

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A joint meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) and members of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture was held on February 6, 2019 from 9AM until 10AM in Room 10 of the Vermont State House. Following this joint gathering, the LCSAC reconvened at 136 State Street in Montpelier for the remainder of its public meeting.

The following LCSAC members were present:

Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Les Pike (LP); Eliza Rutherford (ER); Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel (RB); JoAnn Nichols (JN); Jane Clifford (JC) (JC was present only for the first portion of the meeting with legislators).

Chairs Partridge and Starr thanked the LCSAC for its continued collaboration with the committees on agriculture.

KMH reviewed the LCSAC purpose and body of work produced to date.

LCSAC members in attendance introduced themselves, and members not in attendance were acknowledged.

Brief discussions were held re. the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' proposal to incorporate funding for humane handling audits into the Working Lands Enterprise Board's structure and proposals relating to the LCSAC's mission that may come before the legislative committees during the 2019 session. On-farm slaughter, livestock sheltering requirements and S.16 regarding animal research were briefly discussed.

Chairs Partridge, Starr and Bothfeld offered closing remarks.

Following the conclusion of the joint meeting, members of the LCSAC reconvened at the 136 State Street location. A quorum was not reached.

Members in attendance discussed follow up steps from the meeting with legislators, the USDA's transition to RFID tags for interstate movement of livestock, the state's policy on feeding food scraps to pigs, and the discussion that took place with legislators regarding any need to sunset the LCSAC. The LCSAC is active and will not be sunset.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on September 18, 2019 in Room 210 of the Agency of Agriculture Williston office building located at 94 Harvest Lane.

The following LCSAC members were present:

Diane Bothfeld (DB); Dr. Kristin Haas (KMH); Les Pike (LP); Dr. Kent Henderson (KEH); JoAnn Nichols (JN); Ben Nottermann (BN); Marcy Wisnowski (MW); Steve Kayhart (SK)

The following public observers (affiliations) were present:

Barry Londeree (Humane Society of the United States) for a portion of the meeting but left before the public comment period.

A quorum being present, Chair DB called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

New member, Steve Kayhart, introduced himself and provided background on his farm to the group.

The minutes from the February 2019 meeting were discussed and amended to correct the list of those in attendance. The amended February meeting minutes were approved, following a motion made by LP and a second by MW. BN and KEH abstained from voting.

KMH provided an update to members of the discussions of the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board (ACIAB). The ACIAB will submit a legislative report in January 2020.

The group discussed VT's plans to transition to mandatory RFID use for interstate livestock movement, per USDA-APHIS. The timeline for phasing this in was discussed, as well as the possible negative impacts on youngstock and the economic impact to VT farmers. KMH indicated that VAAFM may have to amend statutory language to accommodate the federally mandated transition and lessen the economic burden otherwise associated with applying RFID tags to claves in slaughter channels. Members discussed the proposed cost-share funding plan and the possibility of Beef Check-off or FARM, Ben and Jerry's and other antibiotic-related audit programs covering some of the added cost of RFID procurement.

Members discussed the upcoming 2020 legislative session, including the possibility of a livestock shelter bill being introduced and the proposed language that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife plans to introduce related to amending the definition of feral swine to facilitate more efficient management of escaped domestic pigs in the future.

Members discussed the best use of the remaining bovine transport best practices brochures, including sharing them with commercial slaughter facilities so that their customers can have access to the information.

The group offered suggestions for filling several vacant positions on the LCSAC. Possible candidates were suggested to fill the criminal investigatory and the slaughter sector roles. KMH will reach out to those possible candidates to gauge interest.

The group decided to cancel the November 2019 due to schedule conflicts and lack of topics to discuss before the start of the 2020 legislative session. Efforts will focus on scheduling a February 2020 meeting with members of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture.

The group briefly discussed the current challenges created by decreasing rendering opportunities in Vermont. At least one large dairy farm is exploring the possibility of carcass incineration using the Cow Cremator. Farm owners are currently discussing the option with the Department of Environmental Conservation's air quality personnel.

No members of the public were present for the public comment period.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM, following a motion made by LP and seconded by BN.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin M. Haas".

Kristin M. Haas, DVM