or his designee.*

Gary Thompson executed a written stipulation admitting to the violation as charged and agreed to pay the maximum penalty provided by law of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00), to be paid no less than 60 days from the date of the stipulation.

Motion: Bob Pitre moved to accept the facts set forth in the stipulation and that the penalties be accepted. The motion was seconded by Eugene Robertson and passed unanimously.

**Jacob Thompson - Application for Renewal of Livestock Dealer Permit (AH-18-04)**

Jacob Thompson was present and represented himself in this matter. Ms. McInnis stated that Jacob Thompson has applied for renewal of his livestock dealer permit and that LDAF was opposing the application. Ms. McInnis argued that Mr. Thompson’s application should be denied based on his conviction of a crime and on the fact that he is currently under sanction by the USDA Packers and Stockyards Act. Mr. Thompson declined to make any opening statement.

Ms. McInnis presented LDAF’s case, calling Brand Officer Jesse Scott Perry of the LA Brand Commission as a witness who was sworn in. Ms. McInnis questioned Brand Officer Perry regarding his investigation into Jacob Thompson. Brand Officer Perry testified regarding Jacob Thompson’s conviction for theft of livestock, current active status of probation, order to pay restitution of $159,498. Brand Officer Perry further testified regarding additional charges against Jacob Thompson for theft of livestock in excess of one million dollars($1,000,000) and his current status under active sanction from participating in the business of buying and selling livestock by the USDA Packers and Stockyards Act. Brand Officer Perry further testified regarding a default decision and order of disciplinary statement against Jacob Thompson by the USDA, in matter 14-0087. Brand Officer Perry testified that Jacob Thompson was currently in the business of buying and selling livestock. Ms. McInnis offered, filed and introduced into evidence Exhibits LDAF 1-6 and LDAF 8. Mr. Thompson did not question Brand Officer Perry.

Jacob Thompson neither presented any evidence, called any witnesses, nor made any statement on his behalf.

Ms. McInnis and Mr. Thompson made closing statements.

Motion : Eugene Robertson moved to deny Jacob Thompson’s application for renewal of his livestock dealer’s permit. The motion was seconded by Thomas Early. Dr. Craig Fontenot then requested a roll-call vote. The vote was as follows:

Giles Brown – abstained

James Clark Cooper, DVM – denied

Thomas Early – denied

Lennie “Tim” Crawford – denied

Craig Fontenot, DVM – denied

William Holdman – denied

Maxwell Lea, DVM – denied

Bob Pitre –denied

Law Ponder – denied

Butch Racca – denied

Eugene Robertson – denied

Donne Jean Heinreich -- denied

Rayburn Smith – abstained

Randy Toups – denied

The motion carried and the Board voted to deny Jacob Thompson’s application to renew his livestock dealer permit.

The date of Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the first quarter (March-May) of 2019.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Public Comment**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Dr. Fontenot moved to adjourn the meeting. All agreed. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.