

February Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2025
Location: Minnesota Commons, University of Minnesota Saint Paul Student Center (2017 Burford Ave, Saint Paul, MN, 55108) and teleconference on Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Board Members

- Erica Sawatzke, President
- Peggy Anne Hawkins, DVM, Vice President
- Jessica Koppien-Fox, DVM (virtual)
- Steve Neil
- Brandon Schafer
- Alex Stade

Consultants to the Board

- Michelle Medina, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Stephan Schaeffbauer, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services
- Stacy Holzbauer, Minnesota Department of Health
- Laura Molgaard, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- Hemant Naikare, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Guests

- Paul Anderson, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association, chair Minnesota Veterinary Medicine Association Small Animal Welfare Committee
- Elaine Hanson, Minnesota Pet Breeders Association
- Lucy Hunt, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Ashley Kohls, Minnesota Turkey Producers
- Nicole Neeser, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Lucas Sjostrom, Minnesota Milk Producers Association
- Maymuna Salad, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services

Staff

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| • Katie Cornille | • Michael Crusan | • Lisa Ehlen |
| • Susan Chapman | • Erik Jopp | • Addie Evans Engelke |
| • Erin Crider | • Brian Hoefs | • Samantha Kappel |

- Blia Kha
- Tony LaBarre
- Susan McClanahan
- Krista Lautenschlager
- Kayla Pierson
- Robert Predmore
- Nancy Reeck
- Shauna Voss
- Heather Damico
- Daniel Callahan
- Jeanne Rothfork
- Alexandra Delheimer
- Melissa Smith
- Myah Walker
- Missy Sivigny
- Lisa Loots
- Andrew Gladitsch
- Bonnie Miller
- Avrey Bergum
- Suzanne Pedersen

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Ms. Erica Sawatzke called the meeting to order. After introductions, Ms. Sawatzke asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Mr. Brandon Schafer made the motion. Dr. Peggy Anne Hawkins seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sawatzke asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Jessica Koppien-Fox moved to approve the agenda for the meeting, and Mr. Steve Neil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Animal Health Update

Dr. Brian Hoefs, State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health, gave an update on actions of Board staff since the last meeting.

In addition to the on-going influenza outbreaks, other diseases have been notable recently both locally and internationally. In Minnesota, rabies and tularemia continue to be concerns. The weather last year led to more bats and skunks overwintering. Since these species are main reservoirs for rabies, the increasing case count makes sense. On the tularemia front, Minnesota saw a record 27 cases last year. We're expecting more in the coming year.

Internationally, African Swine Fever (ASF), New World Screwworm (NWS) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) are making news. At this point, ASF has not yet been detected in the United States. Planning continues on the state and federal levels to handle any cases of ASF that might appear. In Minnesota, the Board is keeping an eye on feral swine sightings, as they could be a vector for the disease. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources handles investigations of feral swine sightings but works with the Board on any domestic pigs that may be loose. The Board is currently updating and developing ASF response plans for Minnesota.

NWS has been detected in Mexico, probably due to illegal cattle movements. USDA is working with local partners in Mexico and elsewhere to prevent the maggots from moving north toward the U.S. The sterile fly technique has proven effective in Panama and may be implemented elsewhere soon.

Foot and Mouth Disease was detected in a water buffalo on a hobby farm in Germany. How FMD was transmitted to this farm is unknown, which is concerning. The Board continues to monitor animals imported from Germany and other countries to prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases to Minnesota.

In the legislature, there are multiple bills under consideration that would affect the Board's work. Legislation regarding kennel regulation, farmed cervid fencing and white-tailed deer oversight have been drafted. Additionally, a bill regarding horse "soring" has been introduced. Soring is a practice of deliberately inflicting pain to exaggerate the leg

motion of gaited horses. Minnesota does not have a large number of the type of horses this bill would impact, but the Board is keeping tabs on it.

Priorities for Board staff continue to be outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), H5N1 in livestock and avian metapneumovirus (aMPV). The most recent detection of HPAI was January 21, 2025. The Board is preparing for a spring wave of detections, as the virus is not going away. Genomic sequencing shows current infections are tied to wild birds.

In dairy cattle, the virus spread appears to be linked to cattle movements. There is no evidence of wild birds spreading the strain of the virus that is showing up in dairy cattle. Locally, we have not seen a detection since last summer. Nationally, California has the most cases due to their large dairy industry. Because movement is the most likely agent of infection, biosecurity and premovement testing are key to stopping the spread.

Washington and Colorado have reported cases of H5N1 in big cat sanctuaries, while Oregon and Colorado have reported cases in domestic cats. Testing and genotyping have shown similarities to some poultry cases in Minnesota, leading to the supposition that the virus got into the raw pet food supply. The USDA thoroughly documented all disposal from the suspected farm and does not believe it is the source.

Ms. Sawatzke asked about Colorado's H5N1 bulk milk tank testing program. Dr. Hoefs said the dairy industry in Colorado is much smaller, around 100 farms. About 50 farms were affected, and they decided to test all farms statewide.

Ms. Sawatzke asked if the genotype from the dairy cattle matched the genotype from the big cats in Colorado. Dr. Hoefs said it is the same subtype but a different strain that is much closer to the Minnesota poultry strain than the dairy strain. Cats are the "canaries in the coal mine" because of the small amount of virus needed to make them sick.

The aMPV outbreak continues to be a problem. Since April 2024, the Board has recorded 871 positive cases, which is likely lower than the true number of infections. aMPV weakens the immune systems of infected birds, leaving them susceptible to other bacterial or viral infections. Several vaccines have been approved by the Center for Veterinary Biologics. Additional research and analysis will be done before distribution is approved. The Board will approve the use of these vaccines in Minnesota, when they are available.

Dr. Hoefs noted the toll the on-going HPAI response has taken on Board staff and resources. The outbreak has been officially going for three years. As of March 2025, staff had worked 8,882 regular hours on the HPAI response in the past year. Nearly 1,112 overtime hours had also been attributed to HPAI. These numbers do not include the H5N1 in dairy cattle response or the aMPV work. This work comes in addition to baseline workloads. The result has been a strain on the resources of the Board to do regular disease surveillance and prevention.

Mr. Schafer asked if there is a need for the Board of Directors to begin to consider establishing a response team that is at the ready when the next big disease outbreak hits? And what is the appropriate step for us as directors to mount that effort? Dr. Hoefs suggested reaching out to legislators to let them know about the work the Board is doing and the effects it is having. Because the response requires so much time and resources, response and detection work on other diseases cannot be made a priority. An efficient and effective response is difficult when you have to drop everything to do so.

Dr. Hawkins asked if the communications team could develop talking points for speaking to legislators about this issue so board members can be on the same page. Ms. Sawatzke said it would be helpful for board members to reach out to commodity groups they are members of as well.

Dr. Hoefs concluded his updates with a note about Dr. Courtney Wheeler leaving the Board Jan. 6, 2025. Dr. Shauna Voss has been promoted to Assistant Director, in addition to leading the poultry programs.

UMN College of Veterinary Medicine Update

Dr. Laura Molgaard, Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), gave an update on the school.

The CVM saw record levels of applications for the Class of 2029, with 105 students admitted in Saint Paul, and 20 students in Brookings, S.D. The school plans to continue to grow as much as funding allows.

The CVM is undertaking a DVM curriculum revision and review, a process that is completed every seven years.

In partnership with the UMN Medical School, a One Health clinic is being piloted on campus. This model provides care for both people and their animals in efforts to take a holistic approach to health. The program has secured \$800,000 in grant funding for the project.

For 10 years, CVM has kept tuition increases at or below 1%. This cannot be sustained without additional funding. The CVM submitted a request to the legislature for \$455 million, including \$235 million in recurring funding and \$220 million in capital investments. The governor's budget proposal currently cuts higher education by 5%.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update

Dr. Hemant Naikare, director of the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), gave an update on the lab's work.

The VDL has worked to fill open and potential positions. An anatomic pathologist has been hired and will begin work in March 2025. Open positions include a poultry diagnostician/pathologist and a food animal diagnostician/pathologist. Interviews are planned or underway for both positions.

Influenza testing is a major priority for the VDL, as Minnesota is the top-ranking turkey producing state. More than 100,000 influenza tests have been conducted in the past two fiscal years. The laboratory has received research funding in the amount of \$1.267 million to track wild birds to help combat the spread of HPAI. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2024, the VDL has conducted 32,552 tests for aMPV. Dr. Naikare noted that aMPV is largely unreported because there is no reimbursement program for testing, so producers may avoid testing due to the costs.

New tests are under development for a variety of bovine, ruminant and swine diseases. Target dates for the new testing to become available range from March to May 2025.

The long-awaited tissue digester installation has been delayed and is tentatively set for March 2025.

Due to recent changes in the federal administration, funding for milk sampling and H5N1 in dairy cattle research projects has been delayed. Fellowship funding through APHL-CDC has also been paused. What impacts this will have, or if the funding will become available, are unknown at this time.

Dr. Schaeffbauer asked how long it will take for the digester to get up to speed once it is installed. Dr. Naikare said it will take a few weeks. Plans are being developed to make space in freezers for samples to be digested.

Dr. Fox asked if there is a forensic pathologist at any lab nearby. Dr. Naikare said University of California at Davis and University of Florida at Gainesville have forensic pathologists on staff.

Legislative Update

Ms. Michelle Medina, legislative liaison for the Board and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), gave an update on the current legislative session.

The legislative session began on Jan. 14, and as we enter week three there are still questions about how the session will proceed. In the state House, an even number of Republicans and Democrats were elected, but at least two seats are being debated. In Roseville, a seat was vacated because the elected candidate did not meet the residency requirements. In Shakopee, there is some controversy over possible missing votes that could possibly change the results of the election. Republicans opened the session, but Democrats did not show up. The state supreme court ruled that there must be 68 voting members for a quorum. Subsequently, no committees or hearings have been organized.

In the Senate, Democrats held a one-member majority, but the death of Senator Kari Dziedzic left a tie. The senate decided to have shared power, with committees seating co-chairs. A special election was held for the open seat, and Democrats are now back in the majority and thus control the senate. Currently, more than 980 bills have been brought before the Senate.

This is a budgeting year, so the budget for the next two years is in development. The governor's proposed budget did give the Board an operating adjustment for the next two years. However, the adjustment is not enough to fund all the work the Board does, but it is a good start.

Board staff have made several presentations to legislators, which have gone well. Feedback is that many are impressed with the work the Board has done.

Federal funding is uncertain, particularly related to the farm bill. Staff will continue to keep an eye on things and adjust planning as things progress.

Dr. Hawkins asked how many bills are normally introduced during a legislative session. Ms. Medina said last session had around 4,000 for the whole session. This year's load is quite a bit higher than previous years.

Ms. Sawatzke asked what it will look like once the House starts meeting. Ms. Medina said that there will be a lot of catch up. This also delayed the work of the Senate, as the House could not approve bills. There will likely be more targeted bills and strict priorities to get bills passed.

USDA Update

Dr. Stephan Schaeffbauer, USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge of Minnesota, gave an update on the actions of USDA.

Dr. Schaeffbauer expressed her gratitude to the Board for continued partnership and the opportunity to share updates with the Board of Directors.

The Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA released its impact report, giving a picture of the overall work they do as part of the USDA's overall mission. With a budget of \$3 billion, APHIS operates with nearly 8,500 employees worldwide, protecting the health and value of America's agricultural and natural resources. A few highlights from the report specific to livestock and veterinary services included:

- Monitoring U.S. livestock health, including more than 40,000 samples tested for African Swine Fever (ASF) and conducting 2,008 foreign animal disease investigations.
- Endorsed around 365,000 health certificates to facilitate safe animal and animal product exports.
- Continued emergency programming to address nationwide detections of HPAI.

All factors aim to prevent the spread of animal disease and bolster consumer and trading partner confidence in U.S. animal exports.

Effective Jan. 10, 2025, APHIS has adjusted user fees to align with service costs, improve customer service and support IT systems. This is the first adjustment since 2012. Since APHIS does not receive funding through appropriations for these services, the cost gap must be covered through user fees. The increased fees apply to veterinary diagnostic services, pet travel fees and import/export fees.

There are still vacant positions in the local USDA contingent. Funding is not available at the moment. This does not decrease the need for the positions and the work they conduct.

Dr. Hawkins commented that alerts sent out from USDA APHIS via email and how useful the messages are to learning about diseases around the world.

MDH Update

Dr. Stacy Holzbauer, State Public Health Veterinarian, gave an update from the Minnesota Department of Health on the human health aspects of animal disease and the public health response to H5N1.

Between 2022-2025, people associated with 183 flocks, 9 dairy herds, 1 goat herd and 4 cats have been interviewed, evaluated, and monitored for H5N1 infection after exposure. Around 2,444 exposures have been reported to MDH, including 2,302 poultry exposures, 118 dairy exposures and 24 companion animal exposures. Thirty-four people are currently in monitoring.

As part the response, MDH has distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to dairy and poultry production operations, milk processing plants, and poultry and beef slaughter facilities. Overall, there have been 242 requests for PPE, with around 70% of the requests coming from the dairy industry.

Currently, there have been 67 cases of H5N1 in humans in the U.S., with more than half of the cases being associated with dairy cattle exposures. Three cases have been detected by routine influenza surveillance with no known exposure. One person has died after an extended hospitalization.

MDH is working with local public health partners to promote seasonal influenza vaccines among farm workers in rural areas. Planning is underway should an H5 vaccine be needed. This involves taking lessons learned from the COVID-19 vaccination clinics and reviewing the national stockpile of vaccines.

Tularemia cases have been on the rise. Since the disease can infect over 200 species, including humans, MDH does routine surveillance for the disease. In 2024, there were 27 animal cases, mostly cats, and 5 human cases.

Poultry Update

Dr. Shauna Voss, Interim Assistant Director and head of poultry programs, gave an update on poultry diseases in Minnesota.

Since the start of the HPAI outbreak in 2022, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory has confirmed 184 cases of H5N1 HPAI in 50 counties in Minnesota. Around 8.8 million birds have been depopulated. In the last 30 days, 124 U.S. flocks have been confirmed positive, with almost 23 million birds infected.

USDA has issued a new rule regarding indemnity payments made to infected premises. This includes changes to the requirements to ensure biosecurity protocols are in place to prevent, as much as possible, reinfection of already cleared premises. The new rule conditions payments on proper biosecurity implementation and ensures only compliant premises receive indemnity payments. This incentivizes producers to bolster biosecurity measures to prevent reinfection.

Ms. Sawatzke asked for clarification on the number of premises that have experienced reinfection nationally. Dr. Voss said 67 premises have been reinfected nationally.

Ms. Sawatzke asked what capacity the Board and VDL have to conduct pre-movement testing. Dr. Voss said that Monday through Friday testing is not a problem, but afterhours testing and weekend testing is a different story. Limited technicians can do that work. Dr. Naikare said the capacity is there, but we will have to incorporate things like overtime for some staff. Other NAHLN labs can help if labs become overwhelmed. Dr. Hoefs noted that the testing does not have to be conducted at labs in Minnesota and can be sent to out-of-state labs. Dr. Hawkins asked if pooled sampling will be allowed. Dr. Hoefs said yes, pooled sampling would be done to represent the flock.

Proposed Kennel Legislation

Dr. Steve Kivisto, senior veterinarian in charge of companion animal programs, gave an overview on proposed legislation changing regulations on kennels in the state.

The Board oversees kennels, which are defined as essentially humane societies and animal shelters. There is currently no statute in place that requires oversight of foster-based rescues or municipal pounds. The Board knows of at least 100+ organizations like this in the state, but likely, there are 2-3 times that many. Oversight is needed to ensure the health of the animals overseen by these groups.

Legislation is being brought forward by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association Small Animal Welfare Committee to bring these under the oversight of the Board. This legislation includes changes to some of the current kennel language, replacing the term “kennel” with “shelter,” increasing licensing fees, and adding a section on enrichment for animals. Regulations would apply to the organization, not the individual foster locations, unless the rescue has a facility where animals are kept on a regular basis.

The proposed bill also includes provisions for “adopter’s rights.” The Board recognizes the need for this type of legislation. However, it would put the Board in a position of mediating over a commercial transaction, which is not something in which the Board has expertise. The Board would prefer this to be addressed outside of the proposed kennel legislation. Recommendations include adding language to the Pet Lemon Law, putting this in the hands of the Department of Commerce, or developing a statewide dangerous dog policy protecting all dog owners, not just those who adopted from a shelter or rescue.

The Board would suggest breeders be added to the legislation. Currently, commercial breeders are in a separate statute. Adding breeders to this statute could eliminate some confusion and hold breeders and rescues at the same standards of care.

Mr. Paul Anderson commented that MVMA has drafted the bill, but it does not have an “author” yet. MVMA has a list of concerns from a group of shelters and fosters and a list of concerns from the Board. The Small Animal Welfare Committee plans to address the concerns at an upcoming meeting in efforts to reconcile these with the bill.

Dr. Fox asked how it would impact the Board if a dog needed to be disclosed as dangerous. Dr. Kivisto said that the Board would pull the dog’s license instead of taking someone to court or proposing to seize the animal.

Dr. Fox also asked if including breeders in the same legislation would complicate the passage of the bill, since there is already existing statute regulating breeders. Dr. Kivisto said the likely option would be rulemaking to bring the commercial breeder standards of care in line with the standards proposed for rescues.

Swine Emergency Response Plans

Dr. Erik Jopp, Assistant Director of the Board, gave an update on swine emergency response plans.

Nationally and locally, swine emergency response plans center around African Swine Fever (ASF), Classical Swine Fever, and Foot and Mouth Disease. Minnesota’s plan is based on USDA guidance on emergency response plans. ASF has been found in Dominican Republic, which is not far from the U.S. and the first time it has been in the western hemisphere in decades. The disease is endemic to Africa and is present in Eastern Europe. Minnesota’s responses vary based on the location of the disease, should it continue to spread. The first tier is in North America, the second in the United States and the third in Minnesota.

The U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) is a pilot program modeled on the National Poultry Improvement Plan, which has been in place for decades. US SHIP aims to improve the health and health monitoring of swine throughout the United States. Thirty-six states are participating with nearly 2/3 of the total U.S. swine population enrolled. Minnesota has 56 farms/companies enrolled, with 44 being certified. This accounts for 5.33 million pigs. The lack of supplying electronic movement documentation accounts for the 12 farms that are not certified; they otherwise meet the qualifications.

Ms. Sawatzke asked about electronic movement needs for certification. Dr. Jopp said a 30-day movement record needs to be electronically supplied, but some of the smaller organizations do not have the infrastructure or capability to provide the lists. Dr. Hoefs said the goal is to illustrate the ability to provide the records in the event of a disease response.

Dr. Hawkins asked who would be responsible in the event of an ASF outbreak and how a response would be structured. Dr. Jopp said we are confident and will continue to build capacity to be able to spread information as soon as possible in the event of an outbreak. Dr. Hoefs said the Board has good internal protocols established to begin a response should the need appear. The swine industry has been very involved in developing these plans.

Dr. Naikare asked what percentage of pigs in Minnesota are not involved in the US SHIP program. Dr. Jopp said the numbers get a little vague, but the enrolled pigs are somewhere around 70% of Minnesota’s pig population.

Mr. Schafer commented that Minnesota is very well represented in the US SHIP community. The House of Delegates meeting will be held in Minnesota again this September in Bloomington.

Rulemaking Process

Mr. Andrew Gladitsch, Board Staff Attorney, gave an overview of the rulemaking process.

Administrative rules are regulations that support statutes with technical or logistical details. Rules are considered valid in court and are governed in their creation by Minnesota state law. Agencies and boards must be granted the authority by the legislature to conduct the rulemaking process, which involves public hearings and independent review by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).

In an abbreviated form, the process is as follows: The governor's office conducts a preliminary review of the proposed rule, a request for comment is published in the state register. Next, the proposed rule is drafted, and a statement of need and reasonableness is completed. The governor's office gives a second review for approval, and a notice of intent to adopt the rule is published. Rules can be adopted with or without a hearing, depending on the specific instance. At this point, the OAH conducts a review of the proposed rule. The governor's office is given a final review. Then, the OAH is given an order to adopt the rule, and they file the proposed rule with the Secretary of State's office. There is a period of time for the governor to veto the rule. Finally, a notice to adopt the rule is published in the State Register.

Dr. Hawkins said the rules that were being applied to the cervids a few years ago were approached by looking at the rules line by line and seeing if the new legislation applied. If, for example, the authority for overseeing WTD is moved back to the Board, would we have to go through all the rules that way? Mr. Gladitsch said if the authority were moved back to the Board there wouldn't be a requirement to do rulemaking, but it certainly would be recommended. Dr. Hawkins asked if the Board of Directors would have a role before the staff brought the language prepared for approvals. Mr. Gladitsch said it could go either way, but likely staff would bring it to the Board of Directors.

H5N1 Update and Response to Positives

Dr. Katie Cornille, Senior Veterinarian in charge of cattle and traceability, gave an update on H5N1 in dairy cattle and the response to positive herds in Minnesota.

H5N1 in livestock appeared in the U.S. in late February and early March of 2024. Spread was likely due to wild birds introducing the disease to the herds. Epidemiological investigations have suggested that it subsequently spread interstate through cattle movements.

In Minnesota, the first case appeared June 4, 2024, with the last case appearing July 17, 2024. In that time, 9 dairy herds tested positive for the virus. The last quarantine was released September 20, 2024. Nationally, 950 cases have been confirmed by testing across 16 states. In the last 30 days, there have been 35 cases, all in California. The federal order issued April 2024, still in effect, requires pre-movement testing of lactating dairy cattle for the disease. Minnesota has enacted a rule requiring testing before exhibition, which extends through March 31, 2025 (unless it is extended or rescinded).

When issuing a quarantine, premises are first contacted by the Board with testing results and then by a case manager with verbal quarantine instructions. The case manager will administer a site visit to deliver quarantine documents and review requirements with the quarantined location. All livestock, poultry, cats, manure, waste milk and any mortalities cannot leave the premises without a permit from the Board. Milk can be sold for pasteurization, as usual. No livestock or poultry can move onto the farm without a movement permit. The farm must have milk management, biosecurity and manure plans in place as well. Quarantines can be lifted after 30 days if three consecutive negative tests from the bulk tank milk can be obtained. The tests must be 7 days apart, and the final testing includes all cows, regardless of whether their milk is being sold.

The quarantine durations varied from 47 days to 98 days, with an average 68 days. The goal in any future cases is to get the quarantine times down as close to the minimum as possible, at least partly by implementing strong biosecurity practices.

Ms. Myah Walker asked about what is causing the longer quarantine periods. Dr. Cornille said longer quarantines were probably due to having to restart the serial testing or the lack of biosecurity. Dr. Hoefs added that one of the premises had continued infection or reinfection that extended the process.

Board Bylaws Discussion

Dr. Peggy-Anne Hawkins, Vice President of the Board, opened discussion and gave background on a possible update to the Board of Directors operating bylaws.

Dr. Hawkins, Dr. Fox and Mr. Gladitsch worked to add content and streamline the current bylaws to aid new members of the Board of Directors in getting up to speed with the work of the Board and to inform all board members of their responsibilities as members of the Board.

Ms. Sawatzke asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Neil moved to approve the new bylaws. Mr. Stade seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schafer then suggested the Board of Directors issue a statement or document recognizing the need to address the risks that animal agriculture faces from animal diseases and encourage action on planning for outbreaks like HPAI. Mr. Schafer noted the Board's responsibility to be prepared for such an eventuality to support national response efforts of groups like the USDA.

Dr. Hoefs said he consulted with Ms. Medina and suggested a document or statement from the Board of Directors. Dr. Hoefs also suggested working with MDH on a statement, as zoonotic disease is a serious consideration, and a disease like HPAI could be a human health concern in the future. Dr. Holzbauer said the need for collaboration on animal diseases and the possible impact to future human health is essential to be successful.

The Board of Directors directed Dr. Hoefs to create a plan of action outlining the needs for continued preparedness work.

Next Meeting

The third quarterly meeting of the Board will be held Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, at a location to be determined.

Ms. Sawatzke asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Fox made the motion, and Dr. Hawkins seconded it. Ms. Sawatzke called for a vote, and members voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Hoefs
Executive Director
State Veterinarian