

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)  
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)  
RENDERING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (RIAB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 19, 2018**

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

**(2) INTRODUCTIONS**

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
Daniel Stonesifer  
D.O. Spike Helmick Jr.  
James Andreoli Jr.  
Jared Trawick  
Tyson Kever

**Interested Parties:**

TJ Koewler  
Sandy Stonesifer  
James McGibson

**CDFA:**

Paula Batarseh  
Dr. Fernando Umayam  
David Schurr  
Michael Abbott  
Rhett Dunn  
Daysi Alcantar  
Rachel Andrade  
Irene Sanchez  
Andrew Halbert  
Dr. Kent Fowler

(3) **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (June 6, 2018)**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from June 6, 2018.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Andreoli made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Stonesifer seconded. Mr. Helmick, Mr. Trawick, and Mr. Keever agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **USE OF BARBITURATES FOR EUTHANASIA**

Dr. Fowler provided an overview on Equine Barbiturate Euthanasia.

He presented information on the following:

- Rendering Barbiturates Issue
  - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has zero-tolerance level for barbiturate residue in rendered products
  - Currently, most horses are euthanized using sodium pentobarbital
  - Any detection of pentobarbital residues in rendered products is considered adulterated
  - Responsibility of renderers to ensure their products are not adulterated
  - Carcass disposal is a waste stream issue to be handled at the local level
- Equine Euthanasia Acceptable Options
  - Chemical Injection with Pentobarbital
  - Chemical Injection alternatives (potassium chloride or magnesium sulphate)
  - Gunshot
  - Captive Bolt
- Equine Disposal Methods
  - Rendering
  - Burial
  - Landfill
  - U.S. Equine Slaughter Plants
  - Cremation/Incineration
  - Composting
  - Tissue Digestion

Dr. Fowler shared the following information with the RIAB from the September 5, 2018, California Equine Euthanasia Working Group meeting.

- The California Equine Euthanasia Working Group had the following representation:
  - Academia
  - Private Veterinarians
  - Rendering
  - Regulatory Veterinary Medicine
  - California Veterinary Medical Association

- MPES Branch, CDFA
- Animal Health Branch, CDFA
- Feed, Fertilizer and Drug Regulatory Services, Inspection Services, CDFA
- The working group action items were:
  - Communication with FDA regarding the zero-tolerance level of chemical residues
  - Development of a methodology for practitioners to identify euthanasia mechanism
  - Determine and estimate number of horses euthanized in California annually and geographically
  - Communicate with pharmaceutical companies to determine alternatives for euthanasia
  - Presentation and discussion of issue at organizational meetings

(5) **VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE UPDATES**

Dr. Fowler provided an overview of the virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) outbreak. He stated vND is a highly infectious viral disease, especially in chickens. It is considered a foreign animal disease to the United States and has a high mortality rate in chickens.

Since it was first confirmed in May of 2018, over 35,000 birds have been euthanized or died because of this disease. The vND outbreak is operating under an incident command structure in Ontario, CA.

Dr. Fowler provided an overview of how many hours and employee salary and benefit costs have been dedicated to vND. He also provided cost of previous years Newcastle disease incidents.

There have been various types of outreach, such as going door-to-door, fairs, charro events, churches. There have also been quarantines issued to contain the disease.

Dr. Fowler also discussed the logistics of sending samples to the laboratory for testing, industry risk assessment, incident timeline, and incident statistics.

(6) **BRANCH UPDATES**

Mrs. Batareseh stated that Mr. Abbott has accepted the Supervising Special Investigator position. She also said that Mr. Paul San Gregorio has accepted a promotional position with another division within CDFA and his vacant Special Investigator position has been moved to the Fresno area. The interviews for this position have been completed and an offer will be made within the next few weeks. There is also someone that has filled the Southern California area Special Investigator position and will be starting in October.

Mrs. Batareseh stated in regards to Senate Bill (SB) 1383 coordination has continued with CalRecycle and Air Resources Board. CalRecycle is finalizing the supporting documents

for rulemaking, initial statement and fiscal impact. They envision starting the final rulemaking process within two (2) months.

(7) **ENFORCEMENT UPDATES**

Mr. Abbott provided an overview of investigations, comprehensive audits, enforcement, process improvements, and future enforcement projects.

**Investigations:** Mr. Abbott stated there was an unregistered rendering operation in Vernon, CA, two (2) unregistered collection centers in Fresno, CA, one (1) in Lakeside, CA and one (1) in Lincoln, CA. There were also thirty-eight (38) Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG) thefts reported.

**Comprehensive Audits:** Mr. Abbott presented an overview of comprehensive audits, which included eleven (11) comprehensive audits conducted, three (3) Notice of Violations (NOV) issued, administrative manifest errors, follow-up inspections scheduled, and increased understanding and communication.

**Enforcement:** Mr. Abbott said that there has been a settlement with Diamond Environmental Services. A NOV is pending fine assessment for an unregistered collection center. There has been combined investigations and information sharing with Fresno, Sacramento and Placer County Environmental Health. He also stated there is manifest training and enforcement opportunities with Stockton Municipal Utilities.

**Process Improvements:** Mr. Abbott stated there were process improvements in the following areas:

- Dead Hauler Annual Inspection Form
  - Adds consistency and records review
- IKG Theft Website
  - Increased file size capacity
- Manifest Review Form
  - Adds consistency in reviews
  - Decreased time needed to verify
- Transporter registration process
  - Streamlined process
  - Updated annual letter/application
  - Enabled selection of type of application
  - Required documents page

**Future Enforcement Projects:** Mr. Abbott said there would be outreach enforcement on focused areas, there are currently two (2) areas targeted. The Special Investigator positions are being filled and there is continued law enforcement coordination with California Highway Patrol (CHP), commercial vehicle enforcement teams, and local law enforcement agency detectives.

**(8) REGULATIONS / PENALTY MATRIX**

Mr. Koewler asked the RIAB to review the penalty matrix, submit comments to MPES and be ready to discuss a final penalty matrix at the next RIAB meeting.

**(9) OUTREACH / COMPLIANCE**

Mr. Halbert introduced himself and gave the RIAB a brief overview on his background.

Mr. Halbert also provided examples of the CDFA website and the changes that were made to it. He stated it is now easier for the industry to access the information and for the general public to gather information and get answers to any questions they may have. His focus when updating the website was to make sure that any information being accessed was accessible immediately. There is a drop-down menu for each particular area such as Meat and Poultry, Rendering, and Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM).

Mr. Halbert also provided a brief overview on the California Restaurant Association webinar and YouTube video.

**(10) UPCOMING BOARD VACANIES**

Mr. Koewler stated there would be three (3) board vacancies as of September 30, 2018, which are currently being held by Mr. Trawich, Mr. Andreoli, and Mr. Griffin. He stated anyone interested in the position would need to submit a resume and a request by the deadline date.

**(11) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETING DATES**

Future agenda items:

- Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) Presentation
- SB 1383
- Penalty matrix
- Barbiturates use
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

The next RIAB meeting will be in November 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., at 2800 Gateway Oaks, Sacramento, CA.

**(12) ADJOURN**

Mr. Koewler, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Andreoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Trawick seconded. Mr. Stonesifer and Mr. Helmick agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Irene Sanchez