

MINUTES IN-PERSON MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY TASK FORCE

JUNE 26, 2024 10:00 A.M.
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order by Dr. Brent Robbins at 10:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Ashley Prejean, D.V.M.

Members present: Robbie Averett; Jena Troxler, D.V.M.; Brent Robbins, D.V.M.; Chalyn Fayard, D.V.M.; and Joe Stark, D.V.M.

Members absent: Chip Fitz and Shelly Liles Fontenot, D.V.M.

A quorum was present.

Other LDAF employees present: Ashley Prejean, D.V.M.; Michelle Ribera, Assistant Commissioner; Amy McInnis, General Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Dr. Fayard made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 06, 2023, meeting. The meeting was seconded by Ms. Averett and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Troxler introduced herself as the newest member of the task force.

Dr. Prejean recited a brief history of the task force again for new members.

Dr. Prejean discussed the current quantifiable numbers (i.e. number of open shelters, inspections completed) for the task force.

Dr. Prejean discussed the updates on the ASPCA regional evacuation center with DOC.

Dr. Prejean discussed the educational opportunities for ACOs with potential for CE modules and Dr. Stark mentioned speaking with Dr. Wolfson. Dr. Troxler mentioned that the LBVM is very strict with their CE rules and it makes it very difficult for ACOs.

Dr. Prejean mentioned that capital outlay monies from the parishes of Beauregard and Jeff Davis will be allocated to the Town of Elton and Beauregard shelters.

Dr. Prejean mentioned the out of state rescue list and that we do not have the purview over that.

The TNR program was mentioned that it was due to a hurricane response and that it would be great if we could find funding for a pre-hurricane response. Dr. Troxler mentioned Bissell has a gap in which they only supply a veterinarian so the small rural shelters would still need funding.

Dr. Prejean updated the task force on the number of shelters that have completed the 2022 ASV Guidelines and the ways in which the information could be useful.

Other shelter data that has been compiled was also discussed such as lack of oversight for boarding and grooming facilities in many parishes.

A discussion regarding shelters accepting help from veterinarians. Dr. Stark mentioned Acadia and Sulphur parishes have not responded to his request to help them. Dr. Prejean said she would follow up with those individuals. Dr. Fayard mentioned that there may be a disconnect between two individuals in charge of the shelter regarding animal care and welfare. Dr. Troxler and Robbie mentioned that the individuals may just be reluctant to draw attention to the facility.

Discussion ensued about shelters unsuitable for housing animals, governmental disconnect, holding facilities, MOUs for emergency response.

Dr. Stark mentioned Jennings Pound and the disconnect between shelter personnel and presiding officials and the assisting veterinarians. Dr. Stark mentioned that Jeff Davis just passed a budget with plans for a new parish shelter.

Dr. Robbins discussed strengthening the diction in the letter to parish officials thereby increasing the pressure on these individuals. Dr. Fayard agreed. Dr. Stark made mention to have the Commissioner sign the letters. Robbie also agreed that the letter would be helpful in addition to an action or education plan. Dr. Troxler mentioned that the right leadership must be involved in order for a letter to be useful. The letter details were discussed and will be sent to legal for refining.

Robbie mentioned developing an improvement plan program for the most-in-need shelters and involve NGO groups. Robbie also mentioned community education programs. Dr. Troxler mentioned that education is a gap in shelters. Dr. Stark and Dr. Fayard mentioned the fact that the public opinion would make a difference.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Prejean displayed the LACATF brochure that was handed out at the LVMA CE conference.

Amy McInnis discussed new board and commission rules and regulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

SET NEXT HEARING DATE

TBD- Possibly December 18, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dr. Fayard moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stark and was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.