



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 407th COMMISSION MEETING
Texas Animal Health Commission
January 5, 2021

Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met via conference call, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 9:00AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members

The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. The following members participated via teleconference: Jim Eggleston, Jimmie Ruth Evans, Melanie Johnson, Ken Jordan, Barrett Klein, Wendee Langdon, Keith Staggs, Michael Vickers, Leo Vermedahl, and Chairman Coleman Locke. Three members, Tommy Oates, Joe Osterkamp and Joe Leathers, were absent.

Item 3 – Roll Call for Public Participants Providing Public Comment

Due to Governor Greg Abbott's March 13, 2020 proclamation of a state of disaster affecting all counties in Texas due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, this meeting of the Texas Animal Health Commission was held by teleconference as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.125. The Chairman asked that all attendees microphones be muted until such time as public comment is requested or the individual is called upon to speak. Also, because this meeting was held by live audio and teleconference, all individuals were asked to identify themselves by first and last name, and indicate if they represented themselves or an organization before speaking. Any individual who requested to speak on a specific agenda item or during the public comment period was instructed to press *3 to "raise their hand" signifying they wished to speak. At that time, they would be unmuted one at a time and be provided with their opportunity to speak and once finished placed on mute again. Once done speaking, participants were asked to press *3 to "lower their hand".

There were no participants identified for public comment.

Item 4 – Approval of the minutes of the 407th Meeting

An opportunity for public comment was offered and instructions for unmuting lines and for the speaker to identify themselves was detailed. There was no public comment concerning the minutes of the 407th Commission meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 407th Commission meeting held on September 22, 2020, was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Staggs. The motion carried.

Item 5 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases

Ms. Myra Sines presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the Commissioners for FY 2021, which included contracts, purchases, and leases.

An opportunity for public comment was offered and instructions for unmuting lines and for the speaker to identify themselves was detailed. There was no public comment concerning the contracts, purchases and leases presented. The contract and purchase requests were voted on separately.

The motion to approve the first contract item, a game fence, was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried with one commissioner abstaining from the vote.

Commissioner Jordan made the motion to approve the second contract item, for lab services, and Commissioner Vermedahl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The motion to approve the third contract item, janitorial services, was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried.

Item 6 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations

Ms. Mary Luedeker presented three orders related to Commission rule violations for the consideration of the commission.

The motion to approve the Adoption of the Orders was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried.

Item 7 – Report of the Executive Director and Approval of Waiver Requests

Dr. Schwartz outlined Sunset recommendations adopted during the most recent Sunset Commission hearing, provided the due dates for actions, and provided updates on the status of agency actions already in progress.

Dr. Schwartz also detailed the waivers granted since the past commission meeting. There were four waivers requested and four waivers were approved.

- Tuberculosis – **Approved** – Approved request of waiver of TB test entry requirements for entry of a muntjac. Animal was too young for testing prior to shipment and will be kept in isolation until testing requirements can be met.
- Leptospirosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of swine involved in a closed, terminal research project.
- Brucellosis – **Approved** – allowed entry of a gazelle on expired brucellosis test. The animal is coming from and going to a zoo environment and poses little risk to Texas livestock.
- Avian Influenza – **Approved** – allowed entry of Eastern Turkeys for restocking project with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department prior to having a certificate of veterinary inspection. This allowance reduces stress on the birds and increases survival rate. Birds are kept in a secure area, inspected by TAHC/USDA staff, and tested prior to release.

An opportunity for public comment was offered and instructions for unmuting lines and for the speaker to identify themselves was detailed. There was no public comment.

The motion to approve the waiver report of the executive director was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Vermedahl. The motion carried.

Item 8 – Public Comment

Instructions for unmuting lines and for the speaker to identify themselves was detailed. No public comments were made.

Item 9 – Set Date for 409th Commission Meeting

The date for the 409th Commission Meeting was not set at the time of the meeting. Notice will be posted on the agency's website when the next Commission meeting date has been set.

Item 10 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:47AM.