



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



LOUISIANA BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH
APRIL 28, 2022 MEETING
MINUTES

The Louisiana Board of Animal Health held a public meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Veterans Auditorium at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Headquarters, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
 5825 Florida Blvd.,
 Suite 3000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 925-3770
 Fax: 925-3760

Agro-Consumer Services
 5825 Florida Blvd.
 Suite 5000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 922-1341
 Fax: 923-4877

Animal Health & Food Safety
 5825 Florida Blvd.,
 Suite 4000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 925-3962
 Fax: 925-4103

Forestry
 5825 Florida Blvd.
 Suite 6000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 925-4500
 Fax: 922-1356

Management & Finance
 5825 Florida Blvd.
 Suite 1000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 922-1255
 Fax: 925-6012

Soil & Water Conservation
 5825 Florida Blvd.
 Suite 7000
 Baton Rouge,
 LA 70806
 (225) 922-1269
 Fax: 922-2577

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dr. Craig Fontenot, D.V.M., Chairman.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Fontenot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M., addressed the Board and gave legislative updates, discussed pending rules and regulations, as well as other issues on a state and national level as they relate or pertain to agriculture.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Anne Chapman, D.V.M., Sara Byrd, Law Ponder, Nickey Smith, Lennie Crawford, Giles Brown, Dale Cambre, Craig Fontenot, D.V.M., Clark Cooper, D.V.M., Vendal Fairchild, Rayburn Smith, Bill Holdman, and David Mains

Members Absent: Brady Rutledge, Dan Cason; Tom Early; Kurt Cazayoux

There being a quorum present, the regular order of business was called.

Also attending the meeting were: Assistant Attorney General Alicia Wheeler, Hearing Officer: and from the LDAF staff, Assistant Commissioner Kevin Wofford; Daniel Myrick, D.V.M.; General Counsel Amy McInnis; Staff Attorney Baleigh Olah; Brand Enforcement Supervisor Jesse Scott Perry; Brand Officer J.D. Fail; and Alternative Livestock and Sale Barn Program Director, Craig Waguespack.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

V. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Brown moved to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2022 BOAH meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion carried. The January 6, 2022 minutes are approved as written.

VI. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

Assistant Attorney General Alicia Wheeler introduced herself as the Hearing Officer overseeing the proceedings and addressed the board on the administrative procedures for hearings. Amy McInnis, General Counsel for LDAF, presented the cases on behalf of the department.

A. In the Matter of Gary Thompson

No. AH-22-01

Amy McInnis presented a summary of allegations and charges against Respondent, specifically one violation of La. R.S. 3:2131. Respondent, Gary Thompson, was not present at the hearing, nor was anyone present on his behalf. LDAF Brand Enforcement Supervisor, Jesse Scott Perry, and LDAF Brand Inspector, J.D. Fail, were called as witnesses, reviewed the exhibits entered into evidence, and provided testimony to the board. Ms. McInnis entered the exhibits into evidence, which were admitted into the record by Hearing Officer Alicia Wheeler.

The Department requested that the Board find Gary Thompson guilty of one violation of La. R.S. 3:2131 for failure to dispose of 9 livestock carcasses.

Motion made by Dr. Fontenot and seconded by V. Fairchild to find Gary Thompson in violation. Motion carried.

The Department further recommended the maximum penalty of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

Motion made by Dr. Fontenot and seconded by C. Cooper to impose a \$1,000.00 penalty on Gary Thompson. Motion carried.

B. In the Matter of Ray Dunbar

Amy McInnis presented evidence pertaining to the case against Ray Dunbar for 3 violations of La. R.S. 3:2131. Mr. Dunbar was present at the hearing. LDAF employee J.D. Fail and St. Landry Parish President Jesse Bellard were called as witnesses to authenticate evidence. Exhibits LDAF 1-7 were offered, filed and introduced into evidence and Hearing Officer Alicia Wheeler admitted the exhibits into the record.

Mr. Dunbar arrived late and Amy McInnis briefed him on the evidence already presented. A five-minute recess was given. Mr. Dunbar thereafter pled guilty and stipulated to all three charges against him.

The Department recommended to the Board to find Ray. Dunbar guilty of the 3 violations of La. R.S. 3:2131, for failure to properly dispose of animal carcasses.

Motion made by N. Smith and seconded by D. Cambre to find Ray Dunbar in violation. Motion carried.

The Department further recommended that the Board impose the maximum penalty of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

Motion made by B. Holdman and seconded by Dr. Fontenot to impose the \$3,000.00 penalty. Motion carried.

VII. LDAF UPDATES

LDAF employee Craig Waguespack presented information on livestock ID tags and the animal identification systems that LDAF uses.

LDAF employee Scott Perry gave updates on the Livestock Brand Commission.

LDAF employee Dr. Daniel Myrick gave updates on trichomoniasis issues in the state, relating to statistics and procedures LDAF handles. Dr. Myrick recommended rules be promulgated by the department. Motion made by C. Cooper and seconded by V. Fairchild for the Department to promulgate rules to regulate trichomoniasis. Motion carried.

Dr. Myrick presented information on equine piroplasmosis-infected horses within the state as well as information on highly affected pathogens with Avian Influenza.

Assistant Commissioner Kevin Wofford gave an overall update for the Animal Health division of LDAF.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trichomoniasis Regulations

Trichomoniasis rules and regulations will be drafted by LDAF legal for promulgation.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Escaped Pen Raised Deer Regulations

Escaped Pen-Raised Deer regulations were presented by Amy McInnis for approval to be promulgated.

Motion made by C. Cooper and seconded by B. Holdman to proceed with the rule promulgation process. Motion carried.

X. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Board of Animal Health meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2022.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy McInnis advised the Board to complete the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training and Ethics Training.

No other public comments were submitted at this time.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by V. Fairchild and seconded by C. Cooper. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.