

## Meeting Minutes: Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: April 24, 2019  
Location: New Sweden Dairy, 43475 County Road 15, Nicollet, Minnesota 56074

### Attendance

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#### BOARD MEMBERS

- Dean Compart, Producer
- Matt Anderson, Veterinarian
- Graham Brayshaw, Veterinarian
- Peter Ripka, Producer
- Erica Sawatzke, Producer

#### CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD

- Trevor Ames, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- Stacy Holzbauer, Minnesota Department of Health
- Stephan Schaeffbauer, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Veterinary Services
- Jerry Torrison, University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

#### GUESTS

- Nathan Blumenfeld, Veterinary Student
- James Byrne, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Jenna Davis, Minnesota Milk Producers Association and Midwest Dairy
- Jeff Erickson, Michael Foods
- Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Greg Lubinski, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Jill Nezworski Blue House Veterinary LLC
- David Preisler, Minnesota Pork Producers Association
- Melissa Uchytel, Crow River Whitetails
- Steve Uchytel, Crow River Whitetails
- Steve Olson, Minnesota Turkey Growers and Chicken and Egg Association of Minnesota

#### STAFF

- Beth Thompson
- Linda Glaser
- Dale Lauer
- Shauna Voss
- Greg Suskovic
- Stacey Schwabenlander
- Courtney Wheeler
- Mackenzie Reberg
- Michael Crusan
- Annie Balghiti
- Morgan Grelson
- Kayla Pierson
- Erin Crider

## Approval of March 27, 2019 Minutes and April 24, 2019 Agenda

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Dean Compart asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the March 27, 2019, meeting. Graham Brayshaw made a motion, and Peter Ripka seconded. A vote was taken, with all present voting aye.

Mr. Compart stated the Board would be moving their recess from the morning break to lunchtime. He then asked for other changes. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve the amended agenda. Peter Ripka made the motion, Matt Anderson seconded, and all present voted aye.

## Board of Animal Health Update

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Beth Thompson recognized individual Board staff members for their efforts in disease response and ongoing program activities. Their experience and talents are valuable assets to the Board's work.

Dr. Thompson stated that all Board veterinarians are members of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). This year, both Linda Glaser and Dale Lauer were recognized for their years of service as committee chairs. Dr. Glaser served as the chair of the USAHA Committee on Interstate and International Commerce, and Dr. Lauer completed his five-year term as chair of the USAHA Committee on Poultry and Other Avian Species. Dr. Thompson has served as chair of the TB Subcommittee and is now Vice Chair of the Cattle Committee. She stated that all Board veterinarians are encouraged to participate in USAHA activities.

The USAHA North Central District Meeting will be held in Iowa May 13-15. Minnesota will host this meeting next year. Dr. Thompson also stated she has made a bid to host the 2022 USAHA Annual Meeting in Minnesota. This meeting would be important in showcasing the state's work in animal health and partnerships with industry commodity groups. Dr. Thompson will work on this after the legislative session ends.

## USDA Update

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Stephan Schaeftbauer said that the Minnesota Veterinary Services (VS) Division still has five open field positions. Nationally, APHIS is 300 positions below their hiring cap, but the Human Resources staff cannot keep up with the demand for filling positions. As a result, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Administrator has declared a hiring emergency to bring in more staff to help speed the hiring process to fill all positions by the end of September. Dr. Schaeftbauer stated two of the open Minnesota positions recently have moved forward in the process.

USDA staff continue to assist with efforts to control virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) in California. Three Minnesota VS staff members are currently deployed to California. Dr. Schaeftbauer said she has talked with Dr. Thompson and Board program directors to make sure needs are met for any potential disease response activities in Minnesota.

The CWD-positive Crow Wing County farmed cervid herd was purchased with indemnity funds last week. The depopulation began on April 16 and involved seven wildlife sharpshooters and 15 Board and USDA field staff to move animals, record official identification, load carcasses, collect samples for CWD testing, and discuss cleaning and disinfection protocols with the producer. Sample collection and carcass disposal were completed at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on April 18. Eighty-two animals were dispatched and 91 were sampled.

## College of Veterinary Medicine Update

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Trevor Ames welcomed everyone to New Sweden Dairy and the John Fetrow Dairy Education Center (DEC), a public/private partnership between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Davis Family Dairy. The DEC, opened in 2009, gives students the opportunity to have classroom instruction and "real life" veterinary experiences in a working dairy. Almost 2,000 veterinarians and dairy professionals have come to the DEC for Continuing Education courses, and 9,000 have visited the facility for tours. In 2011, the USDA designated the DEC as a National Center of Excellence for Dairy Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Ames announced he is stepping down as dean of the college on August 5. He will transition to another position at the University in preparation for retirement. This is being announced to the college via email today.

## **Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Update**

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Jerry Torrison reported the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) is now able to test biofilm drinker swab samples for avian influenza. The VDL went through the required National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) validation process to get an approved deviation to test these samples. The VDL must go through this process for any sample type that is considered unofficial or not an approved sample type for testing at a NAHLN laboratory.

The legislature has not decided on funding for the development of a new CWD test prototype. The VDL continues to advocate for the funding.

Dr. Torrison requested support for the VDL funding increase included in the university's overall funding request. Dean Compart asked if commodity groups are showing strong support for VDL funding. Dave Preisler said they are talking with legislators about supporting the VDL, and the legislature must decide on the funding amount and if the funds would come from the agriculture or higher education budget. Dr. Torrison mentioned that the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) also has been supportive in discussing this issue with legislators.

## **Farmed Cervidae Program Update**

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Linda Glaser stated the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) fall and winter CWD surveillance ended on March 31. As of the March 27 meeting, some CWD test results were still pending. All the results are back, and two more deer were found to be CWD positive. One was near Preston, where most positive cases have been found, and the other was in Winona County, very close to the other positive cases in that area. These cases will not affect the boundaries of the Board's endemic area in Southeastern Minnesota.

Dr. Glaser said the plans for the depopulation in Crow Wing County came together quickly once federal indemnity funds became available, and everything went well. The Board continues to answer questions from legislators and the media.

Matt Anderson asked about plans for the farm's land. Dr. Glaser said the herd owner had to agree to a herd plan to receive indemnity. Board rules state fences need to stay intact for five years. All organic material must be removed from the enclosures, and all equipment must be cleaned and disinfected inside the enclosures. The herd owner is required to immediately report any wild deer that get inside the fences. The Board will be inspecting the fences and monitoring the premises for the next five years.

Dean Compart asked how the samples were tested. Dr. Glaser said they were collected at the VDL and were sent to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa.

The USDA will be doing a consistent state review of the Board's CWD program. The review is scheduled tentatively for the week of June 24 and will last about a week. Federal staff will be working with Board staff to go through the program and regulations and may go out to see a few farmed cervid herds.

Dr. Glaser stated that the Farmed Cervidae Advisory Task Force has almost completed their objectives and are working on their final report, to be presented at the next board meeting. The group was charged with developing exclusionary fencing guidelines and recommending needed regulatory changes to make the farmed cervid business viable in Minnesota.

## **African Swine Fever Update**

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Gordon Spronk of Pipestone shared information on their experience with African Swine Fever (ASF) at Riverstone, their Chinese facility in Shandong Province. In October 2018, one of their contract grower sites was infected with ASF.

They put strong biosecurity measures in place and requested assistance from the Chinese government. However, the government's policy of collecting ASF-positive dead pigs made controlling the virus difficult.

Riverstone's first sow farm became infected with ASF on February 5, 2019, and soon, nearby finisher farms also contracted ASF, making 50 percent of their production ASF positive. On February 19, a second sow farm was found to be ASF positive. Dr. Spronk noted the strong biosecurity on this farm, including a wall surrounding all farm operations, guards stationed at the gate, and truck washes inside and outside of the gate. Workers were not allowed to leave the farm for up to six months at a time to reduce disease spread. In this case, one of the eight rooms on the site became ASF positive, and this room contained the oldest pigs. In 19 days, the room experienced 96 percent mortality, but the virus did not infect the other rooms on the site.

Today, 80 animals from that room are still living. Pipestone is working with U.S., Chinese and other international researchers to learn more about ASF from the surviving animals. However, the Chinese government has strict rules regarding who is permitted to test for ASF, so performing research activities has been a challenge.

Dr. Spronk said their experiences have shown that ASF is nearly always fatal but also is a slow-moving infection. Currently, one of their sow farms had ASF in the gestation barns and farrowing areas, but the boar stud and gilt development unit never became infected. At the other sow farm, the one positive gestation barn was depopulated, leaving two sow barns empty. One sow barn remains ASF negative at that facility.

Dr. Spronk stated that, based on their responses to previous disease outbreaks, China is focused on removal of infected animals as opposed to focusing on virus elimination. This means countries around the world will need to remain vigilant for ASF for the foreseeable future.

Greg Suskovic asked if garbage feeding occurs in China. Dr. Spronk said that most households in China feed table scraps to their pigs as a cultural practice. He said he was not sure what the Riverstone sow farms did with their food waste. He was going to check with them and find out.

Dr. Spronk passed the presentation to Scott Dee, who discussed methods for preventing ASF from entering the U.S. Both Dr. Dee and Dr. Spronk have been working with legislators to serve as subject matter experts. They have spoken with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) about adding more beagles to sniff out illegal meat, but training the dogs takes time. They have supported making changes to the CBP form travelers fill out when entering the country. They hope to add questions concerning areas of disease risk (wet markets, large conferences in countries with ASF, etc.).

Dr. Dee stated the U.S. brings in a lot of agricultural material, including feed, from China. He described how grains are dried on roads where it has contact with trucks and animals. A company Pipestone works with collected dust samples from these grain piles, and they have found ASF DNA. This is not surprising, as cross contamination is occurring regularly as new ASF cases are found.

The risk of pigs contracting ASF through feed is high. Pipestone and their partners (South Dakota State University, Kansas State University, Iowa State University, the Swine Health Information Center, etc.) have done studies on the survival of viral pathogens in animal feed ingredients. They spiked feed samples with virus, then simulated the time and temperature changes feed would experience during travel from China or Eastern Europe to the U.S. Results showed the ASF virus survived in soy products, choline, pet foods, sausage casings, complete feed, and on its own in a container. It was extremely stable in feed. Dr. Megan Niederwerder studied the transmission of ASF through infected feed and water given to pigs in a normal feeding environment. The virus was passed to the animals very easily.

Dr. Dee stated that Pipestone is promoting a quarantine procedure for feed from high-risk countries to give the virus time to decay. They are also testing mitigants in feed to see if the virus could be broken down faster. They have built a biosafety level 2 lab with separate rooms for testing feed with various mitigants. They tested pigs fed mitigated and non-mitigated feed infected with Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) and Seneca Virus A (SVA). Two different mitigants were tested, and results showed they mostly prevented clinical signs and infection. They will continue testing other mitigants through the fourth quarter of 2019, with the goal of providing producers with 10-12 mitigant options by the end of the year.

The U.S. pork industry is actively working with the federal government as well as Canada and Mexico to reduce the amount of high-risk ingredients coming to our borders. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has already implemented a plan to manage imports of high-risk feed ingredients from ASF-positive countries. They are collecting information including the nature of the product, what it has been treated with, where it will be going in Canada, and the practices the importer used to limit cross-contamination.

James Byrne asked if Pipestone had been in contact with the federal government to share their findings. Dr. Spronk said he has worked with the FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. They were aware of the work as it was happening, and the director, Dr. Goldsmith, a veterinarian, was very interested in the data, which proved that purposeful agroterrorism could happen. They have classified the findings as intelligence and want to see the data from the mitigation study.

Dave Preisler asked if there is a movement to start sourcing feed and ingredients from other countries. Dr. Dee said some vitamins and amino acids are only made in China. However, after visiting with companies and seeing their processes, including quality control and storage, he is confident these ingredients have a low risk for infection. Buying high-risk bulk ingredients, like grain, from China is what needs to be eliminated. Safe, high-quality grain is available to purchase in the U.S.

Matt Anderson asked if there is a specific time and temperature for removing the ASF virus from feed. Dr. Spronk said scientific research has not been performed in China. Sellers in the markets have taken feed ingredients and raised its temperature to 85 degrees Celsius (185 degrees Fahrenheit) for five minutes; others have heated it for 10 minutes, and others up to 20 minutes. However, no one knows if this process is effective at eliminating the virus. Dr. Niederwerder will be performing research on this at Kansas State University, but no data exists currently.

Dr. Spronk and Dr. Dee both thanked the Board and Minnesota's pork industry for supporting their research and helping lead the way in foreign animal disease prevention in the state, the U.S. and North America.

## **Farmed Cervidae Business Operations**

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Dr. Glaser introduced Brenda and Lance Hartkopf and Melissa and Steve Uchtyl, who own Minnesota farmed Cervidae businesses. Brenda Hartkopf stated that she and her husband have raised elk for 25 years and want to be active in helping the state's industry stay viable. Currently, there are 106 elk farms in the state, with a combined total 4,075 animals. The average herd size is 38.4 animals. Over the years, Minnesota has remained in the top five states for number of elk farms and animals raised. Overall, the number of farmed cervid herds has decreased over the last 15 years, but farmed cervid herds remain in 75 of 87 Minnesota counties.

Farmed cervid herd owners have regulations to follow, including mandatory registration and CWD surveillance, annual inspections, fencing, official identification for each animal, and slaughter. During inspections, Board staff go through the herd owner's records, such as their inventory, movement reports, CWD testing records, and making sure fawns had official identification by December 31 of their birth year. Finally, they will inspect the entire perimeter fence to check that it is intact and is 96 inches or higher, as required.

Many farmed cervid producers are testing their animals for CWD, and most samples sent in are good. In addition, producers must test their animals for tuberculosis and brucellosis to be permitted to export them to other states. Other routine health protocols for elk include vaccinations, deworming and medication for liver flukes. Animals are brought into the onsite handling facility about six times a year to receive vaccinations, sort the animals, put in ID, test for TB, have their antlers cut, or for artificial insemination.

Mrs. Hartkopf summarized the markets for elk products. The demand for elk meat surpasses the available supplies; on-farm meat sales are strong. Velvet antler can be harvested, dehydrated and sold for the chondroitin sulfate, glucosamine and collagen it naturally contains. Hard antler is in high demand for art and, more recently, dog chews. Minnesota's trophy bulls are mostly sold to out-of-state buyers. The estimated number of bulls exported is over 400 per year. The market for elk breeding stock declined after CWD was found in the state in 2002 but is now beginning to get better.

Minnesota does not import many elk from other states. From 2013 to 2018, only 96 animals were imported, compared with 1,935 elk exported to other states.

Dean Compart asked when they tag the calves. Ms. Hartkopf said they usually try to do it in the first couple of days after birth, or they will do it at another time when they are brought into the handling facility for another reason, sometime before December 31.

Melissa Uchtyl gave an overview of operations on a white-tailed deer farm. There are over 300 deer farms in Minnesota, and most herds have less than 10 animals they keep as pets. Often, these are small family farms that converted from other operations, such as cattle or dairy farming.

Deer are always kept in pens with eight-foot fences. In early spring, does are moved to fawning pens, which are smaller and contain about 4-8 does to keep track of which fawns belong with which doe. Mrs. Uchtyl said they DNA some of their animals. Fawn shelters are placed in the pens to provide warmth and a space to treat them if they are ill.

Most deer farms have handling facilities. Mrs. Uchtyl stated their farm has alleyways, and they use cloth to block the deer's view of the outside to keep them from running the fence. Herd health is checked regularly, and animals are vaccinated on schedule. Does are checked when fawns are born and when weaning occurs. At the Uchtyl farm, they mostly live breed, but they also do some artificial insemination (AI). Animals are bred for specific traits, including health, size, antler type or color. Fawns are tagged with at least one tag at birth. If they do not get a second tag at birth, they will get one when they are vaccinated.

Herd owners keep records for every deer on the farm, as well as any that were transferred or harvested. Any deer over one year old that die or are harvested on a Minnesota deer farm must be tested for CWD.

Some deer farms include hunting preserves or ranches. This provides individuals with hunting opportunities they might not otherwise have. Those that use hunting preserves include handicapped, elderly and young hunters, as well as those who do not have access to hunting land.

Cervid farms also contribute to several other industries, including buying feed, fencing supplies and specialty feeders, providing hunting scents, producing venison, and bringing in visitors who buy from local businesses. The Uchtyls also provide free educational tours for interested groups.

Cervid farmers and veterinarians have the Minnesota Deer Farmers Association as a resource, which includes lectures and classes for continuing education on how to improve their farms and herds.

Dean Compart asked how many deer are on the Uchtyl farm. Mrs. Uchtyl said they have 42 breeding does and about 120 total animals. Mr. Compart asked if she found the farmed cervid requirements to be burdensome. Mrs. Uchtyl said she did not. They have had no problems and communicate well with Board staff.

Erica Sawatzke asked if CWD has changed the way they do business or deal with their animals. Mrs. Uchtyl stated the only thing they have changed is the states from which they get their animals. Because there is so much CWD in Wisconsin, they will not buy Wisconsin deer. They do not want CWD inside or outside their fences. Their farm would not survive if CWD was found there.

Mr. Compart asked if there are other groups that are not doing their testing. Jim Byrne said there are always bad producers, and the farmed cervid associations support the Board in monitoring these facilities. The challenge for the associations in supporting the Board's efforts is they do not know who these producers are because that data is non-public. Mrs. Hartkopf and Mrs. Uchtyl asserted they are very concerned about CWD's potential impact on their farms and the state's farmed cervid industry.

## **Poultry Program Update**

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Dale Lauer presented a draft document, "Minnesota Board of Animal Health Notification Policy for Influenza Testing of Minnesota Poultry Flocks" to Board members for their information. Currently, the Board does not have a written

policy on influenza testing, but he reminded Board members that influenza in poultry is reportable to the Board. There are 21 policy documents for other Board functions and animal diseases. Dr. Lauer stated that Board staff have involved industry partners in preparing this draft document and will continue to work with them to examine and form this policy in detail.

The policy identifies the official influenza tests and official sample types used to classify the avian influenza status of poultry flocks. Only authorized poultry testing agents (APTAs) can collect and submit official samples for official influenza testing, which can only be performed by a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) or NAHLN laboratory. The Board has around 900 certified APTAs around the state; however, not all APTAs can collect samples for influenza testing, but many are able to do it.

Dr. Lauer said the VDL has received a deviation from the NAHLN to test biofilm drinker swab samples for influenza testing. Ongoing University of Minnesota research has shown this sample type to be a surveillance tool that can detect influenza virus in a turkey flock two to three days before detection by official tests. As a result, the draft policy states the Board's support of its use in influenza detection.

The policy clarifies who should report test results and when. As stated in the draft policy, the Board will work with the flock owner or flock veterinarian to determine the next steps and additional samples required to determine official flock status. Until the flock status is determined nothing will be reported to other state agencies, USDA or the OIE.

Steve Olson agreed that biofilm testing is an important surveillance tool but said that industry representatives need more time to review and provide feedback on the policy. Jill Nezworski also agreed, saying she would like to see the policy document reviewed by the Emergency Disease Management Committee (EDMC) and have the industry and the University of Minnesota fully vet it before moving forward.

Dr. Lauer will bring the draft policy to the next EDMC meeting, which likely will be held in June. He mentioned this policy is an industry initiative, and the Board is not committing any funds toward testing biofilm swab samples for influenza.

Dr. Lauer said he, Shauna Voss, Greg Suskovic, Brad Peterson and Robyn Corcoran are revising the Board's low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) response plan now, and he hopes to present drafts of the response plan and notification policy for discussion at the September Board meeting.

## TB Update

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Stacey Schwabenlander provided an update on recent bovine tuberculosis (TB) traces conducted by the Board. The tracebacks from the three South Dakota farms identified with TB 2017 continued through this year. All traces have been for beef cattle, though they were not all necessarily feeder cattle. Ten animals were identified by the producer brand. These animals were purchased by the USDA, tested and found to be TB negative. In all, 2,715 cattle were caudal fold tested (CFT), and 79 of these were CFT responders. All of these animals were cleared, and all trace investigations in this case are closed.

Currently, the Board is investigating tracebacks from a Wisconsin dairy identified with TB in October. This case involved 73 traces on 58 premises in six states, with 48 investigations still ongoing. Dr. Schwabenlander said most of the animals have been feeder dairy steers, which allows the Board to find and quarantine them. The USDA is not advising TB testing for feeder cattle if the animals will be sent to slaughter in a reasonable amount of time, so most farms will remain under quarantine until the Board can verify the traced animals have been slaughtered.

Minnesota recently received three traces out of a Texas dairy that was found to have TB. These investigations are ongoing, and Dr. Schwabenlander expects to see more tracebacks related to this case. No TB has been found in Minnesota, but every state around Minnesota has found TB-positive animals. The Board will continue to be vigilant to keep this disease out of the state.

The USDA is working on a process for phasing out the use of National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags. The current USDA proposal is to make metal NUES tags available to state animal health offices until the end of 2019 or



until funding is depleted. After that, metal tags will be available for purchase from manufacturers until December 31, 2020. On January 1, 2021, these tags, as well as plastic NUES tags, will not be available for purchase from any source. Any NUES tags applied before January 1, 2021 will be recognized as official identification through the end of 2022. In 2023, only Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, beginning with an official prefix (such as 840 for USA born animals), will be recognized as official ID. Dr. Schwabenlander said discussions are ongoing and many details need to be worked out for this transition.

Dr. Schwabenlander stated tuberculin orders are now being fulfilled out of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. This is due to Board staff shortages, lack of a backup power source in case of a power outage at the St. Paul office, and cost savings. Board staff are working with veterinarians on this transition as they call to place orders.

## **FAD Investigations and Emergency Response Update**

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Greg Suskovic stated that the Board has performed 19 foreign animal disease investigations (FADIs) during Fiscal Year 2019, which runs through September 30. There has been a decrease in the number of FADIs since FY2017, when there were 149. Minnesota is seeing fewer cases of Senecavirus A (SVA), but there is an ongoing SVA outbreak in Brazil. The Board continues to watch for worldwide foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreaks, perform FADIs as needed and prepare to respond if new FADs, like African Swine Fever (ASF) or Classical Swine Fever (CSF), were identified in Minnesota.

The Board, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the state's agricultural industries continues to participate in FAD emergency response exercise plans and events. Minnesota is hosting a national ASF tabletop exercise tomorrow and Friday. A tabletop exercise to examine Minnesota's Veterinary Stockpile plan will be held on June 20 in St. Paul. This exercise will simulate a CSF outbreak and will involve the USDA, the Board and the MDA. Plans continue for the national ASF Functional Exercise in September. This event will involve 17 states and will include four functional drills to address major aspects of an ASF emergency response.

## **Update and Discussion on the Budget for the Next Biennium**

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Morgan Grelson stated Governor Tim Walz's proposed budget reflects the version the Board presented to his office in October. The Board's expected expenses for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and 2021 are \$13.7 million, including nearly \$12.2 million in state funding. The largest portion of expenses (69 percent) will be for payroll, followed by contracts (13 percent) and information technology (7 percent).

The governor's proposed budget recommends a \$208,000 funding increase in FY 2020 and \$529,000 for FY 2021 for the Farmed Cervidae Program. The additional funding will allow the program to make changes that will improve regulation enforcement, as recommended by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). The budget also recommends \$250,000 in annual funding for emergency preparedness. This will replace some of the emergency preparedness funding the Board received in 2015 that is expiring at the end of FY 2019.

The House and Senate each have their own versions of the budget bill, and legislators have proposed many bills during the session. The Board will make budget adjustments if necessary once the state's budget is approved and signed.

## **Closed Session: Appointment of Board Leadership and Executive Director**

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The board members moved into a closed session. They held an election for Board officers. Matt Anderson nominated Dean Compart as President. Discussion took place, and a vote was held. Mr. Compart was elected as president.

Peter Ripka nominated Matt Anderson as Vice President. Discussion took place. A vote was held, and Dr. Anderson was elected as Vice President.

Morgan Grelson joined the board members to discuss the appointment of the Executive Director of the Board of Animal Health for FY 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). Graham Brayshaw made a motion to rehire Dr. Thompson as



the executive director, and Dr. Anderson seconded. After discussion, a vote took place, with all present voting aye to appoint Dr. Thompson as executive director.

Dr. Anderson made a motion to present an Achievement Award in the amount of \$2,000 to Dr. Thompson for her outstanding performance. The motion was seconded by Peter Ripka. Discussion took place. A vote was unanimous to approve the \$2,000 Achievement Award for Dr. Thompson.

## **Next Meeting and Adjourn**

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The next meeting of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, in Alexandria, Minnesota, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Dean Compart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter Ripka made the motion, and Matt Anderson seconded it, with all present voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Thompson  
State Veterinarian  
Executive Director