

Call to Order

The meeting of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine Veterinarian Shortage Study Ad Hoc Subgroup meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. on November 6, 2024, at the Virginia Farm Bureau Auditorium, 12580 West Creek Parkway, Richmond, VA 23238.

Chair

Kelli Moss, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Workgroup Participants Present

Charles Broaddus, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACT, VA Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Melinda McCall, DVM, Virginia Academy of Food Animal Practitioners*

Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau

Daniel Givens, DVM, PhD, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)*

Stephen Versen, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC)*

Staff

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs*

Laura Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Laura Jackson, Board Administrator

Jake Tabor, Virginia Farm Bureau

Tim Reese, Virginia Farm Bureau

Public Present

Teresa Dockery, Virginia Alliance for Animal Shelters*

Call to Order

The participants were welcomed, and introductions were made.

Ordering of Agenda

Ms. Kelli Moss opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the updated agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Discussion

Budget amendment request for additional seats for Virginia residents.

- Ms. Martha Moore reported she will work with the finance group at VMCVM to draft the budget request and will seek patrons to fund the ten additional slots for Virginia students,

with preference given to students pursuing large animal and food animal medicine. VMCVM's participation is needed to draft the appropriation request and a new request in early 2026 next year to include in the new biennial budget.

- Dean Daniel Givens will review interview questions to identify students with an interest in large animal and food animal medicine to ensure they capture all potential candidates for the program without excluding students. Dr. McCall will assist with identifying food animal practitioners to serve on multiple mini-interview panels to determine candidates who meet criteria and best fit with areas of need.

Virginia Tobacco Revitalization Region Commission's (TRRC) Large Animal Veterinary Incentive Program.

- Mr. Stephen Versen reviewed the TRCC's proposed large animal veterinary incentive program, which is modeled after existing tuition reimbursement programs for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. With knowledge gained through Mr. Versen's participation in this workgroup, the TRRC program recognized the importance of selecting candidates associated with communities of need, maintaining broad flexibility to include all regions of interest, and developing resources for mentorship and loan navigation assistance. Financial considerations included increasing incentives tied to service years, allowing for costs associated with practice, and practice qualifications for awards. This program would be developed in partnership with nonprofit organizations and would be limited to the areas within the TRRC's footprint. This program would defer to veterinary schools to recommend timing of awards and would consult with veterinarians to identify areas' specific veterinary needs.
- This incentive program would be in three-year grant cycles totaling \$1.5M, to be developed in partnership with Virginia Small Business Financing Authority and the TRCC. The budget will cover costs for five years so if the program is discontinued after the three-year cycle, it will continue payments through the five-year program period. The subgroup discussed the timing of applications and awards, the inclusion of students outside of VMCVM and Lincoln Memorial University and allowing students to simultaneously participate in the USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. Mr. Versen plans to complete a draft of the proposed program to include administration details to present to the workgroup in March 2025.
- The subgroup discussed TRRC's program possibly including licensed veterinary technicians to address shortages in rural areas and shelters. They discussed potentially expanding LVTs roles in managing haul-in facilities for large animal veterinarians.

Budget amendment request for state veterinary financial incentive program.

- Ms. Moore will draft a budget amendment request to develop this program, with similar terms to that of TRRC's proposed program and other state programs. She will review

incentives localities may provide to involve them in the solution and maximize available funds. She will provide the information to patrons of this study and members of the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

- The full workgroup will discuss public engagement to increase awareness of the financial incentive programs as they develop.

Survey questions for food animal producers and veterinarians.

- Mr. Jake Tabor reported he drafted questions to survey food animal producers and needs input from veterinarians and different producer groups such as the cattle and dairy associations. The survey responses will also assist with identifying regions in need of veterinary services. The group recommended close-ended and specific questions are needed to gather the most reliable data. Dr. Thomas Massie, Dr. McCall and Dr. Bom Harris will assist Mr. Tabor in developing questions for large animal producers.
- Dr. Melinda McCall discussed the upcoming food animal meeting at the Virginia Veterinary Conference in February 2025. The meeting will be a roundtable discussion with a panel that includes the VVMA president, Dr. Charles Broaddus, Dr. McCall, VMLRP recipients. Ms. Moore and/or Mr. Versen may be included on the panel as needed.
- Responses from the Board of Veterinary Medicine's annual renewal survey, food animal producers' survey and large animal veterinarians' survey will be presented to the workgroup at its next meeting.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting

The next full Workgroup meeting will be scheduled in March 2025. A poll will be sent to all workgroup members to determine the date.

Adjournment

With no objection, Ms. Moss adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director
Chair