

**TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL)
IN-PERSON MEETING OF THE**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

**AUGUST 30TH, 2024, 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 AUGUST 30, 2024,
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: Dr. Craig Fontenot, DVM; Thomas Early; Vendal Fairchild; Lennie Crawford; Kurt Cazayoux; David Mains; Rayburn Smith; Law Ponder; Dr. James Cooper, DVM; Giles Brown; Dale Cambre; Dr. Anna Chapman, DVM*

(*Dr. Anna Chapman arrived after roll was called, at approximately 10:02 A.M)

Members Absent: Brady Rutledge; Sara Byrd; Nickey Smith; Dan Cason

A quorum was present at all times.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. James Cooper moved to approve the minutes as written from the board's July 12th, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rayburn Smith and passed unanimously.

LIVESTOCK MARKET HEARING

Wald Livestock Market- Hearing on Petition for Reconsideration of Agency Decision

Attorney Stacy Moak appeared behalf of his clients, Mr. Anton Wald and Mr. John Wald, on their Application for Reconsideration on their Livestock Market buying station application. Attorney Brandon Davis appeared on behalf of the Board of Animal Health. Assistant Attorney General Terrell Kent presided over the matter as Hearing Officer.

Previously, on July 12, 2024, the Board of Animal Health had denied the Walds' Application for a Livestock Market Charter for a Livestock Buying Station. The Walds now request that the Board grant a re-hearing of that decision, to reconsider their application.

Mr. Moak requested that the testimony, exhibits, and stipulations of the parties that were entered on the record at the July 12, 2024, hearing be adopted into the record of this proceeding as well.

Mr. Moak further requested that Paragraph C of his client's Application for Reconsideration be stricken and to withdraw the argument set forth therein..

Mr. Moak submitted legal argument in favor of reconsideration.

Counsel for the Board, Mr. Brandon Davis submitted that the only questions currently before the board are whether to grant the reconsideration and who should hear the reconsideration hearing, in accordance with R.S. 49:977(B). Mr. Davis stated that the Board cannot take up the merits at this time. Board has neither objected to nor filed an opposition to the application for reconsideration. Mr. Davis further stated that he would like to address applicants' request to incorporate the testimony, exhibits, and stipulations into the reconsideration proceeding and to applicants' request to strike Paragraph C, but cannot do so until the Board determines whether to grant reconsideration.

Hearing Officer Terrell Kent called for a motion to either accept or deny the applicants' motion for reconsideration. Dr. Craig Fontenot moved to grant the application for reconsideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas Early. No discussion was had, and there were no abstentions or recusals. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Craig Fontenot moved that the board will preside over the hearing at the reconsideration hearing. No discussion was had, and there were no abstentions or recusals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fairchild and passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis then responded that he anticipates having no objection possibly to the record being admitted at the merits hearing but that he could not do so at this time. Mr. Davis further had no opposition to striking Paragraph C, with the understanding the parties would proceed at the reconsideration hearing on only the remaining assignments of error, set forth

Paragraphs A and B of the application. Hearing Officer Kent granted the applicants' request to strike Paragraph C.

The date for the reconsideration hearing will be determined at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Daniel Myrick, DVM as the State Veterinarian

Assistant Commissioner Michelle Ribera presented the Department's recommendation that the board approve and appoint Dr. Daniel Myrick, DVM, as State Veterinarian. Ms. Ribera provided a brief description of Dr. Myrick's experience with the department. Dr. Craig Fontenot moved to approve Dr. Myrick as State Veterinarian. Vandal Fairchild seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board member Dale Cambre informed the board that red wolves were back in the state. Dr. Myrick said that he would contact Wildlife and Fisheries to see what they are doing about this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Commissioner Michelle Ribera briefly reminded the board to complete their annual Prevention of Sexual Harassment training that should be completed by November 1, 2024.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Craig Fontenot moved to adjourn the meeting, Rayburn Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.