

Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (LCSAC) was held on September 20, 2023 at 11:00AM on a virtual MS Teams platform.

The following LCSAC members attended: Nicole Dubuque (ND); Tara Oeschger; Christina Ashley; JoAnn Nichols (JN); Kristin Haas (KH); Eliza Rutherford; Ruth Blauwiekel (RB); Andrea Etter (AE). The following member of the public was in attendance: Dr. Kaitlynn Levine, Assistant State Veterinarian, Agency of Agriculture.

Chair Dubuque called the meeting to order at 11:03AM

Member introductions were completed to introduce ND as the new Chair and to orient her to the LCSAC.

ND reviewed LCSAC member term statistics and status (see Addendum 1 for details) and requested that any member who is eligible for formal reappointment but who has not been reappointed or any member who no longer wishes to serve on the LCSAC notify her by close of business 9/22/23. ND will communicate with appointing authorities to update all member statuses and to fill the LCSAC seat vacated by Steve Kayhart, who resigned from the LCSAC on 9/8/23.

Members briefly discussed the legislative bill being drafted by legislative counsel per the request of Senator Watson. KH provided a general status update and acknowledged that this may be a topic the LCSAC is asked to comment on during the 2024 legislative session.

RB inquired about the status of conversations around carcass disposal in cases where livestock are euthanized with pentobarbital – no substantive updates or recent discussion on this topic. Regional and national discussions among state animal health officials generally increase when there is a food/feed safety recall or other issue that prompts attention.

KH provided a brief update as to the recent detection of a feral hog in South Royalton. This animal was removed from the environment by USDA Wildlife Services and subsequently tested negative for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis. DNA test results are pending. KH advised that feral swine sightings can be reported through the Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

KH provided a brief update on Agency, state, regional and national level conversations regarding the ongoing food animal veterinary shortages. Discussions are trending toward more creative ways to remedy this issue in addition to only providing educational debt relief funding. KH informed LCSAC members that Agency leadership is discussing the possible introduction of a legislative bill after researching the applicable state statutes.

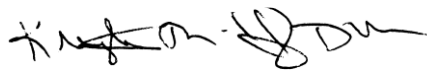
RB moved to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes; AE seconded; approved unanimously.

ND informed members that she would follow up with legislative committee chairs to request a joint hearing with LCSAC members and the Senate and House committees on agriculture and to make those legislative committees aware of the LCSAC's availability to comment on the draft animal welfare bill once introduced.

JN inquired about the allowability of her new employee interested in public policy related to livestock production to participate in future LCSAC as a member of the public. This is allowed because all LCSAC meetings are public. The individual can either monitor the Vermont Department of Libraries site where all public meetings are posted ([Published Calendar - PowerAutomate, LIB - Outlook \(office365.com\)](#)) or LCSAC members are welcome to forward meeting links for attendance by interested parties.

RB moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:49am.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kristin M. Haas, DVM