

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 422<sup>nd</sup> COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Texas Animal Health Commission**  
**November 12, 2024**

**Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke**

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 8:30AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members**

The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. Commissioner Oates was absent. The absence was not excused.

**Item 3 - Closed Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice, Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation, and Settlement Offers as Permitted by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.**

The closed executive session was called at 8:35AM.

**Item 4 – Closed Executive Session to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Commission Employees as Permitted by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code**

**Item 5 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session**

The regular session reconvened at 9:50AM.

The motion to increase the Executive Director salary to \$194,807, effective December 1, 2024 was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Oates. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6 – Approval of the minutes of the 421st Meeting**

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 421<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the 421<sup>st</sup> Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion carried.

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

Dr. Dinges presented the following:

**(A) AGENCY OPERATIONS & AFFAIRS**

- **Agency:** We are at 202 FTEs (out of 224.5) filled positions for our current FY25 count as of November 1, 2024 (the highest since 2021). Our turnover rate has decreased dramatically from 2021 moving from 34% to 18% and we continue to see a downward trend. Exit surveys sent to exiting employees are trending positive and providing good information for improvement with most employees exiting due to personal reasons or salary/benefits.
- **Rural Veterinary Incentive Program (RVIP):** HB1259, passed during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. The RVIP provides educational loan repayment assistance or payment of tuition and fees of up to \$180,000 to eligible veterinarians and veterinary medical students who demonstrate a commitment to working in designated rural Texas counties. The program offers up to \$45,000 for each year of full-time veterinary service in rural communities in need of a veterinarian. The 2024 application cycle ended August 31<sup>st</sup>. Three qualified applicants are currently being ranked and should all be awarded assistance. This program will need additional funding moving forward.

- **Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP):** Will pay up to \$25,000 per year (for up to 3 years) of student loan debt for veterinarians that will commit to at least 3 years of providing veterinary services in a designated veterinary shortage area. Texas is on track to submit the maximum number (8) of veterinary shortage situation nominations. TAHC is working with private clinics experiencing food animal veterinary shortages focusing on vet shortages in far west Texas, the panhandle and along the southern border. We are working with public institutions, seeking awards for Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine, DSHS and TVMDL to recruit veterinarians to work in full time positions as faculty members or in regulatory veterinary medicine. Shortage areas will be designated in February 2025.
- **Cattle Fever Tick Treatment (Eprinomectin) Field Trial: (appropriated \$316,000):** This is a two-year trial. Initially located at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR) in Cameron County and was abandoned day 112. The study was moved to USDA ARS Research Facility (Moore Field-Edinburg, TX) for a more controlled environment where cattle can be penned for inspection and treatment as required. The Moore Field project is proceeding as planned with data and sample collection ongoing. The trial has been completed through sampling day 140 of 308 and is on schedule to complete the project in mid-April 2025. Planning has commenced on the residue project that will be done in conjunction with the Texas A&M Animal Science Department and is projected to begin in early summer 2025. Due to the need to abandon the study at the LANWR site, TAHC has asked for an additional \$ 30,000 as an exceptional item in the next biennium to complete all stages of the research trial.
- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** There have been seven positive breeding facilities since January 1, 2024. Dr. Jessica Monday, TAHC State Epidemiologist, will give an update under Agenda Item #9.
- **128<sup>th</sup> United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Meeting Nashville, TN, October 11-16, 2024:** Six TAHC Executive Staff members and Directors attended this year's meetings. Dr. Lansford currently serves as the Vice Chair of the USAHA Committee on Parasitic and Vector Borne Diseases and was instrumental in the development of a resolution dealing with the eradication of New World Screwworms that was passed by the USAHA Board of Directors. Dr. Brian Bohl, TAHC's Director of Field Operations, updated the same committee on the Equine Infectious Anemia and Equine Piroplasmiasis cases Texas has been dealing with this year. I currently serve as the Vice Chair of the USAHA Subcommittee on Trichomoniasis. The subcommittee has worked with the National Veterinary Services Laboratory to develop a Trich PCR proficiency testing protocol for veterinary diagnostic labs to complete. The NVSL will issue this proficiency test. Dr. Lansford and Holli Tietjen Hale, Director of TAHC Emergency Management, gave a presentation on Standing Up a Secure Beef Supply Plan in Texas to the USAHA Committee on Animal Emergency Management.

The TAHC group was able to attend multiple USAHA committee meetings over the six days. Two meetings of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials were also held. We were able to have a meeting with APHIS Administrator Dr. Michael Watson and other USDA APHIS VS leadership to discuss multiple topics to include the New World Screwworm. A face-to-face meeting with the Binational Committee's U.S. border state animal health officials and APHIS USDA VS officials was held, and it was decided that the northern migration of the New World Screwworm should be added to the agenda of the full Binational Committee meetings in February 2025. To close out the week, I was able to participate in two USAHA Board of Directors meetings and the general membership meeting.

**(B) National Update**

• **Cattle Fever Ticks:**

▪ **Nematode Use:** USDA CFTEP is waiting on the delivery of the product (December - January) to begin the project with several cooperating ranches in Cameron and Willacy counties.

▪ **Rio Bravo Buffer Zone:** USDA APHIS, SADER/SENASICA and the Mexican States of Tamaulipas and Coahuila worked cooperatively to establish a cattle fever tick buffer zone with focused pilot project areas along the Rio Grande mirroring the permanent quarantine zone in Texas. Work was done from June 2022 through March 2024. Tamaulipas and Coahuila had to provide bimonthly activity reports, and they were not paid until reports were approved by the USDA. The USDA considered this project successful and renewed the agreement for FY 2025. USDA allocated \$120,000 USD to contribute to the project in 2025 and has asked that there be an increase in wildlife surveillance. The project has started in both states.

• **Asian Longhorn Tick (ALT):** Latest discovery in Gray Co. Oklahoma on August 8, 2024. To date 21 states and Washington DC have been affected. Agency management continues to monitor discoveries of ALT in other states and assess the practicality of any regulatory action to protect our state. Affected states have been using producer education and outreach to mitigate the risk of introductions. TAHC implements a robust tick surveillance program across Texas which continually monitors our livestock industry related to an introduction of exotic ticks. Research done by the USDA ARS found that the ALT does not transmit *Babesia bovis*, a causative agent of cattle fever.

• **New World Screwworm (NWS):** New World screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), a parasitic fly that produces larvae that feed on living tissue of animals, livestock, and humans, was successfully eradicated from the United States (US) in 1966, through cooperative efforts of federal and state governments and animal health officials, livestock producers, and veterinary practitioners. Eradication efforts cost stakeholders tens of millions of dollars. Today, freedom from NWS provides approximately \$1 billion in direct benefits to livestock producers and approximately \$3.7 billion in benefits to the general economy annually.

These benefits include increased production of meat and milk; decreased death losses, veterinary costs, medication costs, and labor costs in livestock production; and increased health status of wildlife populations. Additionally, freedom from NWS mitigates the public health impact of the pest.

Since 1966, NWS eradication programs continued to successfully push this detrimental pest progressively south through Mexico and Central America. In 2000, eradication of NWS was achieved in Panama, north of the Darien Gap, creating the “barrier” for NWS from entering Central and North America. NWS continue to be considered endemic in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and South America. Between 2000 and 2023, reintroductions of the pest occurred in NWS free areas of Central and North America, including an outbreak in the Florida Keys in 2016-17. These reintroductions were successfully eradicated through continued use of the sterile insect technique.

In the summer of 2023, NWS re-emerged in Costa Rica. In February 2024, Costa Rica declared a NWS national emergency due to the increasing case counts and expanding geographic distribution. Since February, NWS was detected in Nicaragua, Honduras and most recently in Guatemala. Due to the NWS fly's ability to travel long distances, the ease with which NWS larvae are moved by infested wildlife and livestock, and the rapid progression of NWS into free areas, the threat of reintroduction of the

pest into the U.S. has markedly increased. The increased threat posed by the recent NWS outbreaks warranted the release of \$109.8 million in emergency funds by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in December 2023 to aid in preventing the spread of the pest into North America. USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services has instituted an incident command group to address the situation in Central America, and efforts have been increased to get ahead of the northern movement of NWS utilizing air drops of sterile flies from planes and ground dispersal chambers in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

NWS eradication is accomplished by the sterile insect technique which involves the mass-rearing and sterilization, using radiation of a target pest, followed by the systematic area-wide release of the sterile males by air or ground over defined areas, where they mate with wild females resulting in no offspring and a declining pest population.

Production parameters have been met throughout the outbreak with no indication of poor fly health or performance. One possible theory used to explain the recent outbreak is colony deterioration. The same strain has been produced for 16 years and revived twice from cryopreservation. Evolved resistance in nature may have led to a shift in mating behavior or avoidance of sterile males. The outbreak is most likely due to illegal movements of infested cattle.

Since the outbreak of NWS began in summer 2023, more than 4.5 billion sterile flies have been released. Current sterile fly production is approximately 95 million flies per week, and maximum sterile fly production capacity is 100 million flies per week. Total costs of eradication efforts to this point exceed \$54 million.

A resolution was passed at the USAHA meeting urging the US Congress to appropriate annual funding to USDA/APHIS, International Services to support and enhance ongoing new world screwworm (NWS) eradication efforts in Central America, to include funding for measures such as increasing sterile fly production and release capabilities, until the pest is pushed south of the Darien Gap in Panama. It requests USDA-APHIS to perform a risk assessment for the reintroduction, control, and eradication of NWS infestation in the U.S. as soon as practical to provide updated information for refining mitigation and response strategies and projecting economic impacts and costs. It also requested the USDA-APHIS conduct training and outreach regarding NWS surveillance and eradication at all southern ports of entry through collaboration with other federal agencies, such as US Customs and Border Protection, to mitigate the threat of reintroduction of the pest through increased awareness and, consequently, earlier detection of potential NWS reintroduction. Additionally, the resolution asks USDA-APHIS to prioritize updating NWS outreach materials and production and distribution of no-cost ectoparasite collection kits to increase stakeholder awareness and promote surveillance.

The Mexican government has established two barriers in the southern part of Mexico to reduce the risk of introduction and dissemination of the insect through the trade of live cattle. The first barrier consists of four federal inspection points in Chiapas, Tabasco and Campeche. Trailers will be inspected with canines trained to detect the NWS. Cattle entering the country will be sprayed with larvicide products and treated with macrocyclic lactones. The trailers will be sealed and issued a certificate of treatment. The load is then permitted to the next animal health barrier which covers the roads of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Chiapas, Oaxaca and Veracruz. NWS mitigation information will be distributed to both producers and the general public. Producers will be supplied with kits to submit larvae samples and will be supplied with treatment regimens for infested animals. Risk areas

of 35 Km will be set up around an infested premises, and all production units will be inspected to verify the absence of the insect.

- **Disease Information**

- **Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA):**

- Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, we have confirmed EIA in 67 horses. The detections have been mainly in bush track racing Quarter Horses with the occasional detection in these horses that have made their way into team roping or barrel racing. A recent discovery in sanctioned/regulated racing led to a cluster of 8 positive horses being found at a north Texas racetrack. The epidemiologic investigation led to 14 high risk horses being identified in Texas with one additional positive being discovered, and the remaining horses being held for 60-day post exposure testing. Iatrogenic transmission involving the use of contaminated injectable products and/or blood doping is likely the cause in the 9 cases associated with the sanctioned racing. Contaminated IV sets, syringes and needles are also of concern with iatrogenic spread of disease.

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

- Poultry: National - February 8, 2022**

- 105.2 million birds affected
- 197 flocks in 48 states (519 commercial flocks/678 backyard flocks)
- **Texas:** 2 commercial flocks, totaling 1,895,800 birds

- Dairy: National - March 25, 2024**

- Influenza A, H5, Clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype *B3.13*
- 15 states 473 Confirmed Cases (11/08/2024)
- Texas: 26 cases Panhandle and Stephenville Milk Sheds (11/01/2024). Have not discovered an epi link associated with cattle movements between milk sheds. Last known test positive premises showing clinical signs was disclosed on July 15, 2024

**National HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program (voluntary):** There are 64 herds in 15 states, with three herds in Texas.

- **USDA National Surveillance Mandatory Program – Animal Health Protection Act**

- **APHIS National Surveillance & Response Framework for H5N1 in Dairy Cattle**

- Foundation: FDA/USDA/NCIMS Milk Silo Study**

- **Stage One:** State/Regional Snapshot
- **Stage Two:** Determining State Status
- **Stage Three:** Detecting, Responding to, and Eliminating the Virus
- **Stage Four:** Demonstrating H5N1 Disease Freedom within a State
- **Stage Five:** Demonstrating H5N1 Disease Freedom in U.S. Dairy Cattle

**(C) Executive Director Orders (Action Item)**

**Executive Director Order Declaring Intrastate Movement Restrictions of Lactating Dairy Cattle to Fairs, Shows, or Exhibitions:**

HPAI is an emerging disease in dairy cattle. The influenza virus has an affinity for the cow's mammary gland and is shed in the unpasteurized milk. Testing and research have shown that the virus can be shed in the unpasteurized milk up to two weeks prior to the cow showing clinical signs of the illness. In hopes of decreasing/eliminating the spread of the virus by lactating dairy cattle participating in fairs, shows, or exhibitions, I implemented intrastate testing and movement restrictions on lactating dairy cattle.

The motion to approve the Executive Order was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Klein. The motion passed.

**(D) WAIVERS and VARIANCES (Action Item)**

There were four waivers requested, four of which were approved.

- Tuberculosis – Approved – allowed entry exotic cervid with a Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (CCT) test rather than a Caudal Fold test. This was done to reduce the number of times the animal was anesthetized. The CCT was negative, and the animal went to a zoo environment.
- Avian Influenza – Approved – allowed negative entry tests to remain valid for seven days in response to logistical shipping issues. The birds came from a zoo environment and were placed in five zoos where they were monitored after arrival.
- Pullorum Typhoid – Approved – allowed entry of bird in a zoo-to-zoo transfer with an extended PT test results. Bird was raised in a zoo environment and entered with a negative HPAI test.
- Avian Influenza – Approved – allowed entry of zoo birds without PT test due to the size of the birds making testing difficult. The birds were monitored upon arrival and posed little risk to Texas poultry.

The motion to approve the waivers and variances was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion passed.

**Item 8 – Presentation of Animal Health Programs and Disease Traceability Activities**

Dr. T.R. Lansford presented:

1. Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)
  - a. Federal ADT Rule Update
    - i. Final Rule went into effect November 5, 2024
    - ii. Updated Tagging Site Agreements are being put in place
    - iii. No significant issues to report from last week
    - iv. REFERENCE ONLY Official Identification for Cattle and Bison (§ 86.4) Section 86.4 § 86.4(a)(1)(i) adds the requirement that, beginning November 5, 2024, all official eartags sold for or applied to cattle and bison must be readable both visually and electronically.
  - b. Sheep and Goat Scrapie Identification
    - i. The number of calls from sheep and goat producers continues to be strong, in large part due to the ongoing cooperation of the sheep and goat markets distributing the informational letter and participation at sheep and goat industry events.
  - c. USDA provided RFID tag distribution
    - i. Requests for RFID tags has increased again this quarter compared to last quarter (see slide) to bring out total distributed tag number to just shy of 1.5 million RFID tags
    - ii. TAHC continues to receive our USDA tag allotment and inventory is good
  - d. The effort to provide veterinarians with electronic ID reading/scanning devices continues. At this time, TAHC staff have put 214 readers into the hands of accredited veterinarians for their use in program disease and livestock movement efforts. (see slide with map depicting reader distribution)
  - e. Industry outreach

- i. ADT Staff continue to participate in industry events to provide information to producers on the updated rule, official ID requirements, and to distribute RFID tags
  - 1. Local county Farm Bureau meetings
  - 2. Agrilife Extension County beef committee meetings and events
  - 3. Beef Cattle Short Course
- ii. TAPP and Communications continue to assist with messaging
  - 1. Blast to accredited veterinarians
  - 2. Updated ADT website and materials
  - 3. Social media

f. Upcoming events

- i. Matt Kubala, Dr. Dinges, and I will be participating in the US CattleTrace meeting and exercise in Kansas City next week

2. Animal Health Programs

a. Staffing updates

i. Region Directors

- 1. Dr. Richard Myrick accepted the Giddings Region Director position in September
- 2. Amarillo and Beeville Region Director positions remain open

ii. Field Staff (Inspectors and Region Administrative Assistants)

- 1. Applicant pools have been deep and interest high
- 2. No significant hiring issues to report at this time

iii. Agency wide, we have 202 out of 224.5 FTE positions filled

- 1. Agency turnover has decreased from 34% in 2021 to 18% and continues to trend downward

iv. Recognition of all of the great effort shown by all Agency staff involved in hiring, Tana and Latoya in the HR department, and all of the region management for their efforts in restoring and expanding our field staff.

1. Rebecca Galvan – Director of Program Records

- a. Recently filled four Customer Service Representatives
- b. Welcome Minkia, Jordyn, Gabriela, and Jessica to the PR Team and the Agency

3. Emergency Management

a. EM Staff continue to work with and promote preparedness planning with industry partners and other stakeholders

i. Training and Preparedness Activities

- 1. Attended and participated in SBS walkthrough exercise at XIT Feedyard
- 2. Incident Management Team met to plan depopulation methods for disease response and working on prototype for CO<sub>2</sub> trailer and foaming capabilities
- 3. Worked with GIS Specialist to develop Animal Issues Committee Matrix map format
- 4. Participated in several initial planning meetings for future participation in IIAD grant funded projects
- 5. Met with A&M VET team regarding preparedness capabilities, etc.
- 6. Attended Multi-state Partnership Conference in Colorado
- 7. Conducted Agency Continuity Workshop with executive leadership team
- 8. Plan Updates:
  - a. Animal Response Plan

- b. Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan
9. TDEM Emergency Support Function (ESF): 4/5/6/7/8/9/11
- ii. Outreach and Engagement
  1. Attended Texas Swine Health Roundtable in College Station
  2. Attended Panhandle Region Emergency Preparedness Conference
  3. Engaged with several more counties on AIC plans
  4. Collaborating with Texas Association of Dairymen in Secure Milk Supply planning
  5. Continue to engage with multiple national level and state agriculture preparedness groups
  6. Exhibit representation at a Livestock Management Program in Bellville
- iii. Response
  1. Hurricane Beryl in July
- iv. Secure Food Supply Program Updates
  1. Met with three dairies on Secure Milk Supply (SMS) plans and discussed Secure Food Supply (SFS) program
  2. Met with A&M graduate student on project to assist show pig producers with Secure Pork Supply plans
  3. Presented to Committee on Animal Emergency Management at USAHA on Secure Beef Supply program in Texas
  4. Engaging with other states via the SFS Workgroup (best practices, new ideas, etc.)
  5. Engaging with Livestock Marketing Association about SFS in sale barns (ties in with livestock market series workgroup)
- v. Upcoming Events
  1. Attend and participate in annual Kansas Department of Agriculture foot-and-mouth disease exercise
  2. Continue engagement and participation with IIAD and others on upcoming projects and exercises
  3. Continue to engage with multiple national level and state agriculture preparedness groups
    - a. Holli, Sarah, and I will be attending the NASAAEP Summit in December

### **Item 9 – Presentation Of Disease Information and Epidemiology Activities**

Dr. Jessica Monday, State Epidemiologist, presented:

Cattle

- Anthrax
  - Two Anthrax cases in Schleicher County
- Tuberculosis:
  - 7 herds under TB Assurance testing
  - Twenty-nine ongoing Tuberculosis facility trace investigations
    - Open from FY2022
    - Recent closure of 18 traces
    - Collaborating with USDA for review and closure
- Cattle Brucellosis – 45,599 total tests, nine suspects
- HPAI in Livestock – Texas has had 26 confirmed cases to dates in Amarillo and Stephenville Regions
  - USDA HPAI Dairy Herd Status Program - 64 Enrolled Herds Nationally
    - 3 Enrolled Texas Dairy Herds
    - All 3 at “Monitored – Unaffected” Status (11/04/24)

- Monitored – Unaffected
  - Herds enrolled with 3 consecutive weeks of negative testing results
  - Herds commit to ongoing testing according to Monitoring Plan
  - No need for premovement testing for animals moving interstate
- Cattle Trichomoniasis – 19,411 PCR tests, and 205 positive results.
- Cattle Fever Ticks
  - One open trace
  - 261 fever ticks collected

#### Equine

- Equine Infection Anemia – There were 101,667 tests run and 39 total positive results
- Equine Piroplasmiasis – 6,578 *T. Equi* test run with two positive cases. There were 2,555 *B. Caballi* tests run with one positive case.

#### Avian

- Avian Influenza – Texas had five cases of HPAI in backyard flocks and one case in commercial poultry. 10,079 total birds were tested in Texas.
- Infectious Laryngotracheitis – Texas has had 19 cases of ILT.
- Pullorum Typhoid – 665 flocks tested, which totaled 32,166 birds with zero positives.

#### Swine

- Swine Brucellosis – there were 10,517 tests run
- Pseudorabies – there were 1,859 screenings done with three positive cases

#### Chronic Wasting Disease:

- 103 Positive Deer
- Six Breeder Deer facilities with fifteen positive deer
- 2024 Medina County Facility – HCP Breeder Facility
  - Suspect sample collected July 22, 2024 and confirmed July 29th via post-mortem sampling
  - Trace-out to 2023 positive herd
  - Herd visit completed, seeking depopulation
- There were 245 traces closed from 2021, 23 for 2022, 209 for 2023, and 54 for 2024

#### **Item 10 – USDA-VS Report**

Dr. Louisa Collins presented updates for USDA VS and the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.

#### **Item 11 – Audit Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Joe Leathers gave a summary of the audit subcommittee meeting. The committee reviewed the report of personnel processes, approved the Internal Audit Plan for FY2025, approved actions based on the recommendations of the open records process, and approved the internal audit report for 2024.

The motion to approve the audit subcommittee report was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion passed.

#### **Item 12 - Budget Status Report**

The following was presented by Paula Andrews,

- FY 2025 Budgeted Revenue - \$2,252,323
  - General Revenue - \$16,162,652
  - AHP Fee Revenue – \$860,000
  - Federal Funds - \$1,766,722

- UB General Revenue – 1,749,899
- UB Capital Equipment – 200,000

- Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures (Agency Level)

Category	BUDGET	YTD EXPENSE (as of 3/31/2024)	AVAILABLE BUDGET
Salaries and Wages	\$12,931,017	\$2,173,831	\$10,757,186
Other Personnel Costs	\$634,771	\$27,355	\$607,416
Professional Fees & Services	\$110,410	\$11,067	\$99,343
Fuels and Lubricants	\$102,940	\$42,758	\$60,182
Consumable Supplies	\$167,704	\$11,009	\$156,695
Utilities	\$289,092	\$19,367	\$269,725
Travel	\$746,794	\$21,123	\$725,671
Rent- Building	\$626,630	\$217,942	\$408,688
Rent- Machine Other	\$75,607	\$5,952	\$69,655
Other Operating Expense	\$3,104,409	\$365,379	\$2,739,030
Totals	\$20,739,273	\$2,895,783	\$17,843,490

- Federal Cooperative Funds

Cooperative Award	Award Begin	Award Amount	Claims	Remaining Award Amount
24 TX US SHIP	4/1/2024	\$29,556	\$0	\$29,556
24 D4 TX ADT	4/1/2024	\$445,104	\$97,980	\$347,124
24 D4 TX UMB	4/1/2024	\$1,737,418	\$453,902	\$1,273,978
24 D4 TX CFT	4/1/2024	\$350,000	\$0	\$307,793
24 D4 TX HPAI	4/1/2024	\$58,929	\$0	\$8,413
Total Federal Awards				\$2,621,007

- Federal Funds as of October 31, 2024

Strategy	Prior Year (as of 8/31/2023)	Current Year (as of 3/31/2024)	Total by Strategy
Field	\$97,980	\$2,141,158	\$2,239,138
Animal Health Emergency Mngmt			
Pass Through High Fence			
		Total Spendable Funds	\$2,239,138

The motion to approve the Budget Status Report for FY 2024 was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion passed.

**Item 13 – Consideration of and Possible Action on Agency Contracts and Purchases**

Paula Andrews presented contracts and purchases for the consideration of the Commissioners, which included contracts, purchases, and leases for FY 2025.

The motion to approve the contacts, purchases, and leases was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion passed.

**Item 14 - Consideration of and Possible Action on Orders Related to Commission Rule Violations and Proposals for Decision**

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented orders related to Commission rule violations for the consideration of the commission. The motion to ADOPT the orders was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion was passed.

**Item 15 – Consideration and Possible Action on Proposals for Decision**

Mr. Jabbar Fahim presented the final orders for Commission Decision.

A motion was made to remand the order Case 1 back to the Administrative Law Judge with added fact findings to accept new evidence by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Klein. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to adopt the final order for Case 2 and seconded by Commissioner Osterkamp. The motion passed with one Commissioner abstaining from vote.

**Item 16 – Consideration and Possible Action on Adoption of Proposed Rules**

Ms. Penny Maley presented the following:

a) Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed amendments to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease eliminates all current Surveillance Zones, maintains all current containment zones, and creates new containment zones in Coleman and Collingsworth Counties based on positive CWD detections in free-ranging populations that pose high risk and required heightened surveillance.

The motion to adopt the amendments to Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease was made by Commissioner Turner and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion passed.

**Item 17 – Consideration and Possible Action on Proposed Rules**

Ms. Jeanine Coggeshall presented the following:

a) Chapter 32, Hearing and Appeal Procedures and Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease

The proposed rule would repeal the CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP). CWD HCP is a voluntary federal program administered by USDA for both native and exotic CWD susceptible herds with guidelines issued under Program Standards which include two components (Part A Standards for the Herd Certification Program and Part B Standards for state response to CWD) The Program Standards were last updated in May 2019 and USDA anticipates updated Program Standards in 2025. In 2013, TAHC entered an MOU to be a participating state, in 2021 a review found deficiencies in the program operation and rules. TAHC improved its rules and conducted audits of all enrolled herds and, in 2023, worked to further refine the rules to reduce the administrative burden on participants and the agency. Participation has declined, with only 97 herds being in good standing. Participation is not required to own exotic cervids or keep native deer captive in Texas. Most states have restricted importing CWD

susceptible species from CWD affected states, but interstate and international movement is allowed without participating in the HCP. 24 out of 34 positive breeder herds participated in the HCP. Repealing the rule would eliminate an ineffective program, reduce the administrative burden for TAHC staff, and allow greater flexibility for CWD management.

The motion to propose the amendments to Chapter 32, Hearing and Procedures, and Chapter 40, Chronic Wasting Disease was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion passed.

The notice of the proposed rule amendments will be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period. Comments regarding the proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

Ms. Penny Maley presented:

b) Chapter 41, Fever Ticks

The Commission uses various treatment methods in the efforts to control and eradicate cattle fever ticks – one such method is injectable doramectin. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure TAHC rules meet current science. Based upon the review of the dose schedule and withdrawal period, proposed amendments update the dose schedule from 25-28 days to 21-28 days and change the extended slaughter withholding period from 35 days to a period determined by TAHC and USDA-APHIS.

The motion to propose the amendments to Chapter 41, Fever Ticks was made by Commissioner Leathers and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion passed.

The notice of the proposed rule amendments will be published in the Texas Register with a 30-day comment period. Comments regarding the proposals may be submitted to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email at "comments@tahc.state.tx.us".

c) Chapter 51, Entry Requirements

The proposed amendments clarify that one of three forms of accepted identification is needed for ratites entering Texas. The proposed amendments also provide simplified entry requirements for exotic fowl, excluding ratites, moving between AZA facilities by allowing entry without PT and AI testing and without entry permitting.

The motion to propose the amendments to Chapter 51, Entry Requirements was made by Commissioner Klein and seconded by Commissioner Turner. The motion did not pass.

**Item 18 – Awards and Recognition**

Chairman Locke acknowledged TAHC staff who served in the military in honor of Veterans' Day.

**Item 19- Public Comment**

Public comment for regulation proposals was made at the time of the rule discussion and during the public comment agenda item.

**Item 20 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:28PM.