

**MINUTES OF THE 351st COMMISSION MEETING
TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

May 25, 2004

The Texas Animal Health Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Traylor at 8:30 a.m. in the Texas Animal Health Commission Conference Room in Austin, Texas.

All Commissioners were present

Item 1 - Welcome and call to order by Chairman Traylor

Chairman Traylor introduced three new Commission members: Rita Baca a representative for the public; Coleman Locke a representative for the beef cattle industry, and Ralph Simmons a representative for the poultry industry.

Item 2 - Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the 350th Commission Meeting held on February 18, 2004 was made by Commissioner Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Windham. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Actions for the period 2/18/04 through 5/24/04.

Dr. Hillman presented a report of significant activities and issues and out-of-office trips that occurred from February 18, 2004 through May 24, 2004.

Significant activities included:

- a confirmed case of Vesicular Stomatitis in Balmorhea, Reeves County, Texas. A directive was issued by the Executive Director to assist in the movement of livestock to other states. This directive provided a statement to be placed on health certificates for interstate movement. This Executive Directive has been distributed and is available on our TAHC web site.
- a confirmed case of highly pathogenic strain of Avian Influenza (HPAI) near Gonzales, Texas.
- actions involving the Tuberculosis Program in Texas and the National TB Eradication Program Strategic Plan. Chairman Traylor requested staff coordinate with the dairy industry group to address the issue of tracing and recording animals.
- actions involving Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance strategy by USDA for Texas.
- actions involving the National Animal Identification Plan and the actions being taken in Texas to coordinate with this plan.
- the first-time state participation in the North American Animal Health Committee annual meeting held in March in Austin.
- implementation of the Fowl Registration Program.
- preparation of the TAHC Strategic Plan.
- receipt of the Attorney General's Opinion that TAHC is "not authorized to charge a fee for reviewing and processing health certificates after their completion by a private practitioner." This opinion will require developing an alternative proposed funding mechanism for consideration during the next legislative session. Chairman Traylor requested TAHC begin working with the industry groups to determine a mechanism for collecting fees.

- a request from Oklahoma to reevaluate our CWD entry requirements.
- the approval of requested waivers.

Dr. Hillman also provided a written report of his out-of-office trips and a list of his planned future activities.

A motion to approve the actions of the Executive Director for the period from 2/18/04 through May 24, 2004 was made by Commissioner Rangel and seconded by Commissioner Edmiston. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4 – Tuberculosis Report

Dr. Ellis provided a verbal and written report of the activities occurring in the Texas Bovine Tuberculosis Surveillance program.

There was discussion regarding Mexican feeder cattle and roping cattle. Chairman Traylor requested clarification be given to our field staff regarding the two different sets of requirements for feeder and roping cattle of Mexican origin.

Item 5 – Reconsideration of the Resolutions Regarding Tuberculosis Test Requirements for Cattle Imported from Mexico.

A motion to **continue** the resolutions regarding tuberculosis test requirements for cattle imported from Mexico in accordance with the discussion today was made by Commissioner Martinez and seconded by Commissioner Windham. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 – Human Resources Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Martinez provided a report of the HR Subcommittee meetings on April 26, 2004 and the 8:00 a.m. meeting on May 25, 2004. A copy of the letter dated May 5, 2004 which was submitted to John Keel of the Legislative Budget Board was provided to the commissioners. This letter contained:

- a request for the status of TAHC's request of October 27, 2003 for a waiver from the management-to-staff ratio requirements.
- clarification if a waiver is granted, would that waiver exempt the TAHC from the ratios required for 2004-2005 only, or extend throughout the statutory timeline through August 31, 2007?
- clarification if a waiver is granted, would the associated appropriation reduction be reversed for fiscal year 2004 and/or exempted for fiscal year 2005?

Commissioner Martinez reported that the HR Subcommittee recommended sending a follow-up letter the end of June to Mr. John Keel again requesting an update on our waiver request.

A motion to approve the agency Human Resource Subcommittee report as discussed today was made by Commissioner Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Windham. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 - Presentation of Animal Health Program Update

Dr. Coats provided a verbal and written presentation on animal program activities.

Dr. Coats introduced Dr. Angela Pelzel, recently hired Epidemiologist, who gave an update on the Vesicular Stomatitis outbreak in Balmorhea, Texas.

Item 8 – Administration/Budget Status Report

Bruce Hammond provided a verbal and written presentation of the Administration/Budget Status Report for FY 2004 as of April 30, 2004 explaining proposed adjustments. The agency Position Vacancy Report was reviewed.

Bruce Hammond commended his staff for their excellent performance in transferring from a Macintosh environment to a PC environment. Additionally, the agency received a 99.83% compliance rate in our purchasing and vouchering systems due to the excellent performance of the Financial and Staff Services Departments.

A motion was made to approve adjustments to the FY 2004 Operating Budget as presented and discussed today by Commissioner Dyess and seconded by Commissioner Wood. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9 – Approval of the Strategic Plan for 2005 to 2009

Bruce Hammond submitted the Draft of the Strategic Plan for 2005 to 2009 for approval by the Commissioners.

The motion was made to approve the Strategic Plan for 2005 to 2009 as discussed today by Commissioner Edmiston and seconded by Commissioner Martinez. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Contracts, purchases, leases greater than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000 for the period of 2-1-04 through 4-30-04:

- Disposable coveralls – 115 Cases – Total Amount - \$7,135.75
- Service to provide John's certification training to veterinarians - \$9,000.
- Eltron printer and supplies for laminated Fowl Registration ID cards - \$9,648.70

Contracts, purchases, leases \$10,000 or greater for the period of 2-1-04 through 4-30-04

- Brucella abortus antibody test kits (PCFIA) - \$432,986.80
- CoRal Insecticide - \$140,000.00

A motion was made to approve the contracts and purchases requested for the period from February 1, 2004 through April 30, 2004 by Commissioner Dyess and seconded by Commissioner Edmiston. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 11 – Discussion and Approval of a Rule by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the Disposal of Animals.

Gene Snelson presented this item to the Commissioners.

A motion was made to approve the rule from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality identified as Section 330.4 (y) as presented today by Commissioner Wood and seconded by Commissioner Real. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12 – Recognition of Public Comment

Mike Qualls representing the United States Team Roping Championships provided testimony regarding the TB Program

Chris Copeland representing the Texas Veterinary Medical Association presented testimony regarding the rule by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the disposal of animal remains.

Item 13 – Set Date for the 352nd Meeting

The next Commission Meeting was set for August 3, 2004 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The HR Subcommittee will meet on August 3, 2004 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The Audit Subcommittee will meet on August 3, 2004 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Item 14 – The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.