

## Meeting Minutes: Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: April 15, 2020

Location: Teleconference via Microsoft Teams

### Attendance

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#### Board Members

- Dean Compart
- Graham Brayshaw
- Erica Sawatzke
- Jim Vagts
- Matt Anderson

#### Consultants to the Board

- Mary Donahue, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA – VS)
- Laura Molgaard, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- Stephan Schaeffbauer, USDA – VS
- Joni Scheftel, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Jerry Torrison, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

#### Guests

- Michelle Carstensen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Barb Keller, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Greg Moulton, USDA – VS
- Kelly Neisen, USDA - VS
- Mackenzie Reberg, USDA – VS
- Bennett Smith, Research Consultant, Minnesota House of Representatives
- John Zanmiller, Bluffland Whitetails Association

#### Staff

- Beth Thompson
- Linda Glaser
- Dale Lauer
- Shauna Voss
- Greg Suskovic
- Courtney Wheeler
- Stacey Schwabenlander
- Brian Hoefs
- Morgan Grelson
- Michael Crusan
- Annie Balghiti
- Michael Herrmann
- Erin Crider

## **New Board Member and Resolution to hold meeting remotely**

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Dean Compart called the meeting to order and asked for board member introductions, during which the new board member, Jim Vagts introduced himself. Mr. Vagts is a fourth-generation farmer from Fillmore County. He has experience in hog, beef cattle and sheep operations, as well as manure management.

Mr. Compart then read from the “Certificate of the Board of Animal Health; Resolution to hold Meeting Electronically:”

“It is RESOLVED that this quarterly Board Meeting shall be conducted electronically, in a manner in which all Board members can hear one another and hear all discussion and testimony. All votes shall be conducted by roll call. Members of the public may monitor this meeting remotely by the teleconference line that is noticed on the Board of Animal Health website.”

Mr. Compart made the motion to approve this resolution. Dr. Graham Brayshaw seconded it. There was no discussion, and Mr. Compart asked board members to vote by roll call. All members voted yea, and the resolution passed.

## **Approval of January 15, 2020 Minutes and April 15, 2020 Agenda**

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Mr. Compart asked if there were any changes or corrections to the draft minutes from the January 15, 2020 board meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Matt Anderson made the motion; Dr. Brayshaw seconded. Mr. Compart asked for a vote by roll call, with all members voting yea.

Mr. Compart asked if there were any changes or corrections to the agenda for today’s meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Erica Sawatzke made the motion, and Jim Vagts seconded. Mr. Compart took a vote by roll call, and all voted yea to approve the agenda.

## **Board of Animal Health Update**

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Dr. Beth Thompson said the COVID-19 pandemic has affected how the Board does its work. The Board’s work was deemed essential, and staff are performing their duties as best they can. All staff began working from home three to four weeks ago, and field staff began modifying how they perform program work, implementing social distancing, refraining from going out if they feel sick or visiting farms if farmers are sick. Staff continue to discuss the judicious use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The Board’s work sometimes requires the use of gloves and masks, but staff are conscious of the human health needs and are being conservative with PPE usage.

Dr. Thompson is thankful for the coordination and communication of state agencies (Department of Employment and Economic Development, Department of Administration) to keep state business running smoothly. She also noted that several state legislators have agricultural professions, which strengthens the state’s leadership in decision making. The offices of U.S. Senators Klobuchar and Smith, as well as U.S. Representatives Jim Hagedorn, Angie Craig, and Collin Peterson have contacted Dr. Thompson, asking questions and inquiring about the Board’s needs and the state’s status. The Board also is thankful for its ongoing relationship with the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), all of which provide consultants to the Board. Dr. Thompson thanked Dr. Joni Scheftel for her understanding of veterinary medicine and agriculture in keeping veterinary staff safe.

The Board is working closely with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), which stood up its Incident Management Team (IMT) two weeks ago to gather equipment and supplies to use for carcass disposal during the COVID-19 pandemic. The IMT is meant to serve as a clearinghouse for equipment.

Dr. Thompson continues to focus on other national animal health priorities with participation in weekly calls with national organizations, including the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPREP), the National TB Working Group, and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO) African Swine Fever Working Group.

Dr. Thompson clarified the difference between the Board's response to foreign animal diseases (FADs) and their response to other animal diseases. She explained that FADs, like African Swine Fever (ASF) or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), are not diseases we have in the U.S. Any case of a FAD in the U.S. would result in a national disease response, and trading partners would likely cease trade with the U.S. Other diseases, like chronic wasting disease (CWD), are established in the U.S. If the U.S. treated CWD cases as FADs, state and national disease response resources would be depleted very quickly.

Dr. Thompson thanked Communications Director Michael Crusan for his hard work in preparing and publishing the Board's COVID-19 fact sheets. She also thanked Business Manager Morgan Grelson for his efforts in communicating with other agencies and assisting employees in their transition to full time telework.

## USDA Update

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Dr. Stephan Schaeffbauer stated all USDA staff are teleworking full time. The USDA field staff are still working closely with Board field staff to balance safety with essential service.

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Swine 2020 Study was scheduled to begin in June, but the timeline is currently uncertain. The National Agricultural Statistics Service, the agency that will perform the first survey, is working on contingency plans for the logistics and timeline. Coordinators for this study are Dr. Mary Donahue and Dr. Mackenzie Reberg.

The NAHMS Feedlot 2020 Study plans to describe health management practices, estimate the prevalence of important feedlot cattle diseases, antimicrobial use and stewardship, and trends in feedlot cattle management practices. The study isn't scheduled to start until September. Minnesota will be involved in both the large and small components of this study. Coordinators are Dr. Donahue and Dr. Kent Hicks.

As previously mentioned, Dr. Thompson is on the NADPREP, an 18-member board including state animal health officials nominated by United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). NADPREP members are also from academia, industry, tribal members and USDA Agricultural Research Service. The funding opportunity will go out in May, with a 60-day open period. The USDA hopes to offer \$5 million in funding distribution.

Dr. Schaeffbauer announced that Dr. Jenna Fier was hired as a Veterinary Medical Officer in the Southwest District. She previously spent six years with Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). They have also made a tentative offer to fill the vacant Central District VMO position, which is now continuing through the hiring process.

# CWD Herd Update/Farmed Cervidae Rulemaking

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## CWD Herd Update

Dr. Linda Glaser said Minnesota has 295 registered farmed Cervidae herds with approximately 8,771 animals distributed over 70 counties. At the April 2019 meeting, she reported the state had 383 farmed Cervidae herds, showing a significant drop in Minnesota farmed herds. Program staff have determined herd usages to assess the appropriate fees. White tailed deer remain the predominant species in herds, followed by elk.

The Board updated its endemic areas since the January meeting. [Minnesota State Statute 1721.0420 Subp. 3](#) requires the Board to identify an endemic area surrounding any CWD finding in the wild deer population. The Board established a new endemic area, which is a 15-mile radius around a CWD-positive deer found in Dakota County in March. There are six farmed cervid herds in the endemic area, with four herds under restricted movements. The other two herds have exclusionary fencing to prevent the comingling of wild and farmed deer.

Dr. Glaser then gave an update on the investigation spurred by the CWD-positive doe killed in Douglas County in late November. Following the Board's routine investigative procedures for a CWD suspect animal, staff looked into herd records, including where all animals had been in the last five years. This resulted in the quarantine and investigation of five herds in five different counties by December 9, 2019.

The Douglas County herd was established in February 2019, which made it unlikely to be the source of the CWD infection. The positive doe came from a herd in Pine County, where a three and a half-year-old doe was sick and died in early December and was tested and confirmed CWD positive on January 10, 2020. The Board quarantined one traceback herd that day.

The Board completed a review and verification of all quarantined herd's histories and records, as well as met with each producer to verify adequate fencing and complete the USDA's epidemiological questionnaire. The questionnaire is meant to help identify risk factors for CWD exposure, identify the method of exposure if possible, and the time of exposure. These meetings were led by Dr. Donahue and include a Board field staff member, and a DNR staff member.

Results of the investigation conclude the Douglas County doe was infected in Pine County, and the most likely source of exposure and infection was the Pine County herd. The Pine County herd was approved for USDA indemnity in January, and the herd was depopulated that month. Of the eight animals harvested, four tested positive, and four were CWD not detected. Once indemnity was accepted, the herd owner entered into a herd plan agreement with the Board and USDA, which requires them to follow established regulations. Their cleaning and disinfection (C&D) inspection is scheduled for April 17, and they are required to have quarterly fencing inspections for five years from the final C&D inspection date.

The Board could not identify a specific exposure for the Pine County herd. The investigation showed none of the herd owners imported animals from out of state. They did not import carcasses from other states or dispose of them on their property. None of them had taxidermy practices.

The Pine County herd had moved animals to two additional herds, one each in Wadena and Chisago Counties. The USDA appraised the CWD-exposed animals in each herd, and indemnity was offered in late February.

- The Wadena County herd owner accepted the indemnity for the three exposed animals. Two of the animals were harvested on March 4; the other exposed animal could not be found. The herd owner decided to harvest the remaining two animals in his herd, and no CWD was detected in any of the four. Once the snow melted, skeletal remains and an intact ear tag were found in the pen. There was no tissue to test, and it is unknown if

this animal had CWD. As of this meeting, the herd remains quarantined and will have to enter into a herd plan with the Board to maintain fencing.

- The Chisago County herd owner has declined the USDA indemnity offer for one CWD-exposed buck. This herd, which consists of three deer, remains under quarantine for five years from exposure.

The Board's investigation also traced deer to four other herds, one each in Kandiyohi, Clearwater, Pine and Chisago Counties:

- A CWD-infected doe at the Pine County farm came from the Kandiyohi County farm at one day old. The Board determined this herd was not a source of CWD, and the quarantine was released.
- The Clearwater County herd had received a fawn from the Douglas County herd in late 2019. The fawn was harvested and tested, and CWD was not detected. The quarantine on the Clearwater herd was released.
- Two herds, one in Pine County and one in Chisago County, had previously provided animals to the Douglas and Pine County herds and had been closed prior to the investigation. No animals remain on these sites.

As a result of the investigation and depopulation, 14 total animals were harvested. Four were found to have CWD, and no CWD was detected in 10 animals.

John Zanmiller said one of the cervid farms adjacent to the location of the CWD-positive wild deer found in Dakota County has a large cat. He asked if the Board was concerned about the health of the cat or any other species housed on cervid farms. Dr. Glaser said the Board is concerned with protecting farmed deer from CWD exposure from the wild population, which is why the Board placed movement restrictions on the herd until it could construct double fencing.

Mr. Zanmiller asked what would happen with the CWD-exposed animal in Chisago County. Dr. Glaser stated clinical signs may not be evident for up to five years after exposure. This animal was exposed to CWD in 2017 and is not showing clinical signs; it needs to be watched for another two and a half years. During that time, the animal and its products cannot be moved, and it can't be used for breeding. If after that time, it still appears healthy, the Board will lift the quarantine. Both the Wadena and Chisago County herds will have to enter into herd plans to not move products.

Mr. Vagts asked what the Board plans to do to complete the Douglas/Pine County investigation. Dr. Glaser stated the Board and USDA will be writing a final report including all epidemiological findings, possible means of exposure, and other information found. Based on test results, the Board believes the initial exposure happened in late 2017 or 2018, but they could not identify a specific source of infection. This also has been the case in other CWD investigations.

Mr. Vagts asked about the status levels of the infected herd. Dr. Glaser explained that all herds in Minnesota have a CWD status level based on years of surveillance. The Pine County herd was a Level Six herd, which is the highest level in the state program. However, they were not allowed interstate movements because they did not meet all the federal requirements. Even though the Douglas County herd was new and small, they had received animals from the Level Six Pine County herd, so they received a Level Six status.

Dr. Michelle Carstensen said the DNR investigated whether the carcass found on the Wadena County farm was the missing CWD-exposed animal but were unable to make the conclusion that it was indeed the missing animal. She asked if the Board believed that it was the missing animal. Dr. Glaser stated the tag found was intact, meaning it was not broken, evidence that perhaps the ear had decomposed around the tag or was ripped out without breaking it. The Board has no tissue to test for CWD, so it is unlikely the Board will be able to tell if that animal is the missing one. She noted the DNR had collected additional tissues, and may be able to test samples collected from the skeletal remains and two members of the herd to test for genetic relatedness. The missing doe is the mother of two animals in the herd.

## Farmed Cervidae Rulemaking

Dr. Glaser said the state statutes regarding the Farmed Cervidae Program were amended effective July 1, 2019. The Board intends to review and update its rules to align with the new legislative changes. She said the Board is bringing the resolution for rule changes forward today because there is an 18-month timeline from the time the statute changes went into effect to publish a Notice of Hearing on any proposed rule changes. She invited Annie Balghiti to explain the resolution regarding proposed amendments to rules governing Farmed Cervidae, which was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Balghiti said authorizing the resolution would allow the Board members to approve the proposed rulemaking, will authorize the Executive Director of the Board to sign and publish the Request for Comments on the proposed amendments, give notice of a public hearing on the intent to adopt the rules with a hearing, act as the Board's representative at any hearing, and sign the order to adopt the rules if there are no modifications. She asked the Board members to review, vote on, and sign the resolution, if approved.

Mr. Compart asked for a motion to vote on the resolution. Dr. Brayshaw made a motion to approve the resolution, and Ms. Sawatzke seconded. All Board members voted by roll call, and all voted yea, passing the resolution.

Mr. Zanmiller asked if the Board had plans to request new legislation to reflect the recommendations from the 2018 program audit performed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). Dr. Thompson said the Board has not put anything forward for the legislature. She welcomed anyone with ideas or concerns to contact Peder Kjeseth or herself. She also recommended discussing the OLA recommendations and the changes the Board has implemented at the September Board Meeting. Mr. Compart asked to have this added to the September agenda.

## HPAI Update

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Dr. Dale Lauer provided a brief introduction to the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory (MPTL) and the differences between highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). He said HPAI H5N8 has been circulating in commercial and backyard poultry flocks in several European countries. Unfortunately, many flocks are housed in close proximity, resulting in higher rates of infection and mortality, especially in Romania and Bulgaria. Countries in Europe used immediate depopulation in these cases. H5N8 also appeared in Saudi Arabia and South Africa, as well as other strains of HPAI H5 infection in China, Vietnam, India and Taiwan.

Dr. Lauer reviewed the statistics and the impact of the 2014-2015 HPAI H5N2 outbreak in Minnesota and other states. He then discussed the H5/H7 LPAI Initial State Response and Containment Plan, also known as the Minnesota Plan, which provides procedures and guidance for producers, the Board, and USDA personnel during an LPAI outbreak. Recent updates to the Minnesota Plan include specific sample collection guidelines for producers when a flock is suspected with avian influenza. Dr. Shauna Voss is working with Authorized Poultry Testing Agents (APTAs) to make sure they know and follow appropriate sample collection protocols. The Board is also preparing documents to inform producers and provide direction for proper sample collection and submission.

During the current COVID-19 Stay-at-Home order, the MPTL has adjusted its testing schedule to be judicious with resources. Most tests are now performed once a week on a designated day. Any samples collected from a flock with suggestive AI clinical signs are tested the day submitted.

The Board also plans to have depopulation equipment and staff trained in poultry depopulation activities. The Board is working with West Central Environmental Consultants (WCEC) in Morris, MN who maintain and operate the equipment. WCEC stated they have three KIFCO foamer units, four portable foamer units (also known as "North

Carolina” units), 90 55-gallon drums of foam which has a shelf life up to 20 years, and other supplies necessary for depopulation.

The Board continues to make progress on National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Biosecurity Plan Audits. Drs. Lauer and Voss, along with field staff, are working with poultry organizations and producers to make sure producers have a written biosecurity plan in place. The goal of the auditing process and a producer’s biosecurity plan is to improve and document overall farm biosecurity, ensure that it is followed every day and that workers are trained in their company’s biosecurity plan practices. The Board has worked to improve the biosecurity plan audit process with an audit guidelines document for producers that follows the NPIP Biosecurity Principles. The Board wants to be sure all producers in the state have a biosecurity plan that is rated satisfactory in order to be eligible for USDA indemnity and compensation payments in the event of an HPAI introduction.

Mr. Compart asked if neighboring states with a poultry industry have a relationship with a company like WCEC. Dr. Lauer was unsure, but every state’s plans are different. In Minnesota, some companies have already purchased their own depopulation equipment in case the state cannot respond quickly enough. Companies in other states may plan that way, may rely on state staff to operate the equipment, or plan to get equipment from the National Veterinary Stockpile. He offered to research this topic and provide an answer after the meeting.

Dr. Lauer stated the USDA announced on Thursday, April 9, 2020 that HPAI H7N3 was confirmed in a commercial turkey flock (12-week-old toms) in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. In early March, LPAI H7N3 was identified in turkeys in two North Carolina counties at 11 sites and at one site in Chesterfield County. The LPAI-infected commercial turkey flocks did not display any clinical signs; a turkey breeder flock noticed a drop in egg production. According to the USDA, the HPAI H7N3 strain mutated from the LPAI H7N3 previously identified in North and South Carolina. The HPAI H7N3 Chesterfield flock noticed increasing mortality three days prior to tests confirming the HPAI diagnosis. The turkeys on the farm were depopulated within 24 hours and buried on site. The epidemiological investigation indicated the site had a link to the LPAI-infected farm in South Carolina.

Dr. Matt Anderson asked about the status of the state-federal partnership for AI events. Dr. Lauer said Minnesota learned much from the 2015 HPAI event. In such a situation, the Board will stand up the Incident Management Team (IMT) as part of the State’s initial response and have it operational as quickly as possible. The state is well prepared to handle LPAI events, and federal staff would step in during an HPAI event when state resources are exhausted.

## COVID-19 Update

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Dr. Joni Scheffel prefaced her presentation by saying the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, so the numbers she prepared for this presentation are already out of date. She said COVID-19 is a brand-new virus that is different from other diseases we see every day. It is a respiratory illness in which patients may present severe or mild symptoms, or may be asymptomatic. The incubation period appears to be between two to seven days.

The virus spreads from person-to-person through droplets from coughs, sneezes or talking. A person could get it from touching a surface, but that appears to be a minor source of infection. The best way to prevent spread is by social distancing

What is known about COVID-19 is that about 80 percent of cases are mild, meaning patients do not have pneumonia or mild pneumonia. Fourteen percent of cases are hospitalized with difficulty breathing, and five percent of patients are admitted to the ICU. COVID-19 has a 2.3 percent mortality rate. Those who are older and with chronic health problems, such as heart or lung disease and diabetes, and healthcare workers are at a higher risk for severe illness.

The state's first positive case was confirmed on March 6, but the virus was likely circulating in the state before that. As of April 14, 2020, about 40,000 people have been tested in Minnesota, 1,695 have tested positive, 79 have died, 405 have required hospitalization, and 75 are currently in ICU.

When comparing the ages of COVID-19 confirmed cases, those 20-44 years old have the most cases. As cases become more directed to the hospitalized, the percent of cases in this age group is decreasing. The median age of positive cases is 52 years; for non-hospitalized cases: 45; for hospitalized cases: 65. for those who have died: 87.

COVID-19 most likely originated in an animal in China, but animals do not appear to play a role in transmission. Livestock and dogs are resistant to it. Cats and ferrets are susceptible to it, as proven by the April 6 positive case of a Bronx Zoo tiger.

Dr. Scheftel stated transmission of COVID-19 to pets is not surprising, as owners are in close, regular contact with them. If people are feeling sick, they should avoid contact with their pets. The state is not recommending routine testing of animals. Such testing would require approval from both the State Veterinarian and the State Public Health Veterinarian, as testing resources for people are very limited. Animals are not a source of infection for people, and infected animals do not need to be quarantined.

The MDH Zoonotic Diseases Unit is assisting with health care worker monitoring. Dr. Scheftel said they are also working the Board and MDA to help producers, processors, other agricultural workers, food animal veterinarians and veterinary personnel to protect themselves and others from illness. They are also assisting with guidance for recycling and composting facilities to keep workers healthy. The risk comes from coworkers; not from any of the materials coming into the facilities.

## College of Veterinary Medicine Update

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Dr. Laura Molgaard stated the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is working to respond to COVID-19 on many fronts. They are maintaining contact with national and state veterinary groups, as well as the other University college deans, the Provost, President Gabel, and the Chief Public Health Officer. The CVM Administrative Council has daily discussions, and they send out weekly emails with updates and news for the CVM community.

The CVM had most of its staff teleworking by March 18. Research laboratory work unrelated to COVID-19 has been halted, and classes are now being taught online. The only exception to telework is employees who cannot physically perform their work from home, which includes essential staff at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and the Veterinary Medical Center.

The CVM is leading the University's COVID Action Network (U-CAN), involving faculty and external partners, to help meet the COVID-19 response and recovery needs of the University, the state and country.

The University has paused the search for any leadership positions, including the new Dean for the CVM. Dr. Molgaard has agreed to serve in the interim for another year.

The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) has reduced its operations to emergency and urgent care services only. This has resulted in many changes to protect the health of employees and clients. The VMC has an area for patient drop-off in the parking lot to limit exposures. Dr. Molgaard stated with these changes, the VMC is expected to experience significant budgetary impacts, which could reach losses of \$2 to \$2.5 million per month.

Clinical rotations for the Class of 2020 have been suspended. The CVM has worked to make modifications to the students' required activities so they can complete them on time for graduation. The CVM also is planning for changes to the curriculum and rotations for the Class of 2021.

Commencement will be held as a virtual event. All continuing education classes and other in-person meetings and events through July 31 have been cancelled, postponed or moved to an online format.

## **Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update**

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Dr. Jerry Torrison began with a brief overview of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and who they serve. He then provided information on the USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) African Swine Fever (ASF) surveillance pilot program. The VDL pulls samples from animals submitted for necropsy and FSIS submissions from pork plants. This program allows the VDL to test these samples for ASF and Classical Swine Fever. On average, the VDL receives around 40 submissions per week.

Dr. Torrison said the VDL was involved in testing for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), which is a coronavirus. In the 2013 PEDv outbreak, the VDL increased their testing capability to meet the need. The VDL still performs PEDv testing today.

The VDL developed a PCR COVID-19 test for animals last week. Due to testing shortages for humans, the VDL is not offering the test at this time, though they have notified the Board it is available if needed.

The VDL has made operational adjustments due to COVID-19. Most staff at both the VDL and MPTL are teleworking. One administrative staff person comes to the VDL daily to check and scan files for remote entry. Some testing is being offered less frequently or is suspended. The University implemented a hiring freeze for all but essential workers. The VDL has staggered start dates for new employees to reduce contact time during training.

Before the COVID-19 situation began, the VDL had in a legislative funding request for equipment to automate testing procedures. That request is still active, and the VDL is using COVID-19 situation to help legislators understand the need for streamlining testing capabilities.

## **Appointment of Board Leadership**

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Mr. Compart opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board. Dr. Brayshaw nominated Mr. Compart. Ms. Sawatzke seconded it. Mr. Compart asked for more nominations. Hearing none, he opened the nomination to discussion. He then called for a vote by roll call to elect Mr. Compart as president. Dr. Anderson, Dr. Brayshaw, Ms. Sawatzke, and Mr. Vagts all voted yea; Mr. Compart abstained. Mr. Compart accepted the position of President of the Board.

Mr. Compart asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Ms. Sawatzke nominated Dr. Anderson, and Dr. Brayshaw seconded the nomination. Mr. Compart asked for other nominations. Hearing none, he asked for each Board member to vote by roll call to elect Dr. Anderson as Vice President. Dr. Anderson abstained; Dr. Brayshaw, Ms. Sawatzke, Mr. Compart and Mr. Vagts all voted yea. Dr. Anderson accepted the position of Vice President.

Mr. Compart then called for a break before moving into a closed session.

## Closed Session: Evaluation and Appointment of Executive Director of the Board

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Board members met in a closed session with Morgan Grelson to evaluate the performance of Dr. Beth Thompson, the executive director of the Board of Animal Health, and to discuss the appointment of the executive director for the coming fiscal year, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. After discussion took place, a motion was made by Erica Sawatzke to appoint Dr. Beth Thompson as the executive director. Dr. Matt Anderson seconded the motion. Discussion took place. A vote was taken by roll call to approve the appointment of Dr. Thompson as executive director for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. All voted yea in favor of Dr. Thompson's appointment.

Dr. Graham Brayshaw made a motion to award Dr. Thompson an achievement award in the amount of \$2,000. Dr. Matt Anderson seconded the motion. Discussion took place. A vote was taken by roll call to approve the achievement award for Dr. Thompson. All voted yea in favor of awarding the \$2,000 achievement award to Dr. Thompson.

Mr. Compart adjourned the meeting.

## Next Quarterly Board Meeting

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The next Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Animal Health will be held:

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Starting at 9:30 a.m.

Location to be determined

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth S. Thompson  
Executive Director  
State Veterinarian