

**BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
MINUTES**

**January 27, 2022**

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met in the DATCP Boardroom, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 and via zoom on **January 27, 2022**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84.

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Miranda Leis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Members Present**

Miranda Leis, Paul Bauer, Andy Diercks, Patty Edelburg, Dr. Clare Hintz, Doug Rebout, Dan Smith and Paul Palmby.

Not present: Carla Washington

**Minutes**

**Motion**

A motion was made by Andy Diercks and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve the December 16, 2021 DATCP Board minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Appearances**

The following made public appearances in front of the Board today:

Jayne Buttke – re: ATCP 160

Laurie Seale – re: Farm raised deer

Greg Flees – re: CWD

**Julie Lassa, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development State Director**

Secretary, Randy Romanski introduced Julie Lassa, Rural Development State Director from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to the Board. Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. Through their agencies, State and local offices, they provide financial technical assistance to rural residents, businesses, and private and public entities. Rural Development has more than 50 loan, grant, and technical assistance programs to support economic development in rural communities.

The USDA Rural Development includes three agencies, the Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Service and Rural Business Cooperative Service. Each of these agencies offer a unique mission that help rural areas build back better. For example, the Rural Housing Service helps rural communities and individuals by providing loans and grants for housing and essential community

facilities. They also provide technical assistance for loans and grants in partnership with non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, state and federal government agencies, and local communities. The Rural Utilities Service administers programs that provide infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities, such as water and wastewater facilities, electric power, and telecommunication services. This program helps rural utilities expand, keep their infrastructure and technology up to date, and establish new and vital services. The Rural Business Cooperative Service offers programs to help businesses grow as well as job training by providing the capital, training, education, and entrepreneurial skills that can help those living in rural areas start and grow businesses or find jobs.

**Heather White**  
**Dairy Innovation Hub Faculty Director**

Secretary, Randy Romanski introduced Heather White, Faculty Director from the Dairy Innovation Hub (Hub) to the Board. The Hub is based on legislation originally introduced in 2019 and is supported by the State of Wisconsin and harnesses research and development at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls campuses for the Wisconsin dairy community. The Hub has four key priority areas: stewarding land and water resources, enriching human health and nutrition, ensuring animal health and welfare, and growing farm businesses and communities. The Hub consists of an advisory council, comprised of industry and university representatives, a leadership committee made up of the three deans, and local steering committees at each University.

**VE 1-11 Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians**  
**Division of Animal Health**  
**Final Rule**

Angela Fischer, Program Policy Analyst from the Division of Animal Health presented the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code chs. VE 1-11, to the Board. Ms. Fischer gave a brief overview and requested the Board approve the Final Rule.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Andy Diercks and seconded by Doug Rebout to approve the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code chs. VE 1-11. Motion was approved unanimously.

**ATCP 160 County and District Fairs**  
**Division of Agricultural Development**  
**Final Rule**

Sharon Henes, Program Policy Analyst from the Division of Agricultural Development presented the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 160, to the Board. Ms. Henes gave a brief overview and requested the Board approve the Final Rule.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Doug Rebout and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve the Final Rule for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 160. Motion was approved unanimously.

## **Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Survey Update**

### **Greg Bussler**

Greg Bussler, State Statistician from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service presented his January 27, 2022 report to the Board on Milk Production, November Prices Received, December Hog Survey, Highlights from the 2021 Final Crop Production Report, Chicken & Eggs, Storage Capacity and other noteworthy items.

## **Chronic Wasting Disease in Farm Raised Deer: 2021 review**

### **Division of Animal Health**

Dr. Darlene Konkle, Division Administrator from the Division of Animal Health presented a 2021 review of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in farm-raised deer to the Board. CWD was first diagnosed in Wisconsin in 2002, first in a wild deer and then in a farm-raised deer herd. Since 2002, there have been 36 farm-raised deer premises diagnosed with CWD. Of those 36, 19 have been depopulated and are no longer in operation. Of the 17 CWD positive premises that remain, 11 are hunt ranches, three are for exhibition or hobby, and three are breeding herds that remain under investigation.

The rules and regulations for farm-raised deer in Wisconsin are found under the Herd Certification Program, 9 CFR Part 55 Enrollment as an approved State, 9 CFR Part 81 Interstate Movement, USDA CWD Program Standards, Wis. Stat. s. 90.01-90.21 Fencing, Wis. Stat. s. 95.001-95.99 Animal Health, and Wis. Admin Code s. ATCP 10.45-10.58 Farm-raised deer and CWD. Also, any person who keeps farm-raised deer, which includes all cervid species, in Wisconsin must register with DATCP. Currently there are approximately 300 registered farm-raised deer premises in the state, of which 68 are hunt ranches.

## **Legal Counsel Overview**

### **Office of the Secretary**

General Counsel Fratney Miller presented a legal counsel overview to the Board. Currently the legal department consists of 5 Attorneys, a Paralegal, and a Public Records Coordinator. The Attorneys represent our Divisions in appeals and decision orders, license agreements, administrative orders, and enforcement referrals. They also represent the Department at informal hearings, give contract and human resources advice, advise boards and councils, provide legal review of policies and procedures, and advise on public record requests. Our Paralegal administers the Department's Administrative rules and DATCP Board meetings, and our Public Records Coordinator manages the Department's public records requests and record detention process. We have a small team in legal, but they provide a great support to the Department.

## **Office of the Secretary Report**

Secretary Randy Romanski presented the Secretary's Office update to the Board:

- The Governor through his budget is providing \$5 million to the meat processing industry to address supply chain issues.
- The Wisconsin Initiative for Agriculture Exports was included in the Governor's budget and the legislature set parameters to increase exports 25% by 2026 for dairy, meat, and other agricultural commodities.
- Canada improperly restricted its market for exports which violated USMCA. Secondly, the US District Court of Virginia ruled that Gruyere cheese can be made outside of the Swiss French border region.
- We hosted Ted McKinney, the CEO of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He was interested in our programming and we discussed topics from water quality to the Farm Center.
- Clay Hamilton, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Association Administrator was in Wisconsin for the Dairy Strong conference and we spent time with him discussing international market opportunities.
- The dairy processor and meat processor grant program applications closed recently. The Governor doubled funding in his budget for dairy processing. The number of applications that came in were record breaking. The meat processor grant is new and the Governor initially proposed \$1million a year. The legislature approved \$200,000 per year and we will get those dollars out the door. The applications on this grant closed 1.5 weeks ago and we received 97 applications.
- Recently we participated with DFI to do a free online student loan workshop. We also partnered with DHS to provide information resources regarding COVID testing scams.

**Board Member Election of Officers:  
Board Chair, Vice Chair, Board Secretary**

**Motion**

A motion was made by Paul Palmby and seconded by Patty Edelburg to nominate Miranda Leis as Board Chair for the 2022 term. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Patty Edelburg and seconded by Dan Smith to nominate Andy Diercks as the Board Vice Chair for the 2022 term. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Andy Diercks and seconded by Doug Rebout to nominate Paul Palmby as Board Secretary for the 2022 term. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Board Member Updates**

The following DATCP Board members commented on industry, business, training and personal agricultural issues that arose since the last Board meeting: Miranda Leis, Patty Edelburg, Paul Bauer, Andy Diercks, Dr. Clare Hintz, Dan Smith, Doug Rebout and Paul Palmby.

**Future Agenda Items**

Dan Smith suggested Genex Distribution Center as a possible tour opportunity.

Other possible tour opportunities that were discussed with the Board are visiting a deer farm, the Farm Discovery Center in Manitowoc, Lakeside Foods, and a maple syrup plant.

### **Adjournment**

#### **Motion**

A motion to adjourn was made by Doug Rebout and seconded by Patty Edelburg. Motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at approximately 12:23 p.m.

All reports and any associated documents presented during a Board meeting can be accessed by contacting the Office the Secretary, Legal Counsel at (608) 224-5029.