

**Nevada Board of Agriculture**  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:00pm



**Remote Meeting**

**Information:**

**Nevada Department of Agriculture**

Meeting Link:

<https://nevadadepartmentofagriculture.my.webex.com/nevadadepartmentofagriculture.my/j.php?MTID=ma71ba9bb01ed8a64a272a13f1cfa9864>

Meeting Number: 126 388 2841

Meeting Password: hMqcD5U6MM8

Phone Join: +1-408-418-9388

Phone Access Code: 126 388 2841

Phone Password: 46723586

**COVID-19 Notice**

ALL PERSONS WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETING MUST ATTEND VIA WEBEX OR TELEPHONICALLY.

- The open meeting law (Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 241) requires public bodies such as the Nevada Board of Agriculture to conduct their meetings with at least one physical location.
- Under an emergency directive issued by Governor Sisolak on March 22, 2020, and extended by a subsequent directive issued on July 31, 2020, the physical location requirement has been suspended.

**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.

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 comment 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.

To request the opportunity to comment you must complete a public comment form. Public comment forms are available at online at [http://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/). You may submit the completed form in one of the following ways:

1. Submit a completed public comment form online before the board meeting at [http://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/),
2. submit a completed public comment form before a board meeting via fax to 775-353-3661,
3. or submit a completed public comment form before a board meeting to Samantha Bellwood at [sbellwood@agri.nv.gov](mailto:sbellwood@agri.nv.gov).

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations for assistance at the meeting. Please call Samantha Bellwood at 775-432-4263.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: the Nevada Department of Agriculture website at [agri.nv.gov](http://agri.nv.gov) or [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov). 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 contacting Samantha Bellwood at (775) 432-4263 or [sbellwood@agri.nv.gov](mailto:sbellwood@agri.nv.gov).

## **Agenda**

### **1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chair Woody Worthington**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Moment of Silent Reflection
- C. Roll call

Meeting called to order at 1:02p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Woody Worthington, Charlie Frey, Heather Lackey, Varlin Higbee, Boyd Spratling, Jim Snyder, Pete Paris, Paul Noe, Tim Duffurena  
Staff members in attendance: Jennifer Ott, Samantha Bellwood, Brandee Mooneyham

### **2. Public Comment**

Doug Busselman, representing the Nevada Farm Bureau provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Tim Barnes, representing the Nevada Cattlemen's Association provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Marla McDade, representing Churchill County provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Bill Payne, representing the University of Nevada, Reno provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Sean Gephart provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Joe Frey provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of

Agriculture.

Joe Guild, representing Great Basin Ranch provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Tom Weatherby provided public comment to seek the Board's assistance in addressing the Virginia Range feral/stray horses in Hidden Valley and the organizations that feed and round-up the horses.

Rachel Buzzetti provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Gary McCuing, representing the Association of Conservation Districts provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Leana Carey, representing Progressive Rancher Magazine provided public comment against amending the make-up of members of the Board of Agriculture.

Tom Filbin, representing Rafter 7 Merinos, Inc. provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Cody Hardy, representing The Flying Bird provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Karin Marshall provided public comment requesting the review of fees as it relates to horses as recreational animals.

Mike Olsen, representing Sage Hill Dairy provided public comment against amending the make-up of the members of the Board of Agriculture.

Karin Siran-Loughery provided public comment that fees should not be increased during the pandemic.

Margaret Stillwell provided public comment that the Nevada Department of Agriculture is making rural life difficult with too many rules.

Margot Easley provided public comment that the Board of Agriculture website is not mobile friendly.

### **3. Senate Bill 54**

#### A. \*Discuss bill draft language (*for possible action*)

Boyd Spratling moved for the Board of Agriculture to withdraw support of SB54. Tim Duffurena seconded the motion. The Board voted 6 – 3 in favor of the motion.

Charlie Frey moved for the Board to amend the language of the bill to keep the membership as it currently exists but add 2 positions to represent supplemental nutrition and food distribution and food manufacturing and processing. In addition, language referring to “mechanical cultivation” should be removed and the number of members that can serve from one county be changed from 2 to 3. Heather Lackey seconded the motion. The Board voted 7 – 2 in favor of the motion.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Leana Carey, representing Progressive Rancher provided public comment that it is impressive how the Board handled Senate Bill 54 and that the Board, not Director, is the body responsible for organizing and reviewing any changes to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

Sean Gephart provided public comment that the Board was pressured to make amendments.

Joe Frey provided public comment that the Board was pressured to make amendments.

Marla McDade, representing Strategies 360 provided public comment that the Board should have held a hearing prior to the bill being submitted to the legislature.

Tom Barnes, representing the Nevada Cattlemen’s Associate provided public comment thanking the Board for taking the issue up and that regulation changes should be vetted by the Board.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.