

**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
March 10, 2020**

California Department of Food and Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item

No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

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

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Mrs. Irene Sanchez.

Committee Members Present:

Michael Koewler
Daniel Stonesifer
D.O. "Spike" Helmick Jr.
Jared Trawick
Brad Fleeman
Tyson Keever

Interested Parties:

Tad Bell
Michael Lefever
Dave Fletcher
David Isen
Beatrice Poroli
Paul Sousa
Matt King

CDFA:

Paula Batarseh
Michael Abbott
Laura Barlow
Han Lai

David Schurr
Paul SanGregorio
Irene Sanchez
Andrew Halbert
Dr. Kent Fowler

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from October 23, 2019.

Mr. Koewler and Mr. Trawick asked for a possible proposed amendment to the October 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes Agenda Item 7. They have asked that the meeting minutes be reviewed to clarify if Ms. Poroli confirmed the comments made by Mrs. Batarseh regarding mammalian tissue.

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

(4) BRANCH UPDATES / NEW STAFF

Mrs. Batarseh introduced Mrs. Han Lai, Senior Environmental Scientist promoted to work specifically on carcass management issues. Mrs. Lai gave a brief overview of her education and experience.

Mrs. Batarseh also reported that one (limited term) investigator was hired, with 25 years of law enforcement background and spent many years on the board of Directors for the California Peace Officers Association. There are also interviews being conducted for an investigator for the Fresno Area.

Mrs. Batarseh attended the National Egg Regulatory Officials Meeting in San Diego, CA, which brought several regulatory agencies together to discuss the national regulatory standards for egg safety. She also attended the Pacific Coast Renderers Association's Annual Convention in Carmel Valley.

(5) SENTATE BILL (SB) 1383 / INEDIBLE MATERIALS

Mrs. Batarseh gave a brief update on SB 1383. She stated that CalRecycle has completed their regulation package and has submitted the package to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review, usually OAL has thirty day for review. Once the regulations are approved, Cal Recycle envisions starting enforcement by January 1, 2022 and local governments starting enforcement by January 1, 2024. CalRecycle and CDFA are working on an outreach program to make sure packinghouse waste is segregated, placed in separate bins and using a transporter of inedible materials to make sure it gets to renderers and not mixed with other organic materials.

Ms. Poroli stated that during the formal rulemaking process of SB 1383, there has been a change. There are no substantial policy changes, the text is being revised to respond to language clarity and will have a fifteen (15) day comment period.

Mr. Koewler said there is frustration and anxiety in the rendering role as it comes to the subject of implementation of SB 1383. There seems to be some misconceptions with the trash industry that seem to be encouraging stores to place the inedible material in bins and not source separate.

Mr. Koewler stated there is a disconnect between what the trash industry thinks is the proper way to implement SB 1383 and what the renderers think is the proper way. He stated clarification would be helpful on the criteria for granting approval for a rendering license versus alternative disposal methods in terms of pathogen reduction and science-based validity in that process.

Mr. Abbott stated the process is inspected from beginning to the end. There is not an outlet where the process can be skipped, and it is tested at the end of the process to verify the pathogen reduction.

(6) ENFORCEMENT / OUTREACH UPDATES

Mr. San Gregorio provided a brief overview of his responsibilities and duties in the Northern California Region, which are as follows:

Enforcement Summary

- Unlicensed collection center in Santa Clara region
- Unlicensed rendering facility in Santa Clara region
- Possible unlicensed Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG-C) Transporter operating in Placer County
- Unlicensed IKG rendering facility in Stanislaus County

Enforcement Actions

- Notice of violations (NOV) issued
 - Unlicensed dead animal haulers operating near Calaveras County
 - IKG-C transporter for failure to properly document on manifest reporting requirements
 - Halted USDA facility from self-hauling packinghouse waste to landfill, to avoid rendering

Outreach

- Outreach training with South Placer County Municipal Utility District (SPMUD) on transporter, interceptor trap grease and manifest reporting documents.
- Emergency rendering actions
 - Compiled emergency dead animal hauler contact list and area of operation
 - Landfill emergency questionnaire

Mrs. Batarseh stated MPES is working closely with the CDFA Animal Health Branch to create a carcass management plan for services as a result of failure of equipment or during the summer months, with high mortality.

Dr. Jones stated there needs to be a system in place to handle the rendering disruptions such as mechanical breakdown or too many carcasses. Regulation is being reviewed regarding dead animal haulers and renderers licenses to be more proactive. She stated that working with the dead animal haulers to address this dead animal carcass issue is key.

Mr. Bell stated having the dairy industry responsible for dead animals is inefficient and poses risk to the environment, public and animal health. There should be regulatory oversight and responsibilities for dead animal haulers, collection centers and renderers, but they need solutions, as well.

Mr. Abbott provided a brief overview of his responsibilities and duties in the CDFA Investigative Unit, which are as follows:

Overview

- Investigations
 - 8 IKG-C thefts
 - 3 Unregistered collection centers
 - 2 Unregistered renderers
 - 1 Unregistered transporter
 - 2 Illegal transporters
 - 2 Illegal dumping of IKG-C waste

Enforcement

- 23 Notice of violations
- 6 Penalty assessments issued
 - 4 Notice of Proposed Actions (NOPA's), 2 civil penalty letters
- 3 License denials for IKG-C transporters
 - 2 Applicants withdrew their applications
 - 1 Transporter surrendered license

Process Improvement

- Quarterly inspections
- Establishing special investigator training

Outreach

- Rural Crime Task force liaison
- Orange County and San Diego County Enforcement Task Force
- California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commercial Enforcement Unit Training
- CHP joint investigations

(7) **CARCASS MANAGEMENT / BARBITURATES**

Mr. Koewler stated prior to having a final solution, there should be a way to ensure that everyone using Sodium Pentobarbital for dairy animals evoke a proper marking on the head of the animal. He advocates to adopt the letter “P” painted on the head as an identifying marking.

Dr. Jones stated that there are two (2) things that need to be done: 1) work with veterinarians in multiple facets; and 2) start the process of regulations or put it in to law. The draft text is written and can be completed immediately, this is to regulate the people who do not want to pay potentially increased cost for a euthanized animal. The outreach for carcass management has already started happening. The mark needs to be bright and hard to remove within a short period of time.

Mr. Sousa stated there must be a solution for the animals left behind as well.

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB for a motion to adopt the letter “P” on the forehead of the cow using paint or paint stick.

Motion #2: Mr. Helmick made a motion to accept the motion. Mr. Fleeman seconded. Mr. Stonesifer, Mr. Trawick, and Mr. Keever agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(8) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

(9) **FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items:

- Carcass Management
- SB1383
- Barbiturates
- Criteria to Validate Rendering
- Definition of Yellow Grease
- RIAB Vacancies
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

(10) **UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES**

The next RIAB meeting will be in June of 2020 at 9:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks location.

(11) ADJOURN

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am.