

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE 421st COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
July 16, 2024

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. 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. Commissioner Osterkamp was absent. The absence was not excused.

Item 3 - 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.

The closed executive session was called at 8:31AM.

Item 4 – 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 5 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session

The regular session reconvened at 9:28AM. No action was needed.

Item 6 – Approval of the minutes of the 420th Meeting

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 420th Commission meeting. The motion carried.

Item 7 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Waiver and Variance Requests

Dr. Dinges presented the following:

(A) AGENCY OPERATIONS & AFFAIRS

- **Agency:** Currently 188.5 of 224.5 FTEs are filled. Tom Moore started July 1st as the Director of Information Technology (IT). Mr. Moore comes to us with many years of IT experience to include years with the military, municipalities, private industry, and state agencies.
- **Rural Veterinary Incentive Program (RVIP):** HB1259, passed during the 87th Legislative Session. The RVIP provides educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees of up to \$180,000 to eligible veterinarians and veterinary medical students who demonstrate a commitment to working in designated rural Texas counties. The program offers up to \$45,000 for each year of full-time veterinary service in rural communities in need of a veterinarian. The 2024 application cycle is now open through the end of August.
- **Cattle Fever Tick Treatment (Eprinomectin) Field Trial:** (appropriated \$316,000): This is a two-year trial. Initially located at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) in Cameron County and was abandoned day 112. The study was moved to USDA ARS Research Facility (Moore Field-Edinburg, TX) for a more controlled environment where cattle can be penned for inspection and treatment as required. Trial will run from June 13, 2024, through April 17, 2025. Two study groups contain ten head

of cattle each under treatment with three control animals assigned to each study group. One group planned to be treated at 56-day intervals another group at 84-day intervals after cattle have been treated at 28-day intervals (Day 0, Day 28, and Day 56). Withdrawal times and residue studies will be completed with the TAMU CVM and TVMDL.

(B) National Update

• **Cattle Fever Ticks:**

- **Nematode Use:** USDA CFTEP is waiting on the delivery of the product to begin the project with several cooperating ranches in Cameron and Willacy counties.
- **Rio Bravo Buffer Zone:** USDA APHIS directly funded pilot projects in the Mexican States of Tamaulipas and Coahuila. USDA: \$71,023.44 USD (acaricides); SENASICA/States \$133,947.03 (personnel, supplies, sampling and testing, vehicles) Work was done from June 2022 through March 2024. Inspected/treated (7,038) cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and deer on 64 livestock units. Medium to low infestations of ticks on cattle were brought to almost zero levels. States had to provide bimonthly activity reports, and they were not paid until reports were approved by the USDA. Some improvements to be made include the addition of more wildlife surveillance. USDA considered project successful. USDA has \$120,000 USD to contribute to the project if it can be continued.

- **Asian Longhorn Tick (ALT):** Agency management continues to monitor discoveries of ALT in other states and assess the practicality of any regulatory action to protect our state. Affected states have been using producer education and outreach to mitigate the risk of introductions. TAHC implements a robust tick surveillance program across Texas which continually monitors our livestock industry related to an introduction of exotic ticks. Research done by the USDA ARS found that the ALT does not transmit *Babesia bovis*, a causative agent of cattle fever.
- **New World Screwworm (NWS):** Today, the NWS is endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and countries in South America. There is a constant risk of introduction into the United States. Costa Rica reported a case of the New World Screwworm on July 14, 2023. On February 7, 2024, Costa Rica declared a state of emergency in response to the reporting of 2,894 (06/29/24) confirmed cases. Importation of live animals from Costa Rica have been limited since August 2023. A case of New World Screwworm was reported on March 12, 2024, in La Pinta, Nicaragua in a 3-month-old calf. 581 cases to date (06/29/2024) in Nicaragua. Importation of animal commodities originating or transiting Nicaragua have been restricted since March 14, 2024. Recently a traveler returning from the Dominican Republic showed up in a Florida ER infested with screwworms. COPEG has ramped up production of a new strain of sterile screwworm that should be more fit in the environment. They have worked with Nicaragua to set up a line of ground release chambers to keep the flies from moving further north and are supplementing these with aerial dispersion in the area. Furthermore, they are looking at a new aerial distribution center in Honduras (which does not have cases yet) to better target this northern line. USDA VS is setting up an Incident Command Group under International Services, so they can tackle the outbreak plus provide better communication on what is being done. More updates from USDA in coming weeks.

- **Disease Information**
 - **Bovine Trichomoniasis:** The Trich Working Group met on June 17th with 11 participants both in person and remote (plus TAHC staff). Dr. Monday, State Epidemiologist presented data on the TAHC Trich program. Dr. Brandon Dominguez, TVMDL, gave a report on 10 years of Trich testing trends done by the TVMDL. Dr. Tom Hairgrove gave a report on the Study to Estimate Geographical Distribution and Prevalence of Bovine Trichomoniasis (Slaughter Bulls) where preliminary results placed the prevalence of Trich in bulls sampled at 5.33%. Discussion followed on possibilities and avenues of expanding upon the existing study. No action items were generated by the working group for the commission to address.
 - **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** Positive breeding facilities since January 1, 2024: Five CWD Positive / Trace Herd Update: Dr. Trey James, (TAHC Field Epidemiologist) will give an update under Agenda Item #9
 - **Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) / Piroplasmiasis:** We have seen an increase in EIA cases throughout the state. In March 2024, a Texas origin Barrel Racing horse purchased online (w/o change of ownership EIA testing) tested positive in Connecticut. The epidemiologic investigation including two Texas premises revealed no additional positive horses when testing exposed cohorts. In May, a New Mexico origin roping horse tested positive for EIA in Wyoming by the current owner. The horse changed ownership in Texas two times (from 09/23 to 04/24) with no change of ownership testing. The horse was found to be dually infected with EIA and Piroplasmiasis from a regulatory sample collected in Wy. The epi investigation in Texas and New Mexico revealed no infected exposed cohorts. EIA was confirmed in a QH being tested to enter a regulated track on May 10th. Regulatory testing revealed 12 more EIA positive horses from the 32 exposed cohorts at the Harris Co. training facility. The facility is owned by an individual that races horses on sanctioned tracks, but leases stalls to horses that race on bush racetracks. The post exposure EIA/Piro testing will be completed the week of 07/15/2024. Iatrogenic transmission through the reuse of IV sets/needles and blood doping is likely. On 05/31/2024, EIA was confirmed in a horse exhibiting clinical signs (anemia/jaundice). The horse was stalled at an El Paso area bush track and was examined/tested by an accredited veterinarian. Regulatory testing revealed 5 additional EIA positive horses out of 23 exposed cohorts. The premises is quarantined and pending a 60-day post exposure EIA/Piro testing. The Bush racetrack has significant ties with Mexico. We suspect illegal movements between Mexico and Texas. Also suspect illegal movements between New Mexico and Texas.
- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):**
 - **Poultry:** Parmer Co. – Commercial Egg Layer – Completed environmental testing with no virus being isolated. The quarantine was released on July 3rd and the company will begin to restock premises on July 16th.
 - **Dairy: - National:** 12 states 140 cases (07/09/2024)
 - Animal movement is a known and recognized risk for disease transmission.
 - No genomic or epidemiologic evidence that wild birds are spreading H5N1 to cattle but cannot be ruled out.
 - Shared equipment that is not cleaned between farms is a recognized risk for disease transmission.
 - Shared personnel are a recognized risk for disease transmission.

- Frequent visitors with access to animals is a recognized risk for disease transmission.

Texas: 22 cases Panhandle and Stephenville Milk Sheds (07/09/2024)

Have not discovered an epi link associated with cattle movements between milk sheds.

April 29: Federal Order – Mandatory testing for interstate movement of lactating dairy cattle and mandatory reporting (all labs).

May 10: Financial assistance for producers (affected premises): 1) Protect against the potential for spread between human and animal- producers to supply PPE/Outerwear laundering to employees (Up to \$2,000/month); 2) Support producers biosecurity planning/implementation.(\$1,500 per affected premises); 3) Provide funding for heat treatment to dispose of (waste) milk in a bio-secure fashion(\$2,000/month); 4) Reimburse producers for veterinarian costs associated with confirmed positive H5N1 premises (up to \$10,000); 5) Offset shipping costs for influenza A testing at NAHLN labs (up to \$50/shipment; 2 shipments/month)

May 24: USDA APHIS VS Voluntary HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program: Alternative bulk tank testing and movement options to the Federal Order to increase USDA's monitoring capabilities.

July 1: USDA Expanded Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP): to help dairy producers offset milk loss due to H5N1: Adult dairy cattle from a herd confirmed positive for H5N1 at NVSL. Removed from commercial milk production at some point (14 days before positive sample collection date through 120 days after the positive H5N1 test). Eligible cattle: Milk producing, currently lactating and maintained for commercial milk production. Sign up at USDA County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office.

(C) Waivers and Variances:

There are no waivers and variances to report for the period of 4/30/2024 to 7/16/2024.

Item 8 – Presentation of Animal Health Programs and Disease Traceability Activities

Dr. T.R. Lansford presented:

1. Animal disease traceability (ADT)

a. *Federal ADT Rule Update*

i. Final Rule implementation date November 5, 2024

ii. *REFERENCE ONLY Official Identification for Cattle and Bison (§ 86.4) Section 86.4 § 86.4(a)(1)(i) adds the requirement that, beginning November 5, 2024, all official ear tags sold for or applied to cattle and bison must be readable both visually and electronically.*

b. Sheep and Goat Scrapie Identification

i. The number of calls from sheep and goat producers continues to be high, in large part due to the ongoing cooperation of the sheep and goat markets distributing the informational letter provided in April. The number of new scrapie flock IDs went from 404 in the first quarter of 2024 to 681 in the second quarter.

c. USDA provided RFID tag distribution

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- i. Requests for RFID tags has almost doubled this quarter compared to last quarter (see slide) to bring out total distributed tag number to a little over 1.36 million RFID tags
 - d. The effort to provide veterinarians with electronic ID reading/scanning devices continues. At this time, TAHC staff have put 192 readers into the hands of large animal practitioners for their use in program disease and livestock movement efforts. (see slide with map depicting reader distribution)
 - e. Industry outreach
 - i. ADT Staff continue to participate in industry events to provide information to producers on the updated rule, official ID requirements, and to distribute RFID tags
 - 1. TSCRA summer meeting
 - 2. TSGRA meeting
 - 3. TX Farm Bureau summer meeting
 - 4. Independent Cattlemen's Association meeting
 - 5. Beef Cattle Short Course
- 2. Animal Health Programs
 - a. Staffing updates
 - i. Region Directors
 - 1. Dr. Joe Burkett accepted the Beeville Region Director position effective May 20th
 - 2. Giddings and Amarillo Region Director positions remain open
 - ii. Region Managers
 - 1. Ty Billings accepted the Beeville Region Manager position effective July 1st (last vacancy)
 - iii. Field (Agency) Veterinarians
 - 1. Currently have 5 positions posted – AM, SV, GS, BV, and LR regions
 - 2. Interviews conducted for GS and BV regions
 - a. Dr. Elizabeth Susen has accepted a tentative offer with a start date of August 1 for GS/SV region
 - iv. Field Staff (Inspectors and Region Administrative Assistants)
 - 1. Applicant pools have been deep and interest high
 - 2. No significant hiring issues to report at this time
 - v. Agency wide, we have 188.5 out of 224.5 FTE positions filled
 - vi. Recognition of Dr. Bohl for his taking on the task of getting these positions filled quickly and for all of the great effort shown by all staff involved, to include Tana and Latoya in the HR department, and all of the region management for their efforts in restoring and expanding our field staff.
- 3. Federal Cooperative Agreements
 - a. Staff in process of gathering and reviewing information for final reports for the FY 2023 cooperatives
 - i. Cooperative years run from April 1 to March 31 of following year
 - b. FY 2025 applications completed, submitted and approved
- 4. Emergency Management
 - a. Natural disaster related activities
 - i. Flooding in southeast Texas
 - 1. Coordination with local response partners and Dwayne Easley
 - ii. Hurricane Huddle conducted on June 13 with great participation by response partners – livestock industries and state and federal agencies

- iii. Hurricane Beryl
 - 1. Very limited animal issues
 - 2. Staffing at the State Operations Center
 - 3. Effective on-the-ground communication with local response partners through Region staff
 - a. AgriLife Extension
 - b. Local emergency managers
 - 4. Email update to stakeholders regarding response activities
- b. EM Staff continue to work with and promote preparedness planning with industry partners and other stakeholders
 - i. Poultry disease preparedness and response
 - 1. Presentations given at the Texas Egg Clinic and Texas Broiler Council meetings
 - 2. Dawna Michalke and EM staff conducted a poultry disease and natural disaster response training in Gonzales for our Compliance Officer staff June 4-5
 - a. Continue to expand the depth and capabilities of staff to serve on incident management teams
 - 3. Preparedness meetings with poultry industry ongoing
 - ii. Secure Food Supply Plans
 - 1. Working with TCFA to support and participate in a secure beef supply plan exercise at XIT Feeders in Dalhart, TX, August 15
 - 2. Engaging with other states via the SFS Workgroup (best practices, new ideas, etc.)
 - 3. Engaging with Livestock Marketing Association about SFS in sale barns (ties in with livestock market series workgroup)
 - 4. Beginning discussions with the Texas Association of Dairymen regarding secure milk supply planning efforts
 - iii. Hosted a meeting with key officials at Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to discuss and clarify rules related to carcass disposal in disease response
 - iv. Other meetings and outreach events
 - 1. Met with county livestock deputies, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and A&M VET regarding livestock related resources in natural disaster
 - 2. Attended and presented at CAPCOG Wildfire Summit
 - 3. Attended and presented at the Texas Emergency Management Conference
 - 4. Continue to engage with multiple national level and state agriculture preparedness groups
 - a. EM Planner and EM Specialist networking and participating in the Multi-state Partnership Conference in Colorado this week

Item 9 – Presentation Of Disease Information and Epidemiology Activities

Dr. Trey James, Field Epidemiologist, presented:

Materials covered a period of March to May 2024.

- Cattle
 - One Anthrax case in Schleicher County
 - One herd under quarantine for TB testing plan
 - Forty-seven ongoing Tuberculosis facility trace investigations
 - Open from FY2022

- Collaborating with USDA for review and closure
- Six herds under TB assurance testing
- Cattle Brucellosis – seven suspected cases, 12,284 total tests
- Cattle Trichomoniasis – 5,886 PCR tests, and eighty-seven positive results. The Trichomoniasis Working Group met on June 17th, 2024, but did not propose any new rules.
- Cattle Fever Ticks
 - Eight open traces
 - Forty-eight fever ticks collected
- Equine Infection Anemia – There were 42,124 tests run and seventeen total positive results
- Equine Piroplasmiasis – 1,303 *T. Equi* test run with one positive case. There were 694 *B. Caballi* tests run with one positive case.
- Avian Influenza – March to May 2024 there were 2,102 Live Bird Market System birds tested. There were 231 non-live bird market birds tested.
- Pullorum Typhoid – From March to May 2024 there were 263 flocks tested, which totaled 11,529 birds with zero positives.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT):
 - Texas released three cases of HPAI in backyard flocks during the period of March to May 2024 and started three new cases.
 - During the same period, there were nineteen cases of ILT
- Swine Brucellosis – there were 2,017 tests run and two herds under quarantine
- Pseudorabies – there were 1,859 screenings done with three positive cases
- Chronic Wasting Disease:
 - 5 Positive Breeder Facilities with 11 Positive Deer
 - 2024 Zavala County Facility – 5th Year HCP Breeder Facility
 - Suspect sample collected April 11th, 2024 and confirmed April 24th via post-mortem sampling
 - Trace-out to Frio County #2 positive breeder facility
 - Thirty-five traces: 29 trace outs and 6 trace ins
 - Pending a herd visit
 - 2024 Trinity County Facility – HCP Certified Breeder Facility
 - Suspect sample collected on May 31st and confirmed June 6th via postmortem sampling
 - Tier and trace connections to 2021 and 2023 positive facilities
 - 14 traces; 6 trace outs and 8 trace-in
 - Pending herd visit
 - 2024 Sutton County Facility – HCP Certified Breeder Facility
 - Suspect sample collected June 11th, and confirmed June 26th via postmortem sampling
 - No prior trace history
 - Adjacent breeder herd on shared premises and under same ownership has tier and trace connections to 2021 and 2023 positive herds
 - 51 traces: 21 trace outs and 30 trace ins
 - There were 239 traces closed from 2021, 23 for 2022, 204 for 2023, and 41 for 2024

Item 11 – USDA-VS Report

Dr. Louisa Collins presented the following:

Staffing: Veterinary Services (VS) staff numbers have reached thirty-nine employees; breaking down as seventeen veterinarians, thirteen animal health technicians, three administrative staff, and six HPAI Term

Animal Health Technicians. These staff will be with USDA VS for thirteen months, primarily to deploy across the US for emergency response. This month a new field Veterinarian started in the Conroe area. She will support the Giddings and southern Sulfur Springs regions. USDA Veterinary Services opened new positions for subject matter experts in depopulation, disposal and disinfection (3D), with two positions in each of the four districts. While the positions have not been filled yet, there is an excellent chance that one of those experts will be based in Texas.

Training: One USDA veterinarian completed Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) training last month at Plum Island. In addition, USDA sponsored a Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Training in Ames Iowa. Two USDA and one TAHC veterinarian attended. Additionally, a technician attended certified fit tester training. This brings the number of trained fit testers in Texas to eight.

HPAI in Livestock update: At the last meeting, thirty-three affected herds in nine states were reported; now 152 herds in twelve states.

VS continues to respond to other disease concerns.

HPAI update: Since the national incident began in February 2022, forty-eight states affected, 1165 confirmed premises, 935 control areas/ surveillance zones released. Eighty-nine premises are currently under quarantine, which includes premises in control areas around infected commercial premises. Only Louisiana and Hawaii have not been affected. The commercial layer operation in Parmer County detected on April 1st completed depopulation and disposal on April 15th. The premises completed cleaning, disinfection and environmental sampling, and began restocking today. USDA paid an excess of one million dollars to support this producer. Veterinary Services continues wild bird surveillance. Nationally 9,528 HPAI detections, including 327 detections in Texas, the most recent reported was in March 2024, in Hartley County. Note: to date, there have been no detections of the cattle strain in migratory waterfowl. VS Texas continues to support the national incident by deploying personnel and currently have one veterinarian deployed to Minnesota, and four technicians in deployed to Minnesota and Colorado.

Central American Screwworm: Copeg has ramped up production of a new strain of sterile screwworm that should be more fit in the environment. They have worked with Nicaragua to set up a line of ground release chambers to keep the flies from moving further north and are supplementing these with aerial dispersion in the area. Furthermore, they are looking at a new aerial distribution center in Honduras (which does not have cases yet) to better target this northern line. VS is setting up an Incident Command Group under International Services so that we can tackle the outbreak plus better communication on what is being done. Secretary Vilsack transferred \$109.8 million to Screwworm Eradication program this year.

African Swine Fever: International Services is sending a team to the Dominican Republic to do a vaccine field trial. One VS employee will deploy to the DR next week.

OIG Bird Seizure: Last month VS and TAHC assisted OIG with seizure of illegal imported chickens from Vietnam. Importer was charged and awaiting trial. The birds were FAD test negative/ destroyed. Three other hatching egg illegal imports were intercepted at airport/ shipping hubs in the last month. USDA continues to work with Homeland Security/ Customs/ Border Protection to intercept smuggled animals and animal products that pose a threat to US Agriculture.

Dr. Collins also provided the following report from John Picanso, Director of USDA VS Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program: The Rio Bravo Buffer Zone Grant project with Mexico is still in progress. Plans are in place to replicate the previous project goals in addition to adding more wildlife treatments to the proposal in two states. Progress continues in reducing overall infestations. In May of 2022 there were 145 infested premises and in May of 2024 there were 91. Game proof fencing projects continue, with an additional 20 miles of survey and staking completed for FY2024 and a plan to construct 40 miles of fence in FY2025.

Item 11 – Budget Status Report

The following was presented by Paula Andrews,

- FY 2024 Budgeted Revenue - \$18,424,880
 - General Revenue - \$15,183,158
 - Capital Vehicles - \$415,000
 - Capital Equipment - \$200,000
 - AHP Fee Revenue – \$860,000
 - Federal Funds - \$1,766,722

- Federal Cooperative Funds

Cooperative Award	Award Begin	Award Amount	Claims	Remaining Award Amount
24 TX US SHIP	4/1/2024	\$29,556	\$0	\$29,556
24 D4 TX ADT	4/1/2024	\$445,104	\$0	\$445,104
24 D4 TX UMB	4/1/2024	\$1,737,418	\$0	\$1,737,418
24 D4 TX CFT	4/1/2024	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
24 D4 TX HPAI	4/1/2024	\$58,929	\$0	\$58,929
Total Federal Awards				\$2,621,007

- Federal Funds as of March 31, 2024

Strategy	Prior Year (as of 8/31/2023)	Current Year (as of 3/31/2024)	Total by Strategy
Field	\$1,555,558.24	\$809,282.98	\$2,364,841.22
Animal Health Emergency Mngmt	\$47,731.18	\$23,226.85	\$70,958.03
Pass Through High Fence	\$128,435.22		\$128,435.22
		\$832,509.83	\$2,564,234.47
		Less Pass Through	(\$128,435.22)
		Total Spendable Funds	\$2,435,799.25

- Fiscal Year 2024 Expenditures (Agency Level)

Category	BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE (as of 3/31/2024)	AVAILABLE BUDGET
Salaries and Wages	\$12,326,410	\$9,393,751	\$2,932,659
Other Personnel Costs	\$634,755	\$365,759	\$268,996
Professional Fees & Services	\$110,410	\$74,077	\$36,333
Fuels and Lubricants	\$102,940	\$490,914	-\$387,974
Consumable Supplies	\$169,854	\$151,677	\$18,177
Utilities	\$289,400	\$115,092	\$174,308
Travel	\$746,763	\$379,567	\$367,196
Rent- Building	\$626,591	\$705,278	-\$78,687
Rent- Machine Other	\$75,607	\$45,507	\$30,100
Other Operating Expense	\$2,727,150	\$2,019,838	\$707,312
Capital Expenditures	\$615,000	\$52,356	\$562,644
Totals	\$18,424,880	\$13,793,816	\$4,631,064

The motion to approve the report passed.

Item 12 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Paula Andrews presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the Commissioners, which included contracts, purchases, and leases for FY 2024.

The motion to approve the contacts, purchases, and leases passed.

Item 13 - Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations and Proposals for Decision

Ms. Jeanine Coggeshall presented orders related to Commission rule violations for the consideration of the commission. The orders were approved.

Item 14 – Consideration and Possible Action on Proposed Rules

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

- a) Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed amendments to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease eliminates all current Surveillance Zones, maintains all current containment zones, and creates new containment zones in Coleman and Collingsworth Counties based on positive CWD detections in free-ranging populations that pose high risk and required heightened surveillance.

The motion to propose the amendments to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease passed.

The notice of the proposed rule amendments will be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period. Comments regarding the 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 15 – Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Proposed Rules

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

- a) Chapter 40.6, Chronic Wasting Disease

The amendments to Chapter 40.6, Chronic Wasting Disease apply only to exotic CWD susceptible species. Due to a new detection of CWD, additional movement restriction zones are needed as well as modification of existing zones to increase surveillance with the goal of mitigating the risk the risk of CWD.

The motion to reject the amendments to Chapter 40.6, Chronic Wasting Disease passed.

- b) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, and Chapter 60, Scrapie

Amendments were proposed to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements and Chapter 60, Scrapie, due to a request for change, in an effort to clarify existing rules and make every effort to continue to control incidents of scrapie. The amendment would require that female breeding sheep and crossbred female

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breeding sheep entering Texas, apart from hair sheep, would need to originate from an USDA Export Certified Flock or have documentation the animals are of the genotype RR at codon 171 or AA at codon 136 and QR at codon 171.

The motion to reject the amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements and Chapter 60, Scrapie passed.

c) Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures

Amendments proposed to Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures aim to establish the same set of responsibilities when partnering with local authorities and TAHC currently observes when working with DPS and local law enforcement officers to ensure compliance with entry requirements.

The motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 59, General Practices and Procedures passed.

Item 16 – Awards and Recognition

There were no presentations at during the 420th meeting.

Item 17- Public Comment

Public comment for regulation proposals was made at the time of the rule discussion and during the public comment agenda item.

Item 18 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:11AM.