

**MINUTES
IN-PERSON MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

**MARCH 15, 2024, 10:00 A.M.
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in-person and was called to order by Craig Fontenot, DVM at 10:12 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Fontenot led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Jaclyn Soileau.

Members present: Craig Fontenot DVM, Thomas Early, Vendal Fairchild, Lennie Crawford, Dale Cambre, Kurt Cazayoux, Nickey Smith, David Mains, Giles Brown, Rayburn Smith, Law Ponder.

Members Absent: Brady Rutledge, Dan Cason, Anna Chapman DVM, Clark Cooper DVM, Bill Holdman, Sara Byrd

A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments submitted at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Fontenot requested a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board of Animal Health Meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Vendal Fairchild, seconded by Nickey Smith. Motion to accept the board minutes as written is approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Amy McInnis, LDAF General Counsel, reminded board members to complete and submit their personal financial disclosures, as required by the Board of Ethics.

Ms. McInnis advised the board that the link for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment online training for all board members would be forthcoming and will be made available to the board members as soon as the link is active for use.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Fontenot made a motion that the board go into executive session to discuss pending litigation, concerning the lawsuit entitled “Wald v. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry,” Docket No. 740,318, pending in the 19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge. Giles Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the board went into executive session at 10:35 a.m..

At 11:40 a.m., the BOAH returned from executive session.

ROLL IS TAKEN ONCE AGAIN

Roll is taken by Jaclyn Soileau

Members present: Craig Fontenot DVM, Thomas Early, Vendal Fairchild, Lennie Crawford, Dale Cambre, Kurt Cazayoux, Nickey Smith, David Mains, Giles Brown, Rayburn Smith, Law Ponder.

Members Absent: Brady Rutledge, Dan Cason, Anna Chapman DVM, Clark Cooper DVM, Bill Holdman, Sara Byrd

Giles Brown made a motion that the board retain Phelps Dunbar LLP and, specifically, Attorney Brandon Davis to represent the board in that litigation entitled “Wald v. Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health.” Rayburn Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Giles Brown made another motion that the Board follow Mr. Davis’ legal advice concerning the resolution of the lawsuit entitled “Wald v. Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Board of Animal Health” and to authorize the Phelps Dunbar law firm to act on behalf of the board in that litigation mentioned. David Mains seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The date for the board’s next meeting was not set and will be determined at a later time.

ADJOURNMENT

Thomas Early moved to adjourn the meeting. Rayburn Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.