

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 404th COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
August 13, 2019

The TAHC Commissioners met in the agency's headquarters, in Austin on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:39AM.

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

Commissioners Michael Vickers, Eric White, Coleman Locke, Joe Leathers, Ken Jordan, Leo Vermedahl, Barret Klein, Keith Staggs, Wendee Langdon, and Jim Eggleston were present.

Item 2 – Approval of the minutes of the 403rd Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the 403rd Commission meeting held on May 21, 2019, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 3 – Report of the Executive Director, Field Animal Health Program Activities and Approval of Waiver Requests for the Period 5/21/2019 to 8/13/2019

Dr. Schwartz presented the following:

- **Opening remarks**
- **Agency Business**
 - 86th Legislative Session, January-May, 2019
 - Budget consistent with 2018-2019 levels
 - **Exceptional Items**
 - Agency Modernization – IT Business Initiative: Database not funded, but sufficient funds in current budget to move forward. Request made to LBB to exceed capital budget authority for this item.
 - Additional general revenue funding in the amount of \$748,000 to be used to increase the salaries of Livestock Inspectors by \$3600 annually. Sufficient funds to move ahead now.
 - Sunset review – agency self-evaluation underway. Seeking stakeholder input.
 - **Disease considerations**
 - Cattle Fever Ticks
 - Voluntary Cattle Dipping Incentive initiated at markets in June 2019. Voluntary inspection has led to the discovery of ticks on four separate occasions. Webb county CPQA and the recent northern Jim Wells county CPQA included.
 - Willamar Vat and field office project is progressing
 - Experimental cattle grazing on portions of USFWS Laguna Atascosa began in June 2019. Fencing was to be constructed on Boswell/Jenkins tract in June 2019. Delayed until later this month.

- Omnibus funding for applied research renewed for second year – novel and second-year projects have been selected for funding
- Efforts to address cattle fever tick incursions from Mexico: Establish a buffer zone in Mexico mirroring the one in Texas – recommended in the US/Mexico Joint Strategic Plan for Eradication of Invasive Cattle Fever Ticks, 2017-2021. The Bi-National Committee proposed an action plan to USDA and SENASICA at a meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico in May 2019. Meeting set in Laredo for September 5, 2019.
- Additional ventilation has been installed in agency spray-dip machines
- Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)
 - Comments on the rules proposed at May 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed and will be discussed under agenda item #12.
- Bovine Trichomoniasis
 - Comments on rules proposed at May 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed and will be discussed under agenda item #12.
- Chronic Wasting Disease
 - Epidemiology staff reviewed USDA CWD Program Standards. Changes to TAHC Herd Certification Program rules may be needed.
- Anthrax outbreak
- Vesicular stomatitis outbreak

- **National Issues**

- Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)
 - USDA’s policy on metal tags, RFIDs
 - UHF Back Tag Project proposal approved!
- African Swine Fever (ASF)

Functional exercise planned September 23-26, 2019

- **Waiver Report - May 22, 2019 to August 13, 2019**

- 2 waivers requested and 2 approved:
 - Brucellosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of female Springbok on delayed Brucellosis test. Animal was raised in a zoo environment and posed very low risk to Texas livestock.
 - Pullorum Typhoid – **Approved** – allowed entry of one emu without a PT test to a rescue facility. Required the bird to be tested within 14 days of arrival.

A motion to APPROVE the actions of the Executive Director for the period from May 21, 2019 through August 13, 2019 was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

Item 4 - Presentation of Epidemiology, and Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Activities

Dr. Susan Rollo, State Epidemiologist, presented the following report:

I. Cattle

A. Tuberculosis (TB):

1. Status of the infected Herds in Parmer and Lamb Counties: Two organic dairies and a feed yard (~11,000 head) completed an assessment test in April 2015 then 14 removal tests. One positive cow was disclosed in April 2018 and one positive cow was disclosed in April 2019. To date, a total of 68 confirmed MB compatible animals from this complex has been disclosed including the original 6 steers that traced to this herd. The dairy continues to pursue the “test out” option.

2. Status of new TB confirmed animal originating on a dairy in Bailey County (feed yard and associated dairy in Parmer/Bailey): A 4 year old cow was confirmed with TB when the dairy underwent area testing. The new dairy began operations in the spring of 2016 under the same ownership as the complex listed in #1. The cow did not have a history of a previous TB test, yet the whole genome sequencing of the TB strain indicates an association with the strain in the complex #1. Two whole herd tests did not disclose any additional positive cows and the herd complex is scheduled for a 6 month verification test this month.

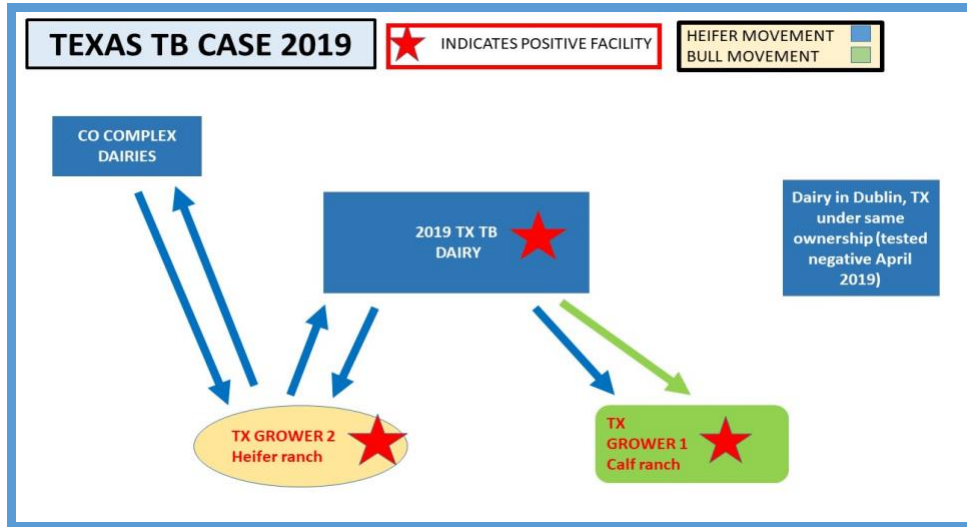
3. TB confirmed animals originated from an organic dairy in Sherman County. Two associated grower operations that are epidemiologically linked to the positive dairy are also confirmed TB positive in Dallam County (Figure 1).

The ~8,700 head dairy was previously tested annually 2015- 2017 with negative test results since the complex received some trace heifers from complex #1. During the annual December 2018 test, a high rate of responders were disclosed. After the federal shut-down ended, further testing disclosed a high percentage of grossly lesioned cattle on necropsy. To date, 63 cows are confirmed since the first diagnosis in February 11, 2019.

One grower facility is a ~70,000 head calf ranch. To date, one positive heifer was disclosed on 3/1/2019 when all trace cattle from the dairy were tested. An assessment test of any associated heifers with the positive or other heifers originating from the index is ongoing with ~12,000 head tested so far. All index origin heifers have been removed and tested with only the 1 positive. In addition to testing at the premises, epidemiologically linked dairies in Oklahoma and 2 in Kansas, and 1 in Texas also have required whole herd testing that is ongoing. This calf ranch receives heifer and bull calves from 46 sources and they supply heifers to 42 locations including in TX, CO, KS, OK, MO, and NM. To date, no other positives cattle have been disclosed.

A second heifer raiser premises that manages heifers for this dairy and another dairy under the same ownership in Colorado had one positive heifer disclosed on April 8, 2019 on the first whole herd test of ~4500 head. No positives were disclosed on the second test in June.

Figure 1. New Texas TB Case and associated premises



Although cultures are ongoing, two unique genetic strains have been disclosed in the dairy. Of 47 total cultured to date, 46 cultures disclosed a strain with last known linkage with cattle in central Mexico. One cow had a lesion that cultured a genetically unique strain to the US and not similar to previous strains introduced into the US from Mexico. The lineage of the unique strain was closest to a strain from the Iberian Peninsula that was shared with NVSL previously. This indicates a second introduction into the herd. On a public health note, the dairy is working with the DSHS TB group to get employees tested.

Traces are ongoing including trace outs to local markets, bull calves, and heifer calves from the dairy and calf ranch. In addition, other epidemiologically linked dairies under the same ownership are being tested including one in Dublin and several in Colorado. The Dublin associated dairy tested negative on the initial assessment test. Some index origin heifers sold through the grower facility to a market resulted in additional dairies in other states including CA, ID, AZ, and ND (to date) considered as exposed thus resulting in additional tests.

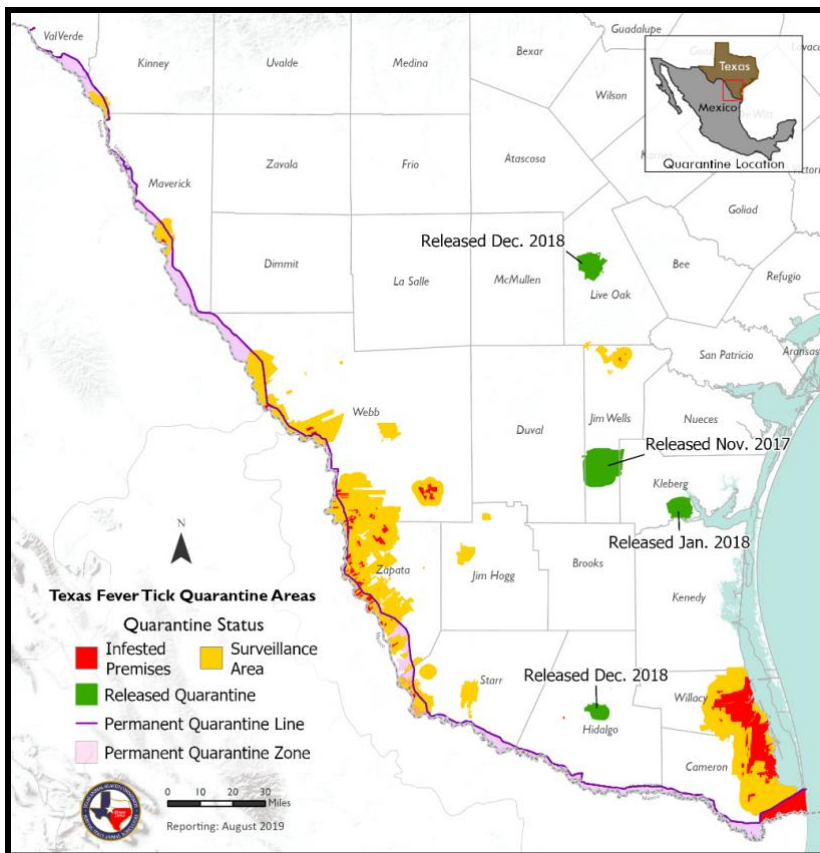
Due to the number of states involved in this investigation, a national situation report has been managed by USDA cattle health personnel.

4. **Rockdale Region Beef Herd:** In June 2019, TAHC was notified of a slaughter trace back cull cow to a herd in Austin County. A complete herd test was conducted and an additional positive result on a 4 year old cow was disclosed. The index cow was a 2015 purchased addition from a sale in Zavala County. The genetic analysis of the index is primarily composed of isolates of Mexican origin and is a new strain to the United States. A herd plan and future testing scheme is under development. In addition, personell is collecting trace data from markets or other private treaty sales.
5. **TB slaughter trace cases in the FY2019:** To date, there has been three slaughter trace investigations in 2019. The first one was initiated and work completed in October. The second one traced to the Region Rockdale Beef Herd. The third one was disclosed in a slaughter plant in the Panhandle on 8/6/2019 and data collection is under way.

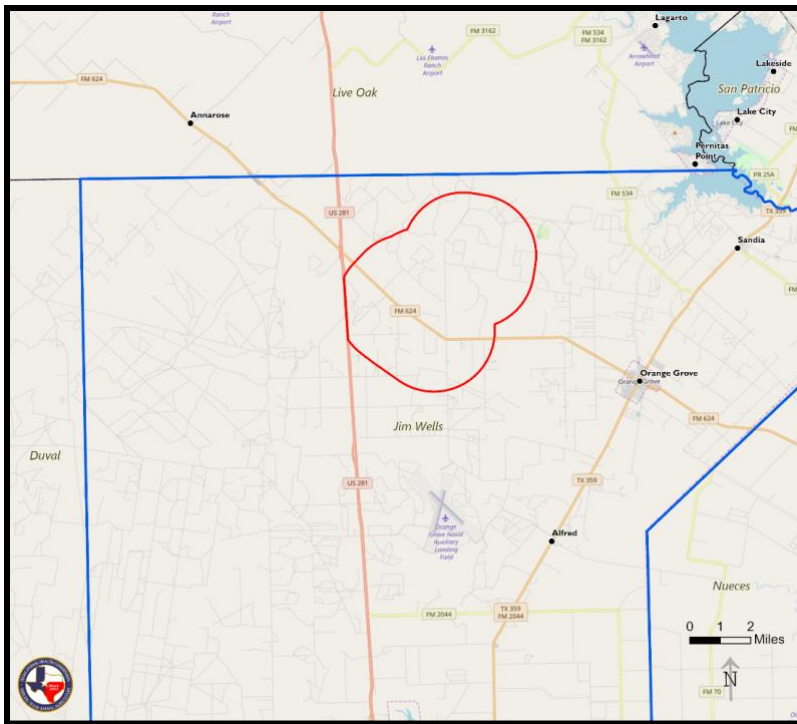
B. Trichomoniasis: From January to July 2019, there were 294 positive bulls disclosed in 19,656 bulls tested (1.5% test positive).

Year	TVMDL Grand Total		Total Test Prevalence
	Total Bulls	Total Positive Bulls	
2013	5,272	122	2.3%
2014	31,613	777	2.5%
2015	41,162	592	1.4%
2016	48,420	493	1.0%
2017	48,126	443	0.9%
2018	33,332	473	1.4%
2019	19,656	294	1.5%

C. Cattle Fever Tick: The Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program is a cooperative activity between TAHC and USDA-VS. The number of newly discovered infested premises in South Texas (in Permanent and Temporary Preventive Quarantine Areas) is 171 total infestations disclosed.



Besides the new CPQA in Webb County, a second new CPQA was been created and is under investigation in Jim Wells County due to the identification of ticks at the Live Oak vat that traced back to a Jim Wells County producer. Note, this is the fourth time this year that fever ticks have been identified through surveillance at the vat and the later two times, these identifications have led to new CPQAs.



To date, Region Beeville has placed ~170 quarantines, and ticks have been confirmed on two premises under the same ownership. Work continues on issuing quarantines, mapping, and initial scratches, and staying current on systematic treatment. Traces from the first premises have been distributed to staff for investigation. A total of 51 trace out cattle were identified but 20 of those were mitigated by voluntary dipping which alleviates the need for trace work on the receiving premises. In addition, one trace-in herd was identified.

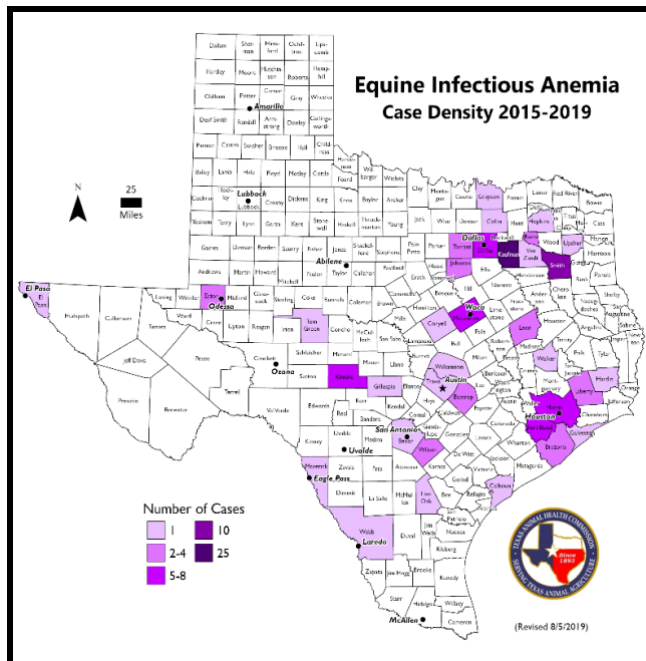
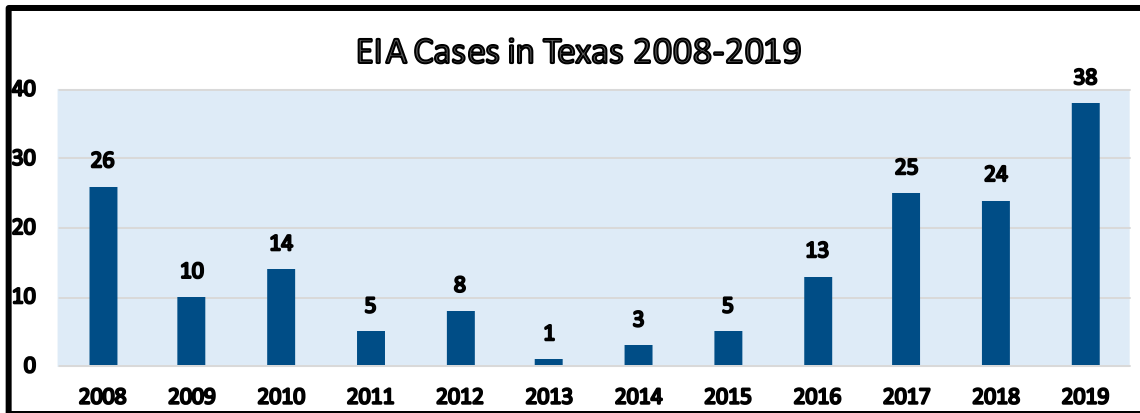
II. Swine

- A. **Swine Brucellosis (SB):** One infected herd was quarantined in Cass County on 12/7/2018 was released from quarantine in June.
- B. **Pseudorabies (PRV):** One herd in Live Oak County was quarantined on 2/6/2019. Test and removal was completed and the quarantine was released in July.

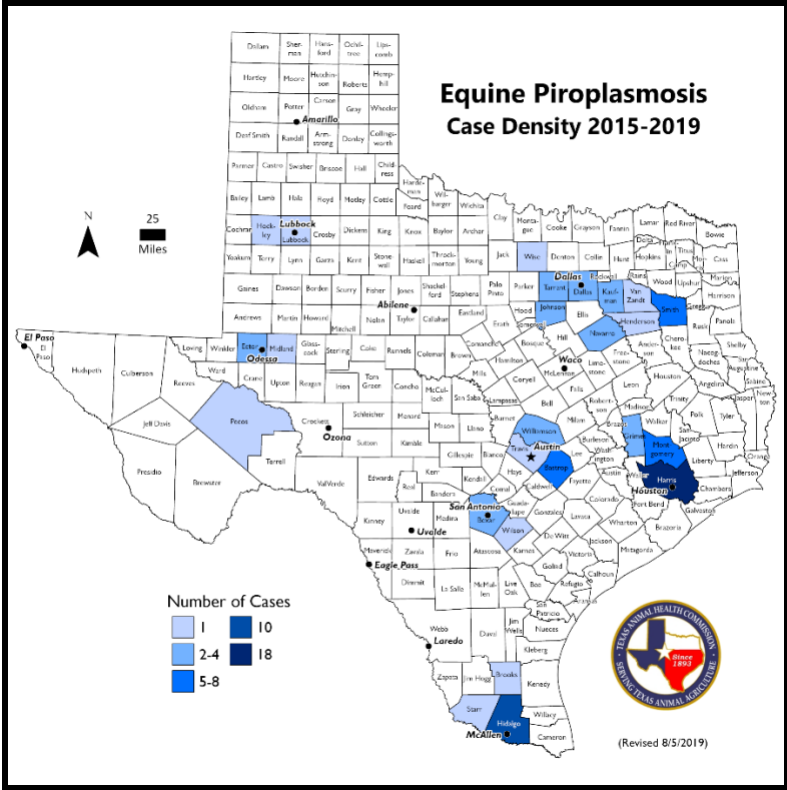
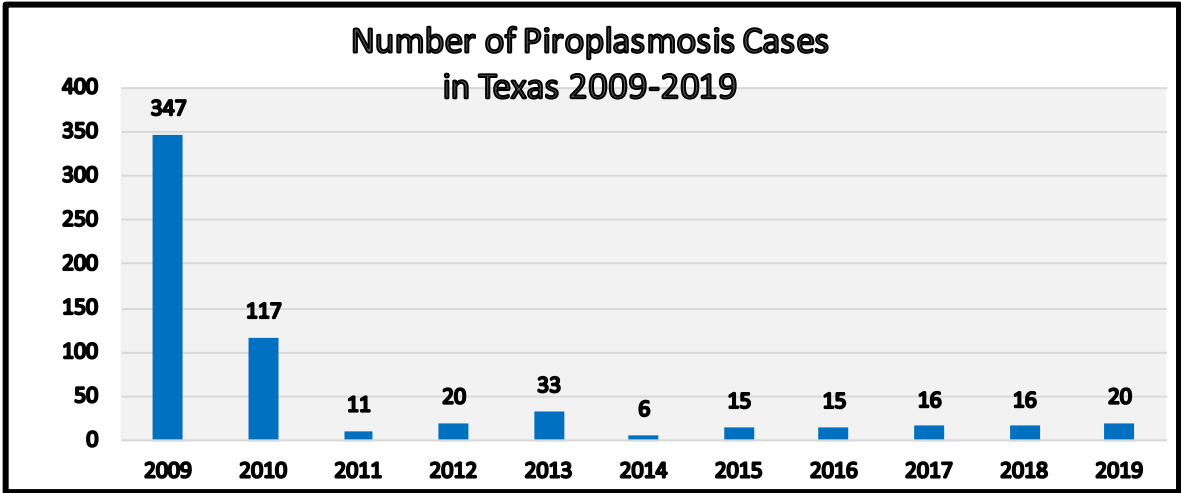
III. Equine

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA): Through June, 58,575 equine tested since January. To date, 39 positives have been disclosed. Dr. Rollo is collaborating with the Texas Racing Commission, TVMDL, and Agri-life on ways to educate the demographic groups that are associated with risky practices that lead to the spread of infectious diseases in horses.

Education materials are under development in the Communications Department and outreach is ongoing to the racing community as well as equine veterinarians across the state at the Texas Equine Veterinarian Association.



A. **Equine Piroplasmosis (EP):** To date, there have been 20 EP cases disclosed in racing quarter horses including the horses mentioned above that were dually infected.



IV. Poultry

A. Avian Influenza: No positive avian influenza cases have been disclosed in 2019. TAHC is working with Mr. Essler on updating the Texas Response and Containment Plan for Low Path H5/H7 Avian Influenza.

V. Sheep and Goats

A. **Scrapie:** The first positive scrapie case in Texas since 2008 was identified in the Panhandle in April 2016 and the flock and premises remains under quarantine.

VI. Cervids

A. **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** Five positive captive breeder herds have been disclosed since July 2015. Three herds are depopulated and two larger herds are managed under a herd plan.

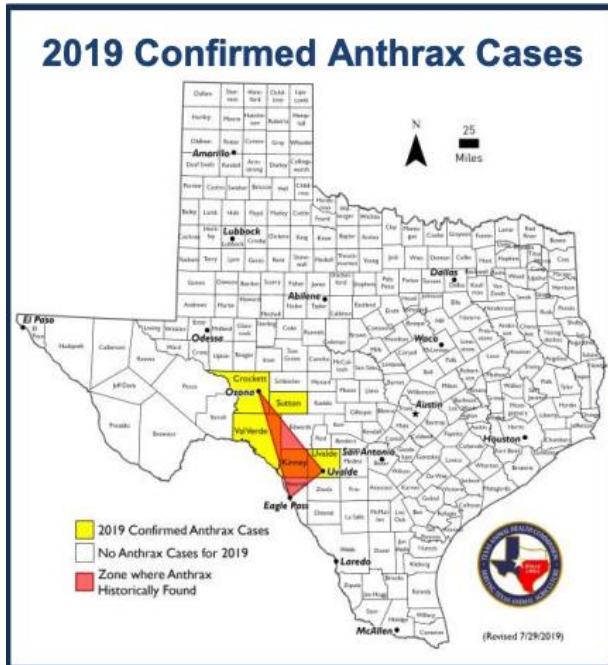
The summary of CWD in Texas by species is provided in Table 3.

Table 3. CWD in Texas by Species and State Fiscal Year (Dec 3, 2018)

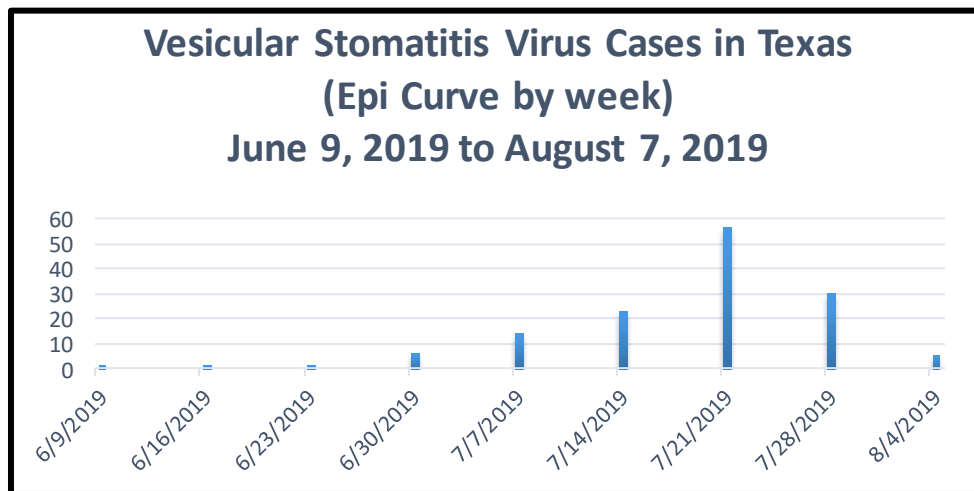
Fiscal Year	Free-ranging Mule Deer	Captive WTD	Free-ranging WTD	Captive Exotic CWD Susceptible Species	Free-ranging Elk	Total by year
2012	2	0	0	0	0	2
2013	4	0	0	0	0	4
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	1	4	0	0	0	5
2016	2	21	0	0	0	23
2017	10	8	2	0	1	21
2018	5	69	4	2	0	80
2019	2	6	1	0	0	9
Total	26	108	7	2	1	144

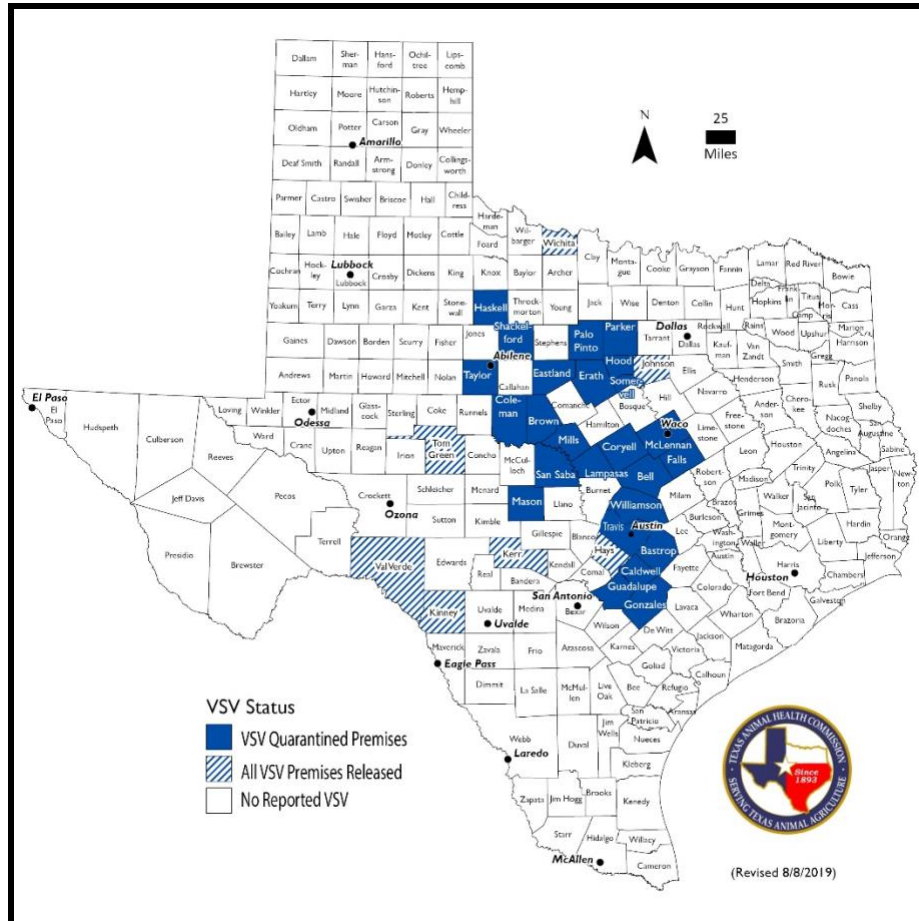
VII. Multiple Species Diseases:

A. **Anthrax:** The first anthrax case of the year was June 19, 2019. Since then, a total of 18 cases of confirmed anthrax in five counties including Crockett, Kinney, Sutton, Uvalde, and Val Verde. Animals include the following species: antelope, goat, horses, deer, and cattle. In some cases, the quarantine is lifted and reinstated when additional confirmations are reported. Dr. Bohl has provided outreach by participating in a Agri-life webinar in Val Verde then community meetings in Sutton and Crockett Counties.



B. Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV): Since June 19, 2019, Texas has conducted 162 investigations of VSV in Texas. Of the 162 investigations, 138 have been quarantined as confirmed or suspect cases. There has been 30 counties in Texas that have confirmed VSV in horses and 1 county with confirmed VSV in bovine.





VIII. FAD

- A. Longhorn Tick:** On June 21, 2019, Dr. Schwartz was notified that Mexico stopped exports from the US to Mexico due to the discovery of the longhorn tick on a horse from Texas. After further information gathering, the USDA revealed that the horse actually originated in a state in the Northeast where the longhorn tick is known to exist and was destined to slaughter in Mexico. Since the horse did reside for a few days at a premises in the Rockdale Region, all livestock were scratched inspected and the premises was treated for ticks.
- B. Foreign Animal Disease Investigations:** Since January 1, there has been 21 FAD investigations in Texas. One interesting investigation and incident involved Infectious Hypodermal and Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV) in shrimp.

Item 5 – Presentation of Animal Health Program Activities

Dr. Angela Daniels, Assistant Executive Director of Animal Health Programs, provided the following report:

- **Report Items**
 - **Field Staffing**

- Numbers of FTEs filled vs Vacancies (131 filled, 9 pending)
- AM Region Positions: new regional director in place, two field vets to start in near future, contract vet in place, 4 TB inspectors in place
- LR Region Positions: new regional director in place, 2 new field vets in place, 8 temporary positions converted to permanent
- Workshops
 - Starting 2019 workshops with RD/SI July 23-24; focused on EIA and Trich
 - Inspector workshops August 13-14 and 20-21
 - Administration Workshop August 27-28
- Inspections
 - Feral swine inspections: 2 regions at 100%, 1 at 95%, 1 at 76% and 2 regions below 60%
 - Swine surveys - first quarter: 216 total surveys, 2nd quarter: 262
 - Swine first point testing – 2nd quarter: 4153 swine sold, 213 sows/boars, 157 tested or 74%
- Authorized Personnel: 2139 Accredited Authorized Vets in Texas
 - 770 Trich Certified
 - 181 CWD Antemortem Certified
 - 1257 CWD Postmortem Certified
 - 75 Accredited but not Authorized
- Emergency Management: USDA Screwworm Exercise completed June 18, High Plains ASF Tabletop completed July 17 and 18, Animal Emergency Summit completed July 30, SFS plans with TAMU vet students all summer, USDA ASF Exercise Sept 23-26; four days, 14 states participating, focused on diagnostics, movement standstill, depop and disposal, permits and movement
- Field Manuals: CWD, EIA, AI, ILT, Brucellosis, and Piro are completed. Inspection Manuals: Livestock shipment, Feedyard, and Slaughter plant are completed
- Upcoming: Internal review for Sunset Review, review of calf ranch permit process, finish ASF activities, continue SFS activities, finish field and inspection manuals

Item 6 – Presentation of Legislative Updates

Mrs. Carolyn Beck presented a report on Sunset Review Process:

Mrs. Beck outlined the Sunset process, the purpose of the process, and the timeline for the review.

Item 7 – Consideration of Agreed Order for Violations of Commission Rules

Mr. Bob Young presented an Agreed Order for the consideration of the Commissioners regarding a TAHC rule violation. A motion to APPROVE the agreed order was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner White. The motion carried.

Item 8 – Presentation of USDA VS Update

Dr. Mike Pruitt presented an update of USDA VS activities.

Dr. Pruitt presented an update on VS personnel staff changes, and announced that VS is close to being fully staffed. There is a goal to add three more field veterinary medical officers in Texas over the coming months. Dr. Pruitt also outlined various changes to VS National staff. TB indemnity is being considered for the panhandle TB herds. September will bring the wrap of the African Swine Fever exercises and the Texas Scrapie Review. The Cooperative Agreement Process has been significantly changed in order to speed up reimbursement. Nationally, Texas resources are being used to help with VND outbreak in California, but Dr. Pruitt's August 23rd deployment will wrap up the response, making it a District and State effort.

Item 9 – Audit Sub-committee Report

Commissioner Vermedahl provided an overview of the audit sub-committee meeting. A motion to APPROVE the actions of the Audit-subcommittee was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Langdon. The motion carried.

Item 10 – Administration/Budget Status Report

Mr. Steven Luna, Director of Finance, gave a report on the agency's budget status:

- **FY 2019**

- Methods of Finance: Projected available funds by fiscal year end are \$18.1M. Year to Date funds available are \$17.1M
- Anticipated Known Expenditures - \$16.1M
- Total anticipated/projected Funding less the total anticipated/projected known Expenditures:
 - Total Funding \$18,162,377
 - Total Expenditures \$16,131,516
 - Total Difference \$ 2,274,480
- Federal Funds: \$2.7M Spendable. Federal Funds Received Year to Date \$2.4M
 - Federal Funds include Hurricane Harvey expenditures reimbursement in the amount of \$347K.
 - Under General Appropriations Act (HB 1, 86th Leg RS), Article IX, Section 13.09 – Authorized to move an anticipated \$925K to FY 2020
- Fee Revenue is used solely on Field vehicle expenses such as Fuel, Maintenance/Repairs, Parts, Insurance, Leases:
 - Projected Fee Revenues - \$520K. Fees Received Year to Date - \$533K
 - Unexpended balance from FY 2018 to FY 2019 - \$58K
- FTEs (Full Time Equivalents – the State's way of saying employees)
 - FY 2019 FTE cap – 220.2
 - As of August 13, 2019 –

- 204.5 FTEs filled
 - 16 FTEs vacant
- The TAHC does not have Unexpended Balance (UB) Authority to move unspent appropriations from FY 2019 to FY 2020. However, certain unobligated Federal Funds may be moved forward.
 - Under General Appropriations Act (HB 1, 86th Leg RS), Article IX, Section 13.09 – Authorized to move an anticipated \$925K to FY 2020
- The TAHC Financial Services (FS) requests authority for budgetary transfers for the FY 2019 budget as needed for the following:
 - Authority to move up to \$25,000 from Information Resources to Central Administration. This is in addition to the authorized request to move up to \$100,000. New total would be \$125,000
 - Authority to move up to \$30,000 from Field to Lab/Epi
 - At the next Commission meeting, the exact amounts will be reported. TAHC is awaiting Legislative Budget Board & Governor’s Office approval to exceed our Capital Budget Authority for software, in the amount of \$269,000. This is for the Agency Modernization Eradication & Control Information System. This was approved by the Commission in the May 21, 2019 Commission Meeting. Upon their approval these funds will come from the TAHC Field Appropriation.
- FY 2020
 - Methods of Financing (MOF’s): Projected available funds by fiscal year end are \$17M. September 1st, 2019 funds available are anticipated to be \$14.1M
 - Anticipated Known Expenditures - \$17M. The TAHC anticipates / projects that all available funding for FY 2020 will be utilized or obligated by FY end.
 - Federal Funds total is projected at \$4.1M, with \$3.3M Spendable
 - Federal Funds received as of September 1st, 2019 anticipated at \$925K. (Moved from FY 2019 to FY 2020 under HB 1, 86th Leg RS, General Appropriations Act, Article IX, Section 13.09 authorization.)
- Fee Revenue is used solely on Field vehicle expenses such as Fuel, Maintenance & Repairs, Parts, Insurance, and Leases.
 - Projected Fee Revenues - \$520K.
- FTEs (Full Time Equivalents – the State’s way of saying employees):
 - FTE Cap = 220.2
 - September 1, 2019: Filled (205.5), Vacant (14.5)
- Points of Interest:
- The TAHC does have Unexpended Balance (UB) Authority to move unspent appropriations from FY 2020 to FY 2021.
- The TAHC Financial Services (FS) currently has no requests for authority for budgetary transfers for the FY 2020 budget.

A motion to APPROVE the Administration/Budget Status Report was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

Item 11 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Mr. Freddy Garcia presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the commissioners for FY 2020. A motion to APPROVE the contracts and purchases request was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Staggs. The motion carried.

Item 12 – Consideration of and Possible Action on REGULATION ADOPTIONS

Dr. Andy Schwartz discussed the following Regulation Adoptions:

Each Regulation Adoption was reviewed and voted on individually.

- (a) Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis
 - (b) Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)
 - (c) Chapter 45, Reportable Disease (BVD)
 - (d) Chapter 49, Equine (Official Identification)
 - (e) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements
- a) The Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) proposes amendments to §38.6, concerning, “Official Trichomoniasis Tests’ in Chapter 38, which is entitled “Trichomoniasis”.

The Bovine Trichomoniasis (Trich) Working Group (TWG) had an annual review on April 23, 2019, to evaluate the effectiveness of current program. The group recommends that three changes be made in the control program.

The first is to ensure that samples pooled by approved laboratories are not authorized for official test purposes from Trich positive herds, herds identified as being adjacent to Trich positive herds and change of ownership. These need to be individually submitted samples so as to improve the quality of the test sample as well as to provide quicker identification for follow up on the positive animals. The second recommendation is to limit the use of a virgin certificate as an exemption to the test requirements. The proposed rule provides that sexually intact male cattle under 18 months of age, or verified by birth date listed on the breed registry papers, must be certified by the breeder on a virgin certificate in order for the animal to be sold without a test. Therefore, it is proposed that the use of virgin certificates be restricted to breeder animals that belong to a breed registry which maintains an official list of animals within a specific breed for which there is an association of unique identification for the cattle. The third recommendation is that a seller must provide written disclosure for female cattle that have been exposed or potentially exposed to a Trich positive bull within the previous 6 months at the time of sale. This provision will allow a buyer of female cattle to take this information into account for managing the newly purchased females for breeding purposes.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 38, §§38.1 - 38.3, and 38.6, concerning "Trichomoniasis" passed, with the removal of the amendments to 38.3(g) and 38.6(2)(A) was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner White. The motion carried.

- b) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposes a new Chapter 44 for the purpose of establishing a Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) control program.

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is an economically impactful disease of cattle with a worldwide prevalence that is endemic in most states. The Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus, a Pestivirus, causes BVD. The major reservoir responsible for disease spread geographically is the persistent infection syndrome (BVDV-PI) seen in calves. BVDV can result in impacts to the stocker and feedlot operations by causing immunosuppression and contributing to Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex, or "Shipping Fever". This can lead to reduced feed conversion and weight gain, and increases in days on feed, morbidity, treatment cost, and mortality. In regards to cow-calf operations, all of these impacts may occur plus decreased conception rates, abortions, weak calves, and congenital defects. The dam can be transiently infected during pregnancy and her calf become infected during development in the womb. If this infection occurs between days 40-120 of the pregnancy, the calf's immune system may not recognize the BVD Virus as foreign, and no natural immunity is produced in the calf. The calf becomes persistently infected (PI), and produces large numbers of the virus. The calf may display a normal appearance with immunosuppression or may result in acute death, poor performance, or mucosal disease.

Texas stakeholders have indicated interest in addressing the disposition of known animals positive for BVDV. The TAHC convened a group of stakeholders to discuss the negative implications of the disease on the Texas cattle industry. Stakeholder groups represented at the meeting included Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Texas Cattle Feeder Association (TCFA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA), Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD), Texas A&M AgriLife, USDA, and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL).

The motion to WITHDRAW the proposed new Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, was made by Commissioner Vermedahl and seconded by Commissioner Osterkamp. The motion carried.

- c) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposes amendments to Chapter 45 concerning Reportable Diseases. The Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 161, Section 161.101 requirements provide for the duty of a veterinarian, veterinary diagnostic laboratory or a person having care, custody, or control of an animal to report specified animal health diseases to the TAHC. The Commission has a specific list of diseases reportable in Chapter 45 of the Commission rules. This proposal is for the purpose of adding Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) as a reportable disease.

The motion to WITHDRAW the proposed amendments to Chapter 45, Reportable Diseases (BVD), was made by Commissioner Vermedahl and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

- d) The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to Chapter 49, entitled "Equine" The amendment is for Section 49.1. The purpose of these amendments is to incorporate forms of electronic identification as official identification for equine.

The Commission is participating with a consortium of other state animal health regulatory agencies for fulfilling the objectives and provisions for the interstate movement of equine using an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). The consortium have established a framework in each participating state to enhance the coordination and cooperation regarding the allowance and documentation of interstate movement of equine. This amendment provides that for an official equine passport the official identification includes a microchip.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 49, Equine, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

- e) The Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to Chapter 51, entitled "Entry Requirements." The amendment is for Section 51.13. The purpose of these amendments is to incorporate forms of electronic identification as official identification for equine moving on an equine passport.

The Commission is participating with a consortium of other state animal health regulatory agencies for fulfilling the objectives and provisions for the interstate movement of equine using an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). The consortium have established a framework in each participating state to enhance the coordination and cooperation regarding the allowance and documentation of interstate movement of equine. This amendment provides that for an official equine passport the official identification includes a microchip.

The motion to ADOPT amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements (Equine), was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Langdon. The motion carried.

Item 13 – Consideration of and Possible Action on REGULATION PROPOSAL

Dr. Schwartz then discussed the following Regulation Proposal

- (a) Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea

- a) The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposes a new Chapter 44 for the purpose of establishing a Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) control program.

Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) is an economically impactful disease of cattle with a worldwide prevalence that is endemic in most states. BVD is caused by the Bovine viral diarrhea virus, a Pestivirus. The major reservoir responsible for disease spread geographically is the persistent infection syndrome (BVDV-PI) seen in calves. BVDV can result in impacts to the stocker and feedlot operations by causing immunosuppression and contributing to Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex, or “Shipping Fever.” This can lead to reduced feed conversion and weight

gain, and increases in days on feed, morbidity, treatment cost, and mortality. In regards to cow-calf operations, all of these impacts may occur plus decreased conception rates, abortions, weak calves, and congenital defects.

Texas stakeholders have indicated interest in addressing the disposition of known BVDV-PI animals. The TAHC convened a group of stakeholders to discuss the negative implications of the disease on the Texas cattle industry. Stakeholder groups represented at the meeting included Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Texas Cattle Feeder Association (TCFA), Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), Independent Cattlemen's Association (ICA), Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), Texas Association of Dairymen (TAD), Texas A&M AgriLife, USDA, and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL).

The Commission may develop rules necessary to control significant disease risks. BVDV adversely affects both health and productivity. The losses due to transient infection are diarrhea, decreased milk production, reproductive disorders, increased occurrence of other diseases, and death. The losses from fetal infection include abortions; congenital defects; weak and abnormally small calves; unthrifty, persistently infected (PI) animals; and death among PI animals. To provide Texas cattle some mitigation from the risk of exposure to PI cattle, Chapter 44, entitled "Bovine Viral Diarrhea Program" is being added.

The motion to PROPOSE a new Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner White. The motion carried.

The notice of the proposed regulation adoption will be published in the Texas Register with a 30 day comment period. Comments regarding the review proposals 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 14 – 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 15 – 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 16 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session
Commissioners reconvened after the Closed Executive Session and proposed to increase the compensation of the Executive Director to the maximum allowed, effective, September 1, 2019.

The motion to increase the Executive Director's salary was made by Commissioner Klein and seconded by Commissioner Eggleston. The motion carried.

Item 18 – Public Comment/Recognition

Public comment in reference to regulation proposals, was provided at the time of the proposal discussion. A full audio of the comments and the complete discussion that followed is available on the Texas Animal Health Commission website. <http://www.tahc.texas.gov/agency/meetings.html>

Item 19 – Set Date for 403rd Commission Meeting

The date for the 405th Commission Meeting was not set at the time of the meeting, but is tentatively scheduled for December 2019. Notice will be posted on the agency’s website when the next Commission meeting date has been set.

Item 20 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.