

**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  
August 7, 2019**

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.

**(2) INTRODUCTIONS**

Roll call was taken by Mr. Koewler.

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
Jared Trawick  
Brad Fleeman  
Tyson Keever

**Interested Parties:**

Tad Bell  
Michael Lefever  
Shawn Griffin  
Michael Payne  
Emily Rooney  
Kevin Abernathy  
Abel Mendoza  
Darcy Toth  
Paul Sousa

**CDFA:**

Dr. Annette Jones  
Dr. Kent Fowler  
Dr. Katie Flynn  
Paula Batarseh  
David Schurr  
Michael Abbott  
Laura Barlow

Irene Sanchez  
Andrew Halbert

**(3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from April 3, 2019.

Mr. Koewler will ask for a motion to accept the minutes at the next RIAB meeting.

**(4) SENATE BILL (SB) 1383**

Ms. Batarseh stated that Cal Recycle, as the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA) available for review and public comment. The document, along with draft SB 1383 regulations and all other supporting documents, are posted on the CalRecycle's website.

Ms. Batarseh said that by January 1, 2022, the actual enforcement with penalty assessments will be implemented. Cal Recycle, in the interim, will continue to work with the local jurisdictions and generators to conduct outreach and education activities.

Mr. David Schurr provided a draft presentation on point-source segregation of packinghouse waste from retail stores to receive feedback from the RIAB. The presentations will be shared with CalRecycle and used it jointly by CDFA and CalRecycle to educate retail stores on the regulatory requirements to segregate meat scraps and send them to renderers.

**(5) CARCASS MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Fowler stated that Darling International, Inc. presented CDFA with a letter to be forwarded to the veterinarians regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDAs) Preventative Controls and zero-tolerance level for pentobarbital in rendered products. Dr. Jones agreed to forward the letter to accredited equine veterinarians, the California Veterinary Medical Board, and the California Veterinary Medical Association to raise awareness regarding this issue and have further discussions with them regarding potentially marking euthanized animals.

Dr. Fowler also shared with the group that a pen-side test study conducted by a UC Davis laboratory showed that pentobarbital cannot be detected in the blood and urine of horses. Clemson University is doing a similar study and the group will work with them and UC Davis to see if a rapid technique for the detection of barbiturates in carcasses is feasible.

(6) **BRANCH UPDATES**

Dr. Jones gave an update on the virulent Newcastle Disease (vND). She stated that there have not been positive samples for vND, since the end of May 2019. There continues to be extensive testing in high risk areas, which have been negative so far.

Dr. Jones also provided the following updates:

- Regional quarantine is still in place
- 5,500 individual quarantines have been issued to date
- Diagnostic testing/surveillance work is ongoing in all 3 counties
- Total of 175,000 premises visited to date
- Continuing outreach and education through town halls and other events
- Ongoing enforcement including Notices of Violations (NOVs), criminal citations, and search warrants being issued to address non-compliance

(7) **MANIFEST DISCUSSION**

RIAB briefly discussed the possibility of modifying the manifest forms to score risk assessments and the ability to track the point of origin.

(8) **ENFORCEMENT / OUTREACH UPDATES**

Mr. Abbott stated that there are currently fourteen (14) NOVs that have been assessed for penalties and are going through the Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) process. Eight (8) NOVs are awaiting assessments.

Mr. Abbott also highlighted the collaborative effort with other law enforcement groups including the Rural Crime Task Force, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and Orange and San Diego County Environmental Crime Task Forces to share information and leverage resources.

(9) **PROPOSED PENALTY MATRIX REGULATION DISCUSSION**

Mr. Halbert stated that a Penalty Matrix draft regulation text was sent to RIAB for review and no comments were received. Mr. Halbert is currently working on the draft Initial Statement of Reasons. He also presented a chart with key steps in the rulemaking process. Once the proposed regulation is filed with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) there will be a forty-five (45) day public comment period.

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Sousa with Western United Dairymen and Ms. Emily Rooney with the Ag Council shared with the group the challenges the dairymen are currently facing with carcass management, which include:

- Deteriorated carcasses not being picked up by the dead haulers
- High cost of rendering and rendering services
- Lack of flexibility in the carcass management system
- Lack of routine alternative recycling/disposal options if rendering is not available

Ms. Batarseh shared with the group that she is working with CalRecycle and expects to soon receive a list of all landfills in California that are currently authorized to accept carcasses. She added that the list will be shared with everyone and the information will be mapped to make it easier on the dairymen to locate permitted landfills if the renderers cannot accept the carcasses. CDFA will also post a list of all licensed CDFA dead haulers on its website.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Sousa agreed to work together to assess the scope of the problem and explore regulatory solutions. The group agreed that the use of rendering should be maximized since it provides for the “best and highest” use of the materials with less carbon footprint. Alternative rendering technologies including anaerobic digestion were also discussed but deemed currently not economically feasible for large scale carcass management.

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

Future agenda items:

- Carcass Management
- SB1383
- Barbiturates
- Penalty Matrix
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

**(12) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES**

The next RIAB meeting will be on October 23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks location.

**(13) ADJOURN**

Mr. Koewler, Chair asked for the RIAB to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Irene Sanchez