

# Nevada Board of Agriculture

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.



Nevada  
Department  
of Agriculture

**Meeting Location:** Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)  
2300 E. St. Louis Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
702-668-4590

**Video Conference:** NDA  
4780 E. Idaho Street  
Elko, NV 89801  
775-753-1360

NDA  
405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431  
775-353-3601

## Agenda

### 1. Open meeting-Acting Chair Coon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silent Reflection
- C. Virtual Attendee Reminders
- D. Roll call – Total Attendees (40)
  - Board of Agriculture (10):
    - Tom Baker
    - Mackenzie Campbell
    - Dave Coon
    - Debbie Gilmore
    - Varlin Higbee
    - Brooke Neubauer
    - Pete Paris
    - David Ruf
    - Craig Schank
    - Jimmy Stephensen
  - Deputy Attorney General Richard Yien (1):
  - Department of Agriculture (20):
    - J.J. Goicoechea
    - Doug Farris
    - Cathy Balcon
    - Monica Barbosa
    - Loran Kipp Blauer
    - Meghan Brown
    - Scott Clifford

- Jake Dawley
- Julieanna Hendrix
- Patricia Hoppe
- Brittany Mally
- Shawn McFalls
- Julia Miller-Ketcham
- Bob Ragar
- Ciara Ressel
- Pete Rolfe
- Ray Saliga
- Chad Sestanovich
- Bill Striejewske
- Nathan Waldron
- Public Attendees (9):
  - Doug Busselman
  - Maria D.C.M. Carrera
  - Jeffrey Duncan
  - Letty Elias
  - Cade Grogan
  - John J. Hasenau
  - Deana Kirk
  - Daniel Millett
  - Simon Solaegui

## 2. Public Comment

*The Nevada Department of Agriculture received no public comments in advance of the meeting.*

- Speaking from the Las Vegas office, Daniel Millett, Operations Manager for Bee Master of Las Vegas, said he is a third-generation pest control professional with more than 20 years of experience. He expressed concern about the growing number of unlicensed operators and said that despite filing complaints, the issue remains unresolved and continues to impact licensed businesses. He also highlighted the public's lack of understanding regarding the dangers of Africanized bees, which differ significantly from other bees and pose serious risks when improperly handled. He said that experienced beekeepers from neighboring states have encountered difficulties managing these bees, often leading to situations where licensed professionals must clean up after unlicensed contractors. He advocated for the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) to focus on illegal bee operators and provide greater oversight and support for licensed contractors.

## 3. Minutes

- A. \*Approve September 9, 2025, meeting minutes (*for possible action*)
  - Board Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025, meeting.
  - The motion was seconded by Member Baker and passed 10-0 (3 absent).

#### 4. Board Management

##### A. Invocation of Dave Coon to preside over the meeting in the absence of the Chairman (*for possible action*)

- Member Coon explained that, per a rule adopted by the Board of Agriculture in 2023, the most senior member in attendance shall serve as Acting Chair in the absence of the Chairperson. If that individual is unavailable, the responsibility passes to the next most senior member, and so on. Currently, Member Paris is the most senior member, but he is not present at the primary meeting location. Therefore, Member Coon, as the next most senior member, has assumed the role of Acting Chair.
- No objections were raised by the Board.

##### B. Board Member Updates on Represented Industries (*for information only*)

- Dave Coon, representing Dairy Production, said that the industry is in good condition, and he commended the NDA for its regulatory oversight. He explained that the dairy regulations inherited from the former State Dairy Commission have proven instrumental in maintaining industry standards. He acknowledged initial concerns within the industry when the Dairy Commission dissolved; however, those concerns have not materialized, and the NDA has enforced regulations effectively. He emphasized that maintaining high industry standards benefits the entire industry, as quality or safety issues from any one competitor reflect poorly on all. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the NDA's continued support and the collective efforts to sustain a strong and viable dairy industry.
- Brooke Neubauer, representing Supplemental Nutrition, highlighted the effects of the recent federal government shutdown on food-insecure communities, particularly those reliant on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program. She stated that between November 3 and December 1, The Just One Project (TJOP), the largest distribution partner for Three Square Food Bank in southern Nevada, provided assistance to 64,000 individuals across 18,150 households, distributing more than 874,000 pounds of food, primarily to SNAP recipients. During the first week of the federal shutdown, the organization averaged more than 1,200 cars per day at its emergency drive-through site. She said that while it is encouraging to see more families becoming aware of available services, she noted that many, including military families who typically do not need these services, continue to face significant challenges in recovering from the financial disruption caused by the shutdown. She concluded by commending the NDA for its swift and effective response during the crisis. She said the department's rapid activation of resources enabled food banks and agency partners to meet the surge in demand.
- Tom Baker, representing Semi-Range Cattle Production, provided an update on current conditions in White Pine County. He noted that producers are still awaiting winter storms and hoping for adequate moisture, as rangeland conditions are currently poor. He said that due to limited natural feed, many ranchers are having to supplement feed more than usual this season. He also commented on the volatility of the cattle market, which has seen fluctuations in recent weeks, and expressed interest in developments related to New World Screwworm. Despite the challenges, Member Baker expressed gratitude for the generally favorable market conditions and

- reiterated the importance of weather patterns for the industry.
- Mackenzie Campbell, representing Petroleum, reported that current industry conditions are favorable, and fuel prices at the pump have reached a five-year low. She referenced Assembly Bill 29 of the 2025 Session, which is aimed at providing greater consistency in pump pricing. She expressed appreciation for NDA's support, noting that feedback on the bill has been overwhelmingly positive. She also shared news of Governor Lombardo's newly established Fuel Resiliency Subcommittee, composed of consultants from across the nation. The purpose of the subcommittee is to respond to concerns about refinery closures in California, which pose a risk to Nevada's fuel supply.
  - Varlin Higbee, representing Semi-Range Cattle Production, reported favorable weather conditions in his area, noting an abundance of storm activity and improved range conditions that resemble spring-like growth. While some areas remain dry and feed availability is still a concern, overall conditions have improved. He also addressed misconceptions about the profitability of livestock producers, emphasizing that recent challenges, including the closure of the southern border, have exposed industry vulnerabilities. He criticized claims from large packers and feedyards suggesting that reduced herd numbers have been offset by increased animal size and tonnage, calling such assertions misleading. While cattle sizes have increased since the 1970s and 1980s, he said that overall herd numbers have declined by nearly 70 percent over the past three decades. He also expressed concern over the practice of importing foreign beef and labeling it as U.S.-produced, stating that this misrepresents domestic production levels. Without meaningful changes, he cautioned that these issues will persist and continue to negatively impact the industry.
  - Debbie Gilmore, representing Specialty Crops, shared positive updates regarding beekeeping conditions in northern Nevada. She noted that bee colonies are entering winter stronger than she has seen in the past 20 years, marking a significant improvement from last year. Honey prices remain high, which is beneficial for beekeepers. She also raised concerns about emerging threats to pollinators, particularly a mite known as *Tropilaelaps*, which originated in Thailand and is considered potentially more devastating than the *Varroa* mite currently affecting bee populations in the U.S. She noted that national coalitions are working on plans to prevent its spread and support beekeepers in the event of an outbreak. She suggested that the NDA consider developing a state contingency plan in case the mite reaches the state. Member Gilmore concluded by thanking the NDA for allowing her to contribute to updates concerning urban beekeeping regulations. She emphasized that much of the existing information had been outdated and commended the department's efforts to modernize it.
  - Jimmy Stephensen, representing Pest Control, introduced himself, expressed gratitude to the NDA and the board for welcoming him, and acknowledged the strong working relationship between the Nevada Pest Control Association and the NDA. He highlighted ongoing efforts related to provisional licensing and the labeling of application devices, noting that while some details are still being worked through, the partnership with the NDA has been productive and appreciated. He also acknowledged Daniel Millett for voicing concerns about unlicensed operators in the

pest control industry. He encouraged individuals to submit verified complaints with supporting evidence to help the NDA take appropriate action. He concluded by expressing his personal commitment to giving back to the industry that has supported his family for more than 30 years.

- David Ruf, representing Nursery Stock, reported that overall conditions for the year have been adequate. He noted a recent detection of red imported fire ants at a nursery in Las Vegas but confirmed that the situation appears to be under control. He also raised concerns regarding unlicensed landscapers operating without the required nursery sales certificates, identifying this as the most pressing issue currently facing the industry.
- Pete Paris, representing Semi-Range Sheep Production, echoed concerns raised by Member Baker and noted the urgent need for winter storms across the region. He observed that for the first time in more than 55 years of his involvement in the sheep business, range sheep operations are feeding hay indoors. He reported that sheep prices this year were less than half the value of calf prices, despite typically being comparable, which has placed significant strain on the industry. Member Paris also expressed disappointment in attendance at the recent Nevada Wool Growers Association meeting. Looking ahead to the upcoming National Wool Growers Association meeting in Reno, he voiced concern over the lack of engagement from Nevada's wool producers and called for a shift in attitude within the industry. He concluded by expressing hope for improved weather and renewed commitment from industry members.
- Craig Schank, representing Veterinary Medicine, stated that recent rain has led to continued alfalfa growth, allowing cattle producers to graze livestock on regrowth, which has helped ease budget pressures. However, he cautioned that some areas in eastern counties may be observing respiratory issues in calves, potentially linked to fog fever. He reported a strong corn crop in Churchill County, resulting in abundant silage that will likely benefit dairy producers. Member Schank also provided an update on Utah State University's veterinary program. He said the inaugural class of 40 students began in late August and will graduate in 2029, with 2 students from Nevada included. The next cohort, beginning in 2026, will double in size to 80 students—40 from Utah and 40 from other states, with 7 seats reserved for Nevada students. He emphasized the affordability of the program, with tuition for Nevada students set at \$27,000 per year, significantly lower than many other veterinary programs. He highlighted the importance of Nevada's partnership with Utah State University in providing accessible veterinary education to students, particularly those interested in serving rural and underserved communities. He encouraged board members to support young students aspiring to enter the veterinary field and noted that assistance programs are available to help graduates establish practices in designated underserved areas. He also mentioned Roseman University's new veterinary school in southern Nevada and noted that the institution is pursuing accreditation through the American Veterinary Medical Association.

## 5. Director's Report

### A. Report – J.J. Goicoechea, Director (*for information only*)

- A recent meeting with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins touched on USDA's proposed a plan to stabilize the beef industry, though additional action is needed to adequately address the challenges. The closure of the nation's southern border has remained a major concern and has significantly impacted cattle imports, as more than 1 million head of feeder cattle typically cross into the U.S. annually.
- New World Screwworm was recently detected approximately 120 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Sterile flies have already been released in the affected area to contain the spread, and wildlife surveillance continues to yield positive results. Although Secretary Rollins remains cautious about reopening the border, limited movement of cattle from Mexico into Arizona may resume in the coming weeks.
- The federal government shutdown brought a pause to SNAP benefits. While the NDA does not directly oversee SNAP, staff from the Division of Food and Nutrition have been actively engaged due to SNAP's significant impact on food security. The USDA recently received full funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026; therefore, if another federal shutdown were to occur in the near future, it would not affect USDA's ability to operate or pay staff.
- Nevada's limited row crop production has spared it from some of the economic pressures currently affecting producers of lentils, beans and other crops. Discussions are underway at the federal level regarding potential payment programs for farmers, particularly in counties where produce is widely grown, such as Churchill and Lyon.
- The Director commended Member Neubauer and The Just One Project, which he recently toured. He encouraged others to visit and learn more about the impactful work being done to support food-insecure Nevadans.
- As the only state agency authorized to use General Fund dollars to feed Nevadans, the NDA played a central role in the Governor's response to the federal shutdown. Working with Administrator Balcon's team, the NDA helped distribute approximately \$9 million to food banks. While this amount equated to roughly three days' worth of SNAP benefits, the effort provided critical support to thousands of food-insecure Nevadans during a time of urgent need.
- The Director thanked those who attended a ribbon-cutting for the NDA's new food distribution warehouse in southern Nevada and acknowledged the collaborative efforts between the NDA, the National Guard and Three Square Food Bank during the federal shutdown. The warehouse will soon begin receiving USDA food for distribution, but space at a second facility remains available if needed, highlighting the NDA's dedication to supporting the mission of statewide food distribution.
- The Nevada State Fairgrounds will be home to the NDA State Fair in June of 2026. The event will be the first official, state-sanctioned fair since 2010 and will reflect partnerships with the Nevada Junior Livestock Show, FFA, 4-H, the Nevada Agricultural Foundation, and others.

- The NDA received its agreement from USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, officially establishing the State Meat and Poultry Inspection program. The program will ensure that products such as Nevada beef, lamb and poultry are properly labeled and compliant with federal standards. The Director noted that some producers are already working with feedlots to finish animals locally, creating a closed-loop system within the state.
- The Legislature allocated funding for the College of Agriculture at the University of Nevada, Reno, which will support the construction of a new Life Sciences building. The Director expressed strong support for the project, emphasizing that the existing Fleischmann Agriculture building has been overdue for replacement for more than 30 years. The new facility will benefit students in pre-veterinary, nursing, medical, and biochemical programs.
- The Director announced plans to visit Texas Tech University to tour its veterinary school and observe its admissions process. The visit is part of ongoing efforts to explore the feasibility of establishing a public veterinary school in Nevada. The Director emphasized the urgent need for veterinarians in the state and the importance of recruiting and supporting local students. While Utah State University is helping to fill a gap, Nevada must expand its capacity beyond the current limit of 7 students per year to meet growing demands and address threats such as foreign animal diseases.
- Collaboration is ongoing with the Governor’s Office and the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to resolve issues related to H-2A visa wage items, with efforts aimed at preventing adverse effects on both workers and employers.
- Feedback was received on proposed changes to Chapter 446 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The department will be moving forward with the workshop process.
- Recent federal legislation included a provision prohibiting intoxicating hemp products. The NDA is working with the Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) to establish a task force, at the Governor’s request, to address illicit intoxicating hemp products being marketed in smoke shops and convenience stores. Enforcement will involve joint inspections with CCB.

## 6. Division of Administrative Services

### A. Board Update – Cathy Balcon, Administrator (*for information only*)

- Planning for the NDA State Fair is underway, supported by two recent fundraising events in partnership with the Nevada Wolf Pack.
- The NDA has processed 53 of 62 public records requests.
- Agriculture literacy staff attended three educational events in Churchill, Lyon and Elko Counties, reaching approximately 1,800 students. The events featured “Moonique” and “Moolissa,” the NDA’s mechanical milking cows that provide a hands-on, interactive experience that enhances agricultural education for students.
- Despite the recent federal government shutdown, all fiscal operations remained on schedule. The team is currently preparing for the 2028-2029 biennium budget build, which begins in January.

- Administrator Balcon presented an overview of Budget Account 4470, which supports the Dairy and Food Safety programs through federal funds as well as inspection and licensing fees.

## 7. Division of Animal Industry

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

- Proposed regulations for trichomoniasis testing were adopted by the State Quarantine Officer on December 3. The regulations were initiated nearly 10 years ago and aim to implement targeted testing requirements in high-risk areas.
- The Food Safety Program fully transitioned from the Department of Health and Human Services to the NDA. Administrator Sestanovich highlighted the team's strong expertise and noted that collaboration with the Nevada Health Authority continues under a cooperative agreement to manage non-food inspections.
- The recent equine herpesvirus (EHV) outbreak prompted the rapid implementation of an entry permit system for all horses attending the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) and other events. This new requirement has generated thousands of permits and significant call volume, with staff across divisions assisting to respond.
- The division's brand inspectors have logged more than 83,000 miles in recent months, completing 426 inspections.
- There is concern about the backorder of DRC-1339, the only approved product for starling control at dairies. The NDA is working with limited reserves as it works to procure additional DRC-1339.
- A new Veterinary Diagnostician, Dr. Alice Porco, was hired in November following the retirement of Dr. Keith Forbes.
- Dr. Rolfe, State Veterinarian, provided the following update:
  - The USDA has approved Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Programs for Lincoln and Lander Counties, which will aid in addressing the ongoing veterinary shortage. Outreach efforts are underway to inform students and veterinarians about the availability of these programs.
  - Although Nevada is not currently experiencing an outbreak of EHV-1, proactive measures are being implemented in response to recent cases in Texas. These measures include contingency planning and coordination with NFR organizers. Additionally, several other events were independently postponed, which has helped support containment efforts. Dr. Rolfe commended NDA colleagues for their assistance in implementing the horse entry permit system on a shortened timeframe.
  - A traceback investigation identified animals at a Nevada dairy that had been exposed to a tuberculosis case originating in Texas. The herd has been fully tested, and the exposed animals are under close monitoring.
  - An action plan is in place to address potential threats from New World Screwworm, with response measures scaled according to threat levels. The risk to Nevada remains low to moderate, and Dr. Rolfe expressed confidence in the state's ability to respond.
  - Highly pathogenic avian influenza has subsided, and monthly bulk tank testing of dairy herds continues. One investigation is ongoing for a backyard flock in Clark County, with quarantine measures in place pending lab confirmation.

## 8. Division of Food and Nutrition

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

- Despite the federal shutdown, federal nutrition programs administered by the NDA continued uninterrupted.
- The Home Feeds Nevada (HFN) program has been temporarily paused. In response to the federal shutdown, food banks, particularly in southern Nevada, are managing a surplus of inventory and are prioritizing distributions across counties. Once the existing stock has been dispersed, the HFN program is expected to resume.

**Acting Chair Coon called for a break at 10:16 a.m.**

**Acting Chair Coon called the meeting back to order at 10:30 a.m.**

## 9. Division of Measurement Standards

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

- Licensing and inspection fee collections have exceeded projections by approximately \$20,000 due to late fees and new device registrations. Monthly administrative hearings are held for accounts overdue for 180 days. Licensing fees for public weighmasters and registered service agents are also being collected, with the majority anticipated by the end of this month or early in the next year.
- The Metrology Lab continues to excel, maintaining both National Institute of Standards and Technology certification and accreditation through the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, which is an achievement held by only one-third of state labs nationwide.
- The Measurement Standards building in Sparks is preparing for two capital improvement projects approved by the Legislature, including updates to the electrical and HVAC systems. While these projects may cause temporary disruptions to the Metrology Lab, staff are proactively planning to ensure all operations are maintained.
- The NDA successfully partnered with the Energy and Convenience Association of Nevada (ECAN) on AB 29. Targeted outreach efforts helped to clarify compliance requirements for station owners, which alleviated concerns and reduced inquiries. Additionally, the recent ECAN board meeting hosted at the NDA was a success.
- The livestock scale inspection season has concluded. During the off-season, staff will continue to focus on improving communication with industry and preparing equipment for the next inspection cycle.

## 10. Division of Plant Health and Compliance

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

- The division will begin the rulemaking process to align state regulations with federal definitions for “acceptable THC” and “total THC.” These definitions apply only to the NDA’s state plan and certifying and testing raw hemp products. The process will start with a small business impact survey, followed by workshops and hearings.
- The crops program continues to support export and shipping point inspections, though both have decreased this season.

- The noxious weeds program is collaborating with the Forest Service and Washoe County on medusahead and goatgrass projects and has partnered with UNR on an initiative exploring the use of drone technology for aerial mapping of annual grasses.
- The Plant Pathology lab recently detected a new rust disease, and appropriate procedures are being followed in coordination with federal partners.
- Since July of last year, the division has licensed 360 seed retailers and 8 wholesalers. The native seed program has reported an increase in applications for source identification, supporting native seed collection and grow-outs.
- The division has hired Bryant McDowell as State Entomologist. McDowell, from Texas, has extensive expertise in kissing bugs and is developing protocols and public communication on this issue. McDowell is also updating the Nevada Pollinator Protection Plan, last revised in 2016, with input from researchers, beekeepers, land managers and producers.
- Red imported fire ants were detected at a facility in Las Vegas, and eradication efforts have been completed in coordination with USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Ongoing surveys show no new detections.
- Licensing activity has increased significantly this quarter, with 603 exams proctored.
- The Legislative Commission will consider approval of two updates to Chapter 555 of NAC, one for trainees and one for wood-destroying pest inspections, on December 17.
- Changes to the producer certificate program are planned to balance food safety and regulatory efficiency. Under the changes, fruit and vegetable producers will be inspected every two years after their first year of inspection, egg producers will be inspected annually using virtual tools and a questionnaire with on-site inspections as needed, and honey producers will be inspected every three years. Entomology staff will assist with honey producer inspections.

B. Overview of NDA's intent to enforce permit requirements for the collection or removal of feral honeybees from quarantined areas pursuant to NAC 554.065 and movement of honeybee colonies pursuant to NAC 554.815 – Meghan Brown, Administrator (*for possible action*)

- Administrator Brown explained that the NDA intends to enforce current regulations in NAC 554.065. The department intends to implement an annual permit process for entities collecting feral honeybees, with a \$15 fee and a requirement to submit a form for each collection. These forms will document where bees are collected and relocated, ensuring that collectors have appropriate experience, insurance and capabilities to safely handle feral bees. The intent is to strengthen oversight, reduce risks to collectors and residents, assist with tracking and maintain compliance with current regulations.
- Administrator Brown and Deputy Administrator Ray Saliga also discussed requirements for moving managed honeybee colonies out of quarantine zones under NAC 554.815. Beekeepers will be required to notify the NDA when moving colonies and obtain certification confirming that colonies are reasonably free of Africanization. Certification may be issued based on inspections, interviews or documentation, such as requeening records and import permits. The department will issue certificates virtually or after an on-site inspection. Certificates will assist

beekeepers when transporting colonies, including across state lines. All forms and an FAQ will be available on the NDA's website.

- Member Ruf asked whether swarm collection would be treated the same as collecting an established hive located in a tree, structure or vehicle. Administrator Brown clarified that the permit requirement applies to any collection of designated feral bees within the quarantine zone, which includes southern Nye and Clark Counties.
- Member Ruf asked a follow-up question about whether the feral bee collection form would be needed to collect a swarm originating from a beekeeper's own managed colony. Deputy Administrator Saliga confirmed that such bees would not be considered feral and therefore could be collected and reestablished without submitting the form.
- Member Higbee asked if the purpose of the new process is to provide homeowners with a way to contact certified individuals for feral bee removal. Deputy Administrator Saliga clarified that the primary purpose is to protect public safety and verify that collectors are properly trained, insured and equipped to handle feral or Africanized bees. He stated that the NDA will maintain records of all permitted collectors and could potentially publish a voluntary list of registered beekeepers who perform feral bee removals, similar to the NDA's existing list of licensed pest control operators.
- Member Higbee moved to approve the NDA's intent to enforce permit requirements for the collection or removal of feral honeybees from quarantined areas pursuant to NAC 554.065 and movement of honeybee colonies pursuant to NAC 554.815.
- The motion was seconded by Member Campbell and passed 10-0 (3 absent).

C. Request to expend \$2,714.56 from the Alfalfa Seed Research and Promotion Account (Budget Account 4554-10) to maintain Nevada's membership in the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance and the Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association, pursuant to NRS 587.151 – Meghan Brown, Administrator (*for information only*)

- Administrator Brown explained that these funds are used to maintain Nevada's membership in the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance and the Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association. The NDA has authority to collect an assessment of \$0.50 per pound of clean alfalfa seed. Nevada produces an estimated 400 to 700 pounds of clean alfalfa seed annually. In FY25, \$4,615.09 in assessment fees were collected. In FY24, \$3,844.22 in fees were collected, and in FY23, \$2,251.41 in fees were collected. Historically, expenses from this account have primarily supported membership dues, though funds may also be used for alfalfa-based research initiatives proposed by growers. The most recent research proposal, proposed in early 2021, did not proceed. Prior to that, there had been no ongoing research for approximately nine years.
  - Member Baker moved to approve the expenditures.
  - The motion was seconded by Member Neubauer and passed 10-0 (3 absent).

## 11. Public Comment

- Daniel Millett, Operations Manager for Bee Master of Las Vegas, spoke from the Las Vegas office and expressed appreciation to the Board and the NDA, noting a

longstanding culture of open communication. He highlighted the contributions of former State Entomologist Jeff Knight, who Mr. Millett said provided outstanding support and responsiveness to industry needs. He discussed significant challenges faced by the pest control sector, including the impact of land use changes on bee pollination and the devastation caused by *Varroa* mites. He noted the importance of Africanized bees for crop pollination and noted the ongoing threat posed by *Tropilaelaps* mites, commending the NDA's diligence in addressing these issues. Mr. Millett also recognized Israel Alvarado and Joe Margotta, former University of Nevada, Las Vegas postgraduate students, for their work on colony collapse disorder. He also commended the department for its work administering food assistance programs.

## **12. Final Roll Call**

## **13. Adjournment**

**Acting Chair Coon adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.**