

**TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)
MEETING OF THE**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

May 29, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

NOTE: THIS IS TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 20 2025, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Craig Fontenot at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Sara Novak.

Members Present: Anna Chapman, DVM, Dale Cambre, James Cooper, DVM, Thomas Early, Nickey Smith, David Mains, Kurt Cazayoux, Lennie Crawford, Rayburn Smith, Craig Fontenot

Members Absent: Giles Brown, Law Ponder, Sara Byrd, Brady Rutledge, Vandal Fairchild, Josh Kaplan

A quorum was present at all times.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dale Cambre moved to approve the minutes as written from the board's June 20, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nickey Smith and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. ***“John Wald and Anton Wald versus Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health”*** Suit No. C-758,712 Section 23; 19th Judicial District Court; Parish of East Baton Rouge; State of Louisiana

Mr. Craig Fontenot motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Nickey Smith, the motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 10:06 AM.

Roll call was taken by Sara Boeneke.

Members Present: Anna Chapman, DVM, Dale Cambre, James Cooper, DVM, Thomas Early, Nickey Smith, David Mains, Kurt Cazayoux, Lennie Crawford, Rayburn Smith, Craig Fontenot

Members Absent: Giles Brown, Law Ponder, Sara Byrd, Brady Rutledge, Vendal Fairchild, Josh Kaplan

Mr. Nickey Smith motioned for executive session to be ended and the motion was Second, by James Cooper and passed unanimously. Executive session ended at 10:42 A.M.

Roll call was taken again, and a quorum was present at the end of executive session

Adjudicatory hearings

A. Applications for Livestock Market Charter

1. 26-AH-002 Wald Livestock Market

Mr. Stacy Moak, Attorney for Wald Livestock, was called to the stand to make his opening statement regarding the case.

He requests recusals based on LAAC 3:667.

Recusals: Law Ponder, Nickey Smith, Lennie Crawford, and Rayburn Smith.

Due to recusals, only 8 voting members were present, and a vote was unable to be conducted.

2. 26-AH001 Red River Livestock (Transfer of existing charter)

Mrs. Amy McInnis explains to the Board that Red River Livestock is requesting the transfer of ownership for the Market Charter Application. Mrs. Michelle Ribera, Assistant Commissioner for the department, as her first witness. She then asks Mrs. Ribera to identify documents. Mr. Scott Perry is then called the second witness. She asks him to identify documents. Mr. Jeff Fabre, Financial Auditor for the Department, was asked to speak on behalf of the new owner's financial statement. He suggested that they have financial stability to be able to run this facility.

Mr. Thomas early motions for approval of the transfer of the ownership of Red River Livestock. Mr. Clark Cooper seconds the motion and it is passed unanimously.

3. 26-AH-005 Walter King/Double K Auction Market (Poultry Only)

Mrs. Amy McInnis, Attorney on behalf of the Department, informs the board that Mr. Walter King has applied for an Auction Market Permit to sell only poultry. Mrs. McInnis calls Mrs. Michelle Ribera as her first witness. She asks Mrs. Ribera to identify exhibits LDAF 1-5 which include his livestock market charter application and payment and notice publishing's. She then calls Mr. Dillon Lacour as her second witness. She then asks him to identify exhibits LDAF 6-9 which included an inspection report, pictures of the facility, and his active bonds.

Mr. Clark Cooper motions to grant Double K Auctions/Mr. Walter King his Livestock Market Charter. Mr. Thomas Early seconds the motion and it is passed unanimously.

B. Revocations of Livestock Market Charters

1. 26-AH-002 Nicholas Manuel/ American Select Equine (Voluntary Relinquishment)

Attorney Amy McInnis on behalf of the Department explains to the board that Mr. Nicolas Manuel has Voluntary relinquished his Livestock Market Charter. She calls Mrs. Michelle Ribera to the stand to identify documents. The Documents included a letter sent to Mr. Manuel, notice publishing, and a letter sent to all livestock charter holders. She called Scott Perry, brand brand inspector, on behalf of the department as her Second witness. Mr. Perry gave his testament as to why the charter needed to be revoked.

Mr. James Cooper motions to approve the relinquishment of Mr. Manuels Market charter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nickey Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

2. 26-AH-003 Johnny Payne/ JP Livestock Revocation of Market Charter and Dealer permit

Amy McInnis, Attorney on Behalf of the Department explains to the Board that they are revoking Mr. Johnny Payne/ JP livestock Market Charter and Dealer Permit. Mrs. McInnis calls Mrs. Michelle Ribera, Assistant Commissioner and director of the Board of Animal Health, as her first witness. She asks Mrs. Ribera to identify documents such as letters regarding the revocation of the other Charter Holders, past renewals, and transmittals showing payments. Mrs. McInnis called Mr. Dillon Lacour, brand inspector, as her last witness. She asks him questions regarding Mr. Payne and his charter and asks him to identify documents regarding the charter. The documents proved that Mr. Payne had not held a sale in 2023 and that Mr. Payne was not in good standing with the USDA.

Mr. James Clark motions for the Louisiana Market Charter and Dealer Permit for Mr. Johnny Payne to be revoked. Mr. Rayburn smith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Acadiana Equine Hospital- New EIA Lab

Dr. Daniel Myrick, State Veterinarian, came before the board to request approval for the new EIA lab at Acadiana Equine Hospital. He provided them with their application, inspection report, and pictures.

Mr. Craig Fontenot motioned for approval, Mr. James Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

NEXT MEETING

The date for the board's next meeting was not set and will be determined later.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman, Dr. Craig Fontenot moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Rayburn Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 P.M.

TENTATIVE