

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 413th COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
July 26, 2022

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:30AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members

The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. Commissioners Osterkamp, Oates, and Evans were absent.

Item 3 – Approval of the minutes of the 412th Meeting

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 412th Commission meeting which was held on April 12, 2022.

The motion to approve the minutes of the 412th Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 4 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Waiver and Variance Requests

Dr. Schwartz presented the following:

- **AGENCY OPERATIONS & AFFAIRS**

- Agency budget is in favorable condition. Salary merits and one-time merits have been opened up for eligible employees, based on the first line supervisor's recommendation.
- Survey of Employee Engagement (SEE): (results reported at the April 12, 2022 commission meeting) Areas of strength identified were: *Supervision* (supervisors are fair, helpful, and critical to the flow of work); *Workplace* (work environment is satisfactory, safe, and adequate resources are available); *Workgroup* (their workgroup is effective, cohesive, and open to the opinions of all). *Agency management is following up on the areas of concern identified: Pay; Employee Development; and Internal Communication.*
- Rural Veterinary Incentive Program (RVIP): HB1259, passed during the 87th Legislative Session. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will administer the program in accordance with the rules adopted by the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program Committee. *The initial meeting was held on May 17, 2022. The RVIP Committee expressed interests in whether or not Senate Bill 8 funding could be utilized to incentivize current veterinary students to practice in qualified rural communities. Staff at the Higher Education Coordinating Board are researching this inquiry. TAHC staff will present findings at the next RVIP Committee Meeting.*
- Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP): TAHC continues to coordinate Texas' participation in this USDA NIFA funded program geared to encourage veterinarians to set up food and mixed animal practices in underserved areas. *Applications for the eight shortage areas in Texas were due April 15, 2022. We are currently awaiting word on any awards. The next round of shortage area nominations will begin this fall.*
- Export Facility Update – Materials were provided in the meeting materials.

- **DISEASE Information & Epidemiological Activities**

- Cattle Fever Ticks, Rio Bravo Buffer Zone *UPDATE: USDA APHIS is pursuing direct funding of pilot projects in Tamaulipas and Coahuila. Tamaulipas has signed the agreement to receive the initial one third of the funding for their projects. Signatures in Coahuila are held up by a contested election.*

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- Cattle Fever Ticks, Cameron County and Willacy County game fence: The TAHC obtained funding to construct a total of approximately 10 miles of game fencing in four key locations in these two counties to prevent movement and continued reintroduction of ticks by nilgai antelope and white-tailed deer. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed. *UPDATE: Due to a number of factors, the fencing effort is now focused in key locations in Cameron County. Bidding for the project closes today.*
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): TAHC has been closely monitoring HPAI outbreaks across the nation, and continues working with industry and USDA APHIS VS to better prepare for outbreaks. HPAI was confirmed in pheasants held on a hunting ranch in Erath County on April 2, 2022. *Update: All work with the affected premises has been completed, and surveillance of flocks in a 10K circle found no additional issues. Texas is again recognized as AI Free.*
- Bovine Trichomoniasis:
 - Trich Working Group met on May 24, 2022.
 - Proposed changes to Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, for consideration today:
 - Allow pooling of samples submitted in saline for PCR testing
 - Extend transit time limit for samples submitted in saline from 96 hours to 120 hours following collection
 - Testing conducted within seven days of purchase of untested bulls
 - Require testing of all bulls that are part of a herd one year after the hold order or quarantine is released
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):
 - Positive WTD Breeder Facilities: seven in 2021
 - Four have been depopulated
 - One breeder depopulated his breeder deer on his own in mid-April.
 - One signed a Genetic Herd Plan
 - One is in litigation
 - Trace Herds: 303 WTD facilities with connections to a positive facility
 - 221 facilities released after meeting requirements (164 Breeder & 57 Release sites/DMP)
 - 24 facilities are under a Herd Plan (2 Breeder & 22 Release Sites/DMP)
 - 50 facilities are pending a signed Herd Plan (4 Breeder & 46 Release Sites/DMP)
 - Eight out of State
 - USDA VS review of the Texas CWD HCP *UPDATE*
 - Adoption of proposed changes to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease, up for consideration today
 - TAHC staff have worked diligently to develop and obtain USDA approval of consistent procedures to address noncompliance with federal and state HCP requirements.
 - The TAHC CWD Field Manual has been updated, along with pertinent forms and agreements
 - TAHC personnel participated in HCP Training and Q&A sessions hosted by USDA
 - TAHC is working with TPWD to modify the TWIMS database to better support the HCP
 - HCP participants have been notified in writing of changes in requirements
 - Review of all enrolled herds has begun, and is to be completed in the next six months
- Bovine Tuberculosis

- Sherman County dairy, quarantined Feb. 2019: Removal test #9 in progress. Three different strains of *M. bovis* have been identified. Work continues with USDA, CDC, and DSH to test dairy employees. Herd plan focuses on highest risk group of cows.
 - Randall County dairy herd with operations in NM also, hold order Mar, 2022: Will be placed under quarantine and a herd plan developed following confirmation of TB in NM units.
 - Dairy herd with facilities in Harley, Moore, and Castro Counties, hold order Oct. 2021: Slaughter trace back. Extensive testing done. Hold order released this month.
 - Sutton County beef herd, quarantined Oct. 2020: Testing completed and quarantine released this month. Work continues on trace out cattle.
- Report of all Program Diseases – included in meeting materials
- **NATIONAL UPDATE**
 - USDA's policy on discontinuation of metal tags and requirement for RFIDs made in 2019 was withdrawn. A new proposal was published in the federal register. The public comment period closed October 5, 2020. Based on comments and other considerations, USDA announced it will go through the full rulemaking process. *UPDATE: USDA is expecting publication of a proposal for comment by fall 2022.*
 - Federal TB rules: *The state/federal TB rule working group developed recommended changes to the CFR and submitted them to USDA in July 2021. USDA is just now taking them back up for consideration. No estimate on publication date for public comment.*
- **WAIVERS and VARIANCES (Action Item)**

There were 8 waivers requested and 4 waivers were approved.

 - Trichomoniasis – **Denied** – shipping issue caused samples for an official test to arrive outside of permitted window for testing. Testing was for change of ownership.
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 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – shipping issue caused samples for an official test to arrive outside of permitted window for testing. Testing was for herd management and not change of ownership.
 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – Incorrect testing materials were used to collect samples. Laboratory stated that the media inside the materials was the same as approved materials. Testing was for herd management and not change of ownership, and owner was aware that it would not be an official test.
 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – allowed movement of trich positive bulls for research purposes. Project will be terminal, bulls will move under permit, and will be isolated from females.
 - Trichomoniasis – **Approved** – allowed entry of a bull without negative trich test. Bull was moving to veterinary clinic for surgery, and was returned to premise of origin after the procedure.
 - Trichomoniasis – **Denied** – owner requested waiver of Trich test entry requirement due to moving bulls to Texas for a bull sale.
 - Equine Infectious Anemia – **Denied** – requested waiver of EIA entry requirements to test Zebra upon arrival to Texas. Location at which the animals would be held in Texas for testing had constraints precluding quarantine at that location as well as a high risk of co-mingling with other equines.

The motion to approve the waiver requests was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

Item 5 – Consideration and Possible Action on Temporary Waiver of the Requirement to Test Specific Equine for Piroplasmiasis

Dr. Schwartz presented the following:

Background: Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) was diagnosed on a large ranch in south Texas in 2009. Testing requirements were put in place in Texas and a number of other states to address the disease risk, including one requiring equine entering a racetrack facility to have a negative test for *Theileria equi*, the most common causative agent of EP. In 2015 TAHC was approached by a group of Horsemen requesting that a negative EP test not be required on Thoroughbreds (TB). While TBs are just as susceptible as other breeds, their argument was that there is a higher standard of care for TBs as compared to Quarter Horses, and TBs are far less likely to acquire EP through iatrogenic means (contaminated needles and IV sets used by some trainers, for example). This seems to have been borne out in the testing statistics, and the executive director at the time, held the requirement for TBs in abeyance. The intent was to request that commissioners propose changing the rule at an upcoming meeting. That didn't get done and the abeyance has long since expired. However, the requirement for a negative test has not been enforced since then.

The motion to approve the request for a temporary waiver of the requirements to test thoroughbred equine for piroplasmiasis prior to entering a horse racetrack facility licensed by the Texas Racing Commission was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried.

Item 6 - Presentation of Field Animal Health Programs and Disease Traceability

Dr. Angela Lackie presented the following update:

- Staffing - field positions are now being filled as quickly as possible to ensure quality of agency work
 - Of 142 total positions, 114.5 are filled, ten are posted, and 27 are vacant
- 2022 Training Schedule
 - Field inspectors training was completed in February 2022
 - Region Management was completed in July of 2022
 - There is a new training position posted to address the needs for Administrative Assistants
- Inspections in the second quarter of 2022
 - 26 event inspections
 - 564 feed yard and 91 calf ranch inspections
 - 330 feral swine inspections
 - 925 fowl inspections
 - 1504 livestock market inspections
 - 1192 livestock shipment inspections
 - 121 swine surveys
 - 407 head tested out of 464 swine for first point testing
 - 272 slaughter plant inspections
 - 230 trichomoniasis inspections
 - 114 waste feeder inspections

- Emergency Management Activities:
 - Monitoring wildfires and staying connected with counties affected.
 - Continuing engagement in TDEM EM Council Drought Condition calls
 - Responded to wildfires: conducted animal assessments, assisted in feeding and watering operations, animal shelter set up at county Expo Center
 - Expanded Disease Response Planning/Training Workshop to increase agency capacity and knowledge during a disease response
 - Planning for field response training in September to increase the number of trained field responders
 - Secure Food Supply Program Updates: 34 SBS plans completed, Texas Specific Documents complete, SFS education binder complete, SFS planning trip scheduled
 - Twelve TAHC staff attended the Texas Emergency Management Conference in June
 - Hosted regional county livestock deputy meeting to continue to grow response capabilities in law enforcement partners
 - Hosted the Hurricane Huddle that included all ESF-11 response and industry partners
 - Attended the Beef Packer meeting in Kansas City to discuss permitting and movement with five neighboring states.
 - Participated in Border States Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Exercise with three other states, emphasis was on cybersecurity and communication
 - Internal meeting with the new USDA ESF-11 liaison
- Authorized Personnel: 2431 Accredited Authorized Vets in Texas
 - 224 CWD Antemortem Certified
 - 857 CWD Postmortem Certified
 - 849 Trich Certified
- ADT updates for the first quarter of 2022
 - 43,226 active premise identification numbers
 - 75,531 location identification numbers
 - 250 scrapie flock identification numbers
 - Distributed 657,290 total no-cost RFID tags to producers and veterinarians

Item 7 - Presentation of USDA Veterinary Services Program Update

Dr. Megan Schmid, Area Veterinarian in Charge, presented:

Dr. Richard Mouser has been named the Assistant Area Veterinarian in Charge (Assistant AVIC). Additionally, two new veterinarians have been hired to work in the Beeville and Stephenville regions, beginning in August. USDA's response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is still taking a large number of resources. There have been new HPAI detections in Florida and Utah, and those diagnoses and responses may take staff from Texas programs. Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) classes have resumed in a hybrid format of one week of virtual classes and one week in person at Plum Island. More funding has become available for Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) activities, and Texas was approved for more funds. Staff are still rotating through port work, and work is being done to encourage veterinary students to apply for positions in the ports. Veterinary Services staff are now back in the office regularly. Recently, the

Veterinary Services Chief Veterinary Medical Officer was able to assist in a TB test in the panhandle to help understand the scale of the work and unique challenges of the facilities there.

Item 8 – Budget Status Report

Ms. Coretta Briscoe presented the following:

- FY 2022 Budgeted Revenue
 - \$13,972,311 from General Revenue
 - \$2,555,272 from Federal Funds
 - \$585,102 from Fee Revenue
 - \$150,000 from Capital Vehicles
 - \$200,000 from Capital Equipment
 - \$1,687,509 from HB 2
- FY 2022 Budgeted Expenditures total \$18,902,808
 - \$12,663,743 expended year to date
 - \$1,139,480 encumbered
 - \$5,179,585 available
- FY 2022 Expenditures (Strategy Level) (Budget / YTD Expense / Available)
 - Field Operations: \$10,644,118 / 6,914,816 / 3,729,302
 - Diagnostics/Epi Support: \$576,128 / \$224,049 / \$352,079
 - Promote Compliance: \$1,054,729 / \$597,250 / \$457,479
 - Animal Emergency Management: \$242,177 / \$178,525 / \$63,652
 - Central Administration: \$1,867,973 / \$1,202,072 / \$665,901
 - Information Resources: \$1,083,290 / \$960,771 / \$122,519
 - Other Support Services: \$298,058 / \$192,370 / \$105,688
 - Capital – Fleet Acquisition: \$271,524 / \$0 / \$271,524
 - Capital – CFT Equipment: \$200,00 / \$23,165 / \$176,835
- Federal Cooperative Fund Summary:

Cooperative Award	Award End	Budget	Rcd \$\$	Spent	Encumbered	Need to Spend
19 RFID Project	9/14/2021	\$472,016	\$472,016	\$472,016	\$0	\$0
20 CFTEP 2 Project	9/17/2021	\$47,696	\$47,696	\$47,696	\$0	\$0
20 NADRP FAD SAFE	2/24/2022	\$97,356	\$97,356	\$97,356	\$0	\$0
21 CFT Fence Project	9/30/2022	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$0
21 ADT	3/31/2022	\$516,468	\$516,468	\$516,468	\$0	\$0
21 UMB	3/31/2022	\$1,939,830	\$1,939,830	\$1,939,830	\$0	\$0
21 CFT Dipping Vats	3/31/2022	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$0
21 CWD D4 TX (Depop/Genome Study)	9/14/2022	\$429,598	\$375,032	\$375,032	\$0	\$56,566
21 CWD D4 TX (Depop)	9/14/2022	\$274,968	\$274,968	\$274,968	\$0	\$0
21 FEMA Hurricane Laura	8/30/2020	\$16,387	\$16,387	\$0	\$16,387	\$0
22 D4 TX UMB	3/31/2023	\$1,939,830	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,939,830
22 D4 TX ADT	3/31/2023	\$516,467	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$516,467
22 D4 TX CFT	3/31/2023	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000

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22 VS NADRP Program	12/15/2023	\$99,501	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$99,501
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- FY 2022 Collected Fee Revenue:
 - \$520,352 from Health Certificates was projected, \$558,855 has been received year to date
 - \$55,250 from Fowl Registration was projected, \$5,800 has been received year to date
 - \$9,500 from CWD Inspection was projected, \$13,500 was received year to date
 - \$9,700 from Administrative Penalty has been received year to date
 - \$585,102 was projected, and \$587,935 has been received year to date
- FY 2023 Projected Revenue
 - General Revenue - \$12,507,782
 - HB 2 - \$306,128
 - Federal Funds - \$2,759,349
 - Appropriated Receipts - \$585,102
 - Capital Budget - \$420,451
 - Total Budgeted Revenues: \$16,578,812, and does not include UB Federal Funds from FY 2022 to FY 2022
- FY 2023 Budgeted Expenditures (by category)
 - Professional Services - \$108,013
 - Travel Costs - \$470,000
 - Consumables - \$250,000
 - Other Operating Costs - \$1,424,618
 - Employee Medical Costs - \$68,000
 - Fuel Costs - \$575,000
 - Truck and Passenger Vehicle Costs - \$726,579
 - Information Technology Costs - \$565,112
 - Equipment Costs - \$2,000
 - Training - \$8,000
 - Rentals of Space/Equipment - \$874,701
 - Utilities - \$308,463
 - Lump Sum Payouts - \$200,000
 - Agency Salaries - 11,285,835
 - Total Budgeted Expenditures: \$16,866,321
- FY 2023 Total Revenues includes the following Exceptional Item funds:
 - \$593,637 in remaining General Revenue from HB 2 funds from FY22 to FY23
 - \$306,128 for the purchase of Motor Vehicles
 - \$287, 509 for the legacy system modernization

The motion to approve the budget status report was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 9 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Legislative Appropriation Request

Ms. Myra Sines presented the Agency Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR).

The motion to approve the Agency FY 2024-2025 LAR was made by Commissioner Vermedahl and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

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

Ms. Myra Sines presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the Commissioners, which included contracts, purchases, and leases.

The motion to approve the contracts, purchases, and leases was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

Item 11 – Compliance Report

Mr. Bob Young presented the following:

- The Region Compliance Summary provided summarizes alleged regulatory violations received by the Legal & Compliance Department between September 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (FY 2022).
- This report continues to evolve as additional information is documented and trend analysis is conducted.
- Through trend analysis, the agency has been able to identify areas with higher non-compliance and are now able to focus efforts where needed to educate producers about the laws and rules, and also enforce those laws and rules when applicable.
- FY2022 Total Compliance Cases Received:
 - 320 Compliance Action Requests
 - 770 Non-compliant Livestock Shipment Inspections
 - Five Texas Authorized Personnel Referrals
 - Zero Complaints
- Disposition of Cases Closed in FY2022
 - 47 Notices of Violation
 - 607 Warning Letters
 - 18 Referrals for Criminal Prosecution

Item 12 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented orders related to Commission rule violations for the consideration of the commission.

The motion to adopt the orders was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion to adopt the orders carried.

Item 13 – Consideration and Possible Action on Agency Administrative Penalty and Sanction Policy

Mrs. Mary Luedeker presented the following:

According to Texas Agriculture Code Sec. 161.148, the commission may impose an administrative penalty against a person who violates a rule or order adopted under this subtitle. The penalty for a violation may be

in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Each day a violation continues or occurs is a separate violation for purposes of imposing a penalty. The amount of the penalty shall not be based on a per head basis. (H.B. 3856 increased maximum penalty amount from \$1,000 to \$5,000). In determining the amount of a proposed administrative penalty or the degree of a proposed sanction to be assessed within the administrative penalty levels and ranges presented, the Commission will consider the following factors: the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of prohibited acts and the hazard or potential hazard created to the health, safety, or economic welfare of the public; whether the violation was willful or intentional, the economic harm to property or the environments caused by the violation, the history of previous violations, the amount necessary to deter future violations, efforts to correct the violation, and any other matter that justice may require.

The motion to approve the amendments and additions to the Agency Administrative Penalty and Sanction Policy was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried.

Item 14 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Adoption of Proposed Rules

Ms. Mary Luedeker discussed the following Regulation Proposals:

Each Regulation Proposal was reviewed and voted on individually.

- a) Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease
- b) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

- a) The Texas Animal Health Commission proposes ADOPTION of amendments Title 4, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 40 titled “Chronic Wasting Disease”. Specifically, proposed changes clarify, correct, and update information regarding CWD Herd Certification Program and disease management as well as aligning with revised USDA CWD Program Standards and applicable federal regulations. Changes to portions of §40.1 proposal define CWD-Exposed Herd and CWD-Positive Animals. §40.3 proposals include requiring immediate reporting upon discovery all farmed or captive cervids that escape or disappear and all free-ranging cervids that enter the facility and removes exception for lowering a herd status to First Year for herds that acquire animals from nonparticipating herds and that animal is “not detected” postmortem within the first year after entry into the herd. Finally, it requires all identification to be visually verified on 100% of the animals during a physical herd inspection.

The motion ADOPT amendments to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease, was made by Commissioner Vermedahl, and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

- b) The Texas Animal Health Commission proposes ADOPTION of the amendments to Title 4, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 51 titled “Entry Requirements”. Specifically, proposed changes improve efficiency, traceability and cost savings for dairy calves moved into Texas. §51.8(b)(3) proposal provides a certificate of veterinary inspection exception for dairy calves 10 days of age or less when the premises enter into a Modified Movement Agreement approved by the shipping animal health official and the TAHC Executive Director. The cattle must be shipped directly from the premises of origin to the Texas premises of destination in compliance with the agreement. The agreement includes identification, recordkeeping, reporting, inspection, testing and other

requirements as epidemiologically determined by the Executive Director. The exception aligns with 9 CFR Part 86 when agreed upon by the animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

Item 15 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Proposed Rules

Ms. Mary Luedeker discussed the following Regulation Proposals:

- a) Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis

- a) The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to Title 4, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 38, §§38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4, 38.6 and 38.8, concerning “Trichomoniasis”. The commission proposes amendments to Chapter 38 to clarify, correct and update information and procedures regarding the Trichomoniasis program and testing requirements. The Bovine Trichomoniasis Working Group (TWG) had an annual review on May 24, 2022, to evaluate the effectiveness of the current program. The TWG discussed the program overview to date, the management of infected herds, and the need for possible revisions to the program. The TWG recommends that five changes be made in the Trichomoniasis control program. The first is to require all bulls that are part of a herd one year after the date the hold order or quarantine on the herd was released shall be officially tested for Trichomoniasis. This recommendation addresses the issue of repeat Trichomoniasis positive herds. The second recommendation is to increase the transit timeframe for certified veterinarians to submit the Trichomoniasis sample submitted in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) from 96 hours to 120 hours after collection. Research has shown that the extended travel time for samples submitted in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) did not affect the sample. TAHC staff also recommend that sterile saline be added as a medium that can be used for submitting Trichomoniasis samples and recommends transit times match those of phosphate buffered saline. The third recommendation was to approve pooled samples for smegma submitted in phosphate buffered saline. The fourth recommendation would clarify the current rule and set a definitive timeframe for untested bull that are purchased to change status from a cull/slaughter bull to a breeding bull. The fifth recommendation was to change terminology from “Trichomoniasis approved feed yard” to “Trichomoniasis certified facility.”

The motion to propose amendments to Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried. The notice of this proposed amendment is to be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period.

The notice of the proposed amendment will be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period. Comments regarding the proposed amendment may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

Item 16 – Presentation of Request for Rule Change Related to Categorizing Ovine Herpes Virus 2 (OvHV-2) as a Reportable Disease

Ms. Mary Luedeker discussed the following:

The Texas Bison Association requested that the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) amend Chapter 45 of commission rules to add Ovine Herpes Virus 2 (OHV-2) to the list of reportable and actionable diseases.

The need for this request was detailed by explaining that Bison are extremely susceptible to Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) triggered by OHV-2. The virus infects sheep, which show no ill effects but then spread the virus easily to other grazing species. Members of the Texas Bison Association spoke in support of the proposed rule change.

A motion requiring staff to study the issue and bring a recommendation to the next regularly scheduled commission meeting was made by Commissioner Klein and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed.

Item 17 – Awards and Recognition

Marlene Pack was recognized for 40 years of service to the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Item 18 - Closed Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice, Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation, and Settlement Offers as Permitted by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

Item 19 – Closed Executive Session to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Commission Employees as Permitted by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code

Item 20 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session

No action was necessary after the closed sessions.

Item 21 – Public Comment

Public comment was provided at the time each item was presented as necessary.

Item 22 – Set Date for 414th Commission Meeting

The date for the 414th Commission Meeting was not set at the time of the meeting. Notice will be posted on the agency's website when the next Commission meeting date has been set.

Item 23 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:49PM.