

# Nevada Board of Agriculture

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



Nevada  
Department  
of Agriculture

**Meeting Location:** Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)  
405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431  
775-353-3601

**Video Conference:** NDA 2300 East St. Louis Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89104 702-668-4590  
NDA 4780 East Idaho Street Elko, NV 89801 775-778-0270

**Virtual Meeting Information:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87417997069>  
Meeting ID: 874 1799 7069  
Phone: +1-719-359-4580  
Phone Access Code: 874 1799 7069

## Public Notice

Below is an agenda of all items to be considered. Action may be taken on items preceded by an asterisk (\*). Two asterisks denote possible closed session (\*\*). Items on the agenda may be taken out of the posted order, items may be combined for consideration, and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time at the discretion of the chairperson. Unless noted as an action item, discussion of any item raised during a report or public comment is limited to that necessary for clarification or necessary to decide whether to place the item on a future agenda.

Public comment may be presented in-person, by computer, phone, or written comment. Written comments may be submitted by completing a public comment form available online at [agri.nv.gov/Administration/Board\\_of\\_Agriculture/Board\\_of\\_Agriculture\\_Public\\_Comment/](http://agri.nv.gov/Administration/Board_of_Agriculture/Board_of_Agriculture_Public_Comment/). Written comments can also be submitted via fax to 775-353-3661, email to [h.rincon@agri.nv.gov](mailto:h.rincon@agri.nv.gov), or to any of our offices listed below.

- a. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431
- b. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801
- c. Nevada Department of Agriculture: 2300 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104

The chairperson may limit public comment that is repetitious, does not relate to a matter within the board's jurisdiction or prevents the meeting from continuing in an orderly manner. All public comments should be addressed to the Board of Agriculture and not an individual member. The board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous

manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations for assistance at the meeting. Please call Holly Rincon at 775-353-3619 to make arrangements.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2300 St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Copies of the agenda, supporting documentation and meeting minutes are available, at no charge, at the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at [agri.nv.gov](http://agri.nv.gov) or [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov) or by visiting the Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431.

## **Agenda**

### **1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chairman Snyder at 9:00 a.m.**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silent Reflection
- C. Virtual Attendee Reminders
- D. Roll call – Total Attendees (33)
  - Board of Agriculture (10):
    - Jim Snyder
    - Pete Paris
    - Mackenzie Campbell
    - Thomas Baker
    - Heather Lackey
    - Paul Noe
    - David Coon
    - Brooke Neubauer
    - Craig Shank, DVM
    - Duane Coombs
  - Deputy Attorney General Richard Yien (1):
  - Department of Agriculture (15):
    - J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
    - Holly Rincon
    - Dillon Davidson
    - Amara Vigil
    - Chad Sestanovich
    - William Dawson
    - Patricia Hoppe
    - Bill Striejewske
    - Meghan Brown

- Ciara Ressel
- Melanie Sanchez
- Scott Clifford
- Peter Mundschen, DVM
- Jessica Whitfield
- Vernon Miller
- Doug Farris
- Public Attendees (7):
  - Peter Krueger
  - Sarah Collins
  - Annie Kendricks
  - Mimi Diebold
  - Hank Combs
  - Alison Hinkle with AWHC
  - Bill Payne

## 2. Public Comment

Public Comment by Peter Krueger of Nevada Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (NPM&CSA) to welcoming Mackenzie Campbell to the Board, stating she is one of the best in the petroleum industry, and the Board is lucky to have her.

## 3. Minutes

- A. \*Approve March 15, 2024 minutes (for possible action)
  - Motion to approve the minutes by Duane Coombs.
  - Pete Paris seconded the motion.
  - Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

## 4. Board Management

- A. Board Member Updates on Represented Industries (for information only)
  - Craig Shank, DVM, while giving his update commented on David Coon's reporting on the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) (H5N1) situation and commented that we should start controlling the starlings in dairies earlier than the current February timeframe since they are showing up in early December.
    - Jim Snyder agreed with the suggestion to begin monitoring starlings sooner.

## 5. Director's Report

- A. Report – J.J. Goicoechea, Director (for information only)
  - HPAI H5N1 – we've been tracking this since March. First appeared in a Texas dairy in lactating cows where it spread to 3 additional herds. It is now in 79 dairies and 1 alpaca herd. It is a huge problem in birds, and has been found in cats, foxes, racoons, skunks, etc. It is identical to what has been found in ducks that are migrating from Northern Mexico. It is also

shed through the milk of ill cows. Pasteurization does kill it. It is important for dairy herds to be monitored closely. Our labs can facilitate the appropriate testing. It has not been found in any beef cattle. The milk and food supply are safe. We are not importing any lactating dairy cows into Nevada unless they've been tested.

- Starlings – we worked closely with Wildlife Services (WS), however, this year the birds stayed. We spent over \$20K this year. Chad will work with Director Ono of WS to get it done sooner. I will say that as soon as the reports of H5N1 hit, we had them test, and they did not find it.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – we will go before the legislative commission for the final adoption of NAC 583, which is the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program regulations. We should have those by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Able to participate in and help develop Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak Guidance that was sponsored by the American Sheep Institute (ASI) and enables us to work with our federal partners on how to keep sheep/cattle on the range in the event of an outbreak. Happy to supply the link if anyone is interested.
- Chaired the Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IFC) Meeting regarding the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC). We have held steadfast that the affected producers be compensated appropriately. The Navy is now analyzing the business models in total, and we hope to see the results of that at the next meeting in September.
- Senior Trade Officer, Dillon Davidson gave an update on several trade activities occurring and upcoming. NDA did a sampling box project throughout Toronto; out of 150 boxes we received 77 responses so far, all very positive with interest in making these products available for purchase in the area. We shipped additional products to Toronto where they will be used and highlighted by a chef in several Nevada Food Truck events. We are also attending the Seoul Food and Trade Show in Korea, and Nevada is the only state to have a full pavilion. We will also be bringing in buyers from Korea and Southeast Asia who will travel and meet with hay producers throughout Northern Nevada, as it is a big market for them.
- Agritourism – we are working with the Lt. Governor's office who is interested in this area and will be sponsoring a bill to further develop and expand agritourism in Nevada. This will come with a position that will work closely with our Senior Trade Officer at the NDA.
- For our Food and Nutrition Division we've been working with Governor's office to secure a warehouse in Southern Nevada that will house all of the dry goods and cold storage items that the NDA manages under one roof, as we currently have to rent space for cold storage. If the funding comes through we are hoping to be moved in by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Patricia Hoppe, the Administrator of Food and Nutrition commented that the NDA has been trying to achieve this since 2016 and she is thankful to the present leadership for getting it done.
- We are monitoring Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) as they relate to the Greater Sage-Grouse and Conservation Rule, and we have put extensive comments forward and will continue to watch this issue.

- Comment from Duane Coombs – looking at ACECs, if/when an economic analysis is done, to tie back to what the Navy is doing with regards to their analysis for compensation to those producers, we need to make sure the total value is properly acknowledged and included in that analysis as well.

## 6. Administrative Services

### A. Board Update – Amara Vigil, Administrator (for information only)

- Budget Accounts
  - Director Goicoechea noted that we are going to be working on combining 2 budgets in Plant; we are not keeping up with the cost of doing business, and it will be more advantageous all around to have them combined.
- Duane Coombs asked how we can increase the pay scale for employees to be competitive. Do we need to go through legislation and ask for more money? Is there a way the Board can help getting that through?
  - Per Director Goicoechea, the Department of Administration is doing a reclassification of all positions statewide, and we will share this information at the next Board meeting and will talk strategy from there.

## 7. Animal Industry

### A. Board Update – Chad Sestanovich, Administrator (for information only)

- Numbers of Trich have increased across the state; NAC 571 will hopefully change that.
- Traceability is very important. The New ADT rule goes into effect November 5<sup>th</sup>; 18 months and over must have electronically readable tags; metal tags are grandfathered in.
- Virginia Range Fencing Project – working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on obtaining a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review. We will also be doing another census by this Fall.
  - Pete Paris asked who is paying for the fencing.
    - Per Mr. Sestanovich the fencing will be grant-funded.
  - Pete Paris asked if the fence will be on BLM land.
    - Per Mr. Sestanovich the answer is yes, and the BLM has been very helpful.
- Mosquitos – It was a mild, wet winter and we are finding West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in Las Vegas. The Southern Nevada Health District has a lot of information. This could be a bad year for mosquitos and WNV. We will be doing more testing of mosquitos later this summer.
  - Pete Paris asked if it is too late to vaccinate horses.
    - Per Mr. Sestanovich, no, it is not too late; get them vaccinated now. You can go to a feed store to get it; a veterinarian is not necessary.

- Question from an online participant asking if heartworm being found in the mosquito population.
  - Per Director Goicoechea, it is everywhere, and it is recommended to see your vet for heartworm medication for your pets.

## 8. Food and Nutrition

### A. Board Update – Patricia Hoppe, Administrator (for information only)

- Home Feeds Nevada (HFN) – we have \$1 million left so we will need to regulate that spending and make a plan to make it last. We spent over \$1 million on produce alone in one year.
  - Thomas Baker asked if this is one time funding or continual funding.
    - Per Ms. Hoppe, after this \$1 million there is no additional funding. We are hoping to stretch this through next year.
    - Per Director Goicoechea, per Nevada Revised Statute 561.515 (2) the Director may solicit and accept any gift, grant or donation for the Program. Unfortunately, at this point, there haven't been any gifts or donations so we will try to get creative. Being that this is a highly popular program, we also anticipate that it could be addressed in the legislature.
- Summer Food Service Program – as seen earlier, we worked with the Dairy Council and created this wonderful commercial; thank you again to the Director for participating. The good thing about his participation is that it now belongs to our department, and we can use it year after year. It is starting to air on streaming services in both Northern and Southern Nevada. We appreciate your support to push that program.
- School Nutrition – free meals funding comes to an end this school year, and we are projecting to spend all State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. We anticipate that someone will be bringing a bill forward in the 2025 legislature, but at this point, nothing additional is coming from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and we will be back on the regular program.

**Chairman Snyder called for a break at 10:30 a.m.**

**Chairman Snyder called the meeting back to order at 10:44 a.m.**

## 9. Measurement Standards

### A. Board Update – Bill Striejewske, Administrator (for information only)

- Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) device testing – the industry always stays steps ahead of us and we're trying to figure out how to regulate this; anticipate a lot of discussion at the next national meeting.
- Livestock Scale Inspections – we are into second week of inspections, and we're pleased with the new procedures the division has implemented and

are seeing good progress.

- Metrology (Science of Measurement) - proud of the work our staff does; they have made themselves one of the upper third metrology labs in the nation.
  - Jim Snyder commented that he had previously taken a tour of the Metrology Lab and found it very interesting, and he highly recommend taking the tour.
- Wildfires – the season is here; fires in California can be especially deleterious to the fuel in Nevada; Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) can order a public safety power shutdown that can affect the northern pipeline, so we are watching this closely.
- Farmer’s Markets – this was brought to our attention, and we are beginning to test those scales as well.

## 10. Plant Health and Compliance

### A. Board Update – Meghan Brown, Administrator (for information only)

- Merger of budgets – this will create synergy for staff and allow them to do more activities and be more diversified.
- Mormon Crickets – signed agreements with Elko and Eureka Counties, doing treatments on BLM land and right of ways; 1 seasonal and 3 permanent staff are currently addressing; have crickets in 8 counties; the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) received an additional \$500K in funding for treatments and we received about 75% of that; 69,572 acres have been treated (208,716 acres protected) with staff working through Memorial Day weekend and on Memorial Day; 750 calls have been received.
- Garlic inspections – currently being done from Yerington all the way down to Dyer, Nevada.
- Hemp Plan – with the help of our Deputy Attorney General (DAG), our State Hemp Plan is currently being reviewed for modifications after receiving suggested changes from the USDA after our initial submission.
- Noxious Weed Treatment – we received funding from the United States Forest Service (FS) Wildfire Crisis Landscape; \$1 million; will do subawards for noxious weed treatments for both aquatic and terrestrial treatments.
  - Pete Paris asked about Scotch Thistle in Elko County, stating it is everywhere with acres and acres of it and wonders how we get it under control. States his frustration with Elko BLM FS and wonders if there is any way for the NDA to enforce the control and spraying of them, and if there needs to be legislation to enforce, impose fines, etc. Education is key.
    - Per Ms. Brown, the NDA continues to work on doing surveys and sends enforcement letters in the Spring Creek and Reno areas for Goatgrass and Purple loosestrife. The formation of Conservation Districts is a good opportunity for funding; without authority, we cannot do anything about it. There is a need for the citizens to put pressure on local government.

Need some sort of strong local leadership with a strategy to move forward. There is currently no local structure. We have penalties, e.g., \$200, but those are not effective. Conservation districts are a great tool, but lack of staff is the problem. Out of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), there are only 5 regional staff and the person who has been doing it for a long time is retiring. They can apply for some great grants and have access to public/private lands. The community needs to be active in the Conservation District.

- Thomas Baker asked if the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) funding was going away and stated that Tri-County has done an amazing job managing this, but it is difficult keeping consistent funding.
  - Per Ms. Brown, the CWMA funding is not going away and we will continue to communicate the avenues they have available to coordinate and strategize.

## **11. Public Comment**

Public Comment by Director Goicoechea – acknowledges our DAG, Richard Yien, as a very valuable member of our team and thanks him greatly for the amount of time he puts in to ensure we do things the right way. Also hopes the Board sees the progress that has been made throughout the department over the last 18 months.

Public Comment by Board Member Pete Paris – I’ve been here a long time and have been totally impressed over last couple of years.

Public Comment by Chairman Jim Snyder – Agrees with the comment by Mr. Paris.

Public Comment by Board Member Duane Coombs – The Department, Meghan Brown particularly, reviews a lot of documents; if you need a second set of eyes, I think that’s what the Board is here for. If any of you need assistance, throw that stuff out to us, as we would have a perspective on things as well, and I believe that’s part of our role.

## **12. Final Roll Call**

## **13. Adjournment**

**Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.**