

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)  
Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS)  
Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES)  
Rendering Industry Budget Subcommittee (RIBS)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2014**

**Location: 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833**

Item  
No.

(1) **Call To Order**

Chair Mike Koewler called the Rendering Industry Advisory Board (RIAB) meeting to order on Thursday, December 4, 2014, at approximately 9:15 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(2) **Roll Call**

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
Daniel Stonesifer  
Donald DeSmet  
Gerardo Garza  
D.O. "Spike" Helmick Jr.  
Chris Ottone  
James Andreoli Jr.

**CDFA:**

Dr. Annette Jones  
Dr. Doug Hepper  
Dr. Jan Hershenhouse  
Paul Roos  
Paul SanGregorio  
Louie Lucero  
Norma Schroeder  
Rachel Andrade  
Irene Sanchez

**Interested Parties:**

Joe Gravada  
David Isen  
Ramot Pandey  
Venkata Vaddella  
Tina Caperella  
Tad Bell

(3) **Introduction and Oath for Two Returning Members**

Dr. Hepper administered the oath to reappointed members Mr. Koewler and Mr. Helmick.

(4) **Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2014**

Mr. Koewler asked RIAB to review the February 13, 2014 meeting minutes and asked a motion be made to accept the minutes.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Helmick made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. DeSmet seconded the motion with the following members supporting the motion, Mr. Koewler,

Mr. Ottone, Mr. Stonesifer, Mr. Garza, and Mr. Andreoli, with no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

(5) **Discussion of UC Davis Research Grant**

Dr. Hepper discussed an ongoing research project being conducted at UC Davis. This is a one year project and the purpose is to define pathogen reduction standards for rendering processes to evaluate research projects and approve rendering applications. Tad Bell would like to have a group of people look at the results of the project. Quarterly reports and a final summary report will be provided documenting existing knowledge, potential limitations, and recommendations for improving pathogen level assessment. The fund for this project is approximately \$100,000.

(6) **Review of Manifest Procedures**

Dr. Hershenhouse provided a detailed overview of modification in procedures in the Rendering Enforcement Program (REP):

- REP is currently conducting manifest records checks.
- Paul Roos and Paul SanGregorio have been conducting routine audits and anyone who has any deficiency in the reports will receive a notice of violation.
- Mr. Helmick said there should be coordination with CHP to check Manifest Records with the Motor Carrier Permits.
- Dr. Hershenhouse and Paul Roos provided results of the audits that were performed and the common manifest violations.

Mr. Bell suggested to the board that a subcommittee be formed to report and refine the manifest forms.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Koewler made a motion to form a subcommittee to establish review of manifest forms. Mr. Andreoli seconded the motion with the following members supporting the motion, Mr. Ottone, Mr. Stonesifer, Mr. DeSmet, Mr. Garza, and Mr. Helmick, with no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

The members of the committee will be Mr. Garza, Mr. Helmick, Mr. Stonesifer, and Mr. DeSmet.

(7) **Discussion of CDFA Financial Support for Rendering Program**

Dr. Jones discussed the rendering budget with the committee:

- Ms. Schroeder will be moving to the division administration office and Dr. Hershenhouse is retiring.
- The current program manager is paid 50 percent General Fund and 50 percent Rendering Fund, but the new manager will be 100 percent Rendering funded.
- General Fund support for the rendering program will go away at the end of the year, changes will be made as of January 1, 2015
- Staff funded by the rendering program will be dedicated 100 percent to the program.

(8) **Report and Discussion of Rendering Enforcement Program Budget**

Mr. Andreoli discussed the goals and stated that the objective of the Rendering Industry Budget Subcommittee (RIBS) is to select a sustainable mechanism to help support the Rendering Enforcement Program and establish strategic priorities for future program activities.

The committee discussed the following options:

- Option 1: current funding would cut cost and services at industry funded level
- Option 2: with current work load, increase industry fees to support current services
- Option 3: increase industry fees to support additional services to improve the program
- Option 4: no program

Mr. Stonesifer said we need to improve the program and raise the fees to fund it. Mr. Koewler suggested to double the fee structure and find a mechanism to put in a bill that allows the program the opportunity in future years to increase each of these categories by up to 100 percent. This would give the program the ability to raise fees in any category over time.

**Motion #3:** Mr. Stonesifer made a motion to go forward with legislative process to increase the fees in the future up to 100 percent. Mr. DeSmet seconded the motion with the following members supporting the motion, Mr. Koewler, Mr. Ottone, Mr. DeSmet, Mr. Helmick, and Mr. Andreoli, with no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion #4:** Mr. Helmick made a motion to seek help to propose a bill that would cover Mr. Stonesifer's motion. Mr. Stonesifer seconded the motion with the following members supporting the motion, Mr. Koewler, Mr. Ottone, Mr. DeSmet, Mr. Garza, and Mr. Andreoli, with no abstentions. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Koewler said our goal should be to fund a sustainable operating budget going into the future.

(9) **Legislative Updates**

Dr. Hepper discussed the legislative updates. Assembly Bill 1566 was signed and passed into law effective January 1, 2015. This law eliminates some loopholes and it is possible in the future to deny licenses up to three years now. Assembly Bill 1826 was signed and passed into law effective January 1, 2015 stating that general fund will pay for an investigator for two years and an Office Technician as of January 1, 2016 for one and a half years.

(10) **Enforcement Updates**

Dr. Hepper updated the committee on enforcement, stating there has been a lot of activity and you will see results in the near future. Dr. Hershenhouse said there are several cases that are being reviewed by the Legal Office at this time.

(11) **Other Business**

Ms. Schroeder has packets for outreach and magnets available.

(12) **Next Meeting**

The suggested date for the next meeting is for the week of March 16-20, 2015.

(13) **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Irene Sanchez