

### **Call to Order**

The March 11, 2025, Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room 1, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

### **Presiding Officer**

Jeffrey B. Newman, DVM, President

### **Members Present**

Richard G. Bailey, DVM, Vice President

Margaret J. Rucker, DVM, Secretary

Thomas B. Massie, Jr., DVM

Bruce M. Bowman, DVM

Patricia Seeger, LVT, BBA

Steve Linas, OD

### **Staff Present**

Arne W. Owens, Agency Director

Kelli Moss, Executive Director

Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

Claire Foley, Deputy Executive Director

James E. Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General, Acting Board Counsel

Laura Jackson, Board Administrator

Laura D. Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist

### **Public Present**

Jake Tabor, Legislative Specialist at Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

Talya George, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)

Lina Cortes Kwapisz

### **Establishment of Quorum**

With seven board members in attendance, a quorum was established.

## **Introductions**

Dr. Newman introduced Assistant Attorney General, James Rutkowski, who is present as counsel for the Board.

## **Ordering of Agenda**

Dr. Newman opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Ms. Moss stated that the 2024 Healthcare Workforce Data Center Reports will be presented by Dr. Shobo and Dr. Hodgdon at the next board meeting. Dr. Massie moved to accept the agenda with this revision. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rucker and carried unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

The Board received public comment from Lina Cortes Kwapisz, a graduate of a non-AVMA certified veterinary school, who requested the Board to consider allowing temporary licensing for veterinarians who have passed the national examination to work under a licensed veterinarian's supervision pending scheduling of the Clinical Proficiency Examination to be certified by the Educational Commission of Foreign Veterinary Graduates. Dr. Newman thanked Ms. Cortes for her comments.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Newman opened the floor to any additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes from the following meetings:

- October 21, 2024, Full Board meeting
- October 21, 2024, Formal hearings
- December 2, 2024, Formal hearing
- December 2, 2024, Board consideration of a summary suspension
- January 15, 2025, Legislative/Regulatory Committee Meeting

Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **Agency Director's Report**

Mr. Owens provided an update on the agency's activities.

## **Legislative/Regulatory Report**

Ms. Barrett provided the report on legislative and regulatory activity which include legislation passed by the 2025 General Assembly regarding the Large Animal Veterinarian Shortage Study.

Ms. Barrett reviewed proposed regulatory reductions recommended by Legislative/Regulatory Committee for the periodic review initiated in 2022.

Motion: Dr. Rucker moved to accept the recommendation of the Regulatory Committee regarding proposed regulatory changes to Chapter 20. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

## **Discussion Items**

Ms. Moss provided an update from this year's annual conference of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, where she presented board updates and information about the large animal veterinarian shortage study workgroup's progress. She reported veterinarians' concerns about vaccine clinics operating within Virginia, requirements for examinations and records. Ms. Moss reported she and staff will continue outreach efforts to educate licensees on regulatory actions and other board activities.

## **Board Counsel's Report**

Mr. Rutkowski gave a status update on a Board decision heard by the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

## **President's Report**

Dr. Newman stated he had no information to report to the Board.

## **Board of Health Professions' Report**

Ms. Moss reported that agency staff were preparing for the elimination of the Board of Health Professions as passed by the 2025 General Assembly.

## **Staff Reports**

Ms. Moss provided licensing statistics and the following information to the Board:

- The Board's senior licensing specialist position is vacant again and staff are recruiting to fill this position.
- She recognized staff members Laura Jackson, Laura Paasch and Charles "Chip" Atkins for assuming additional job duties to assist with processing veterinary license applications.
- An additional position is being developed to assist with licensing and inspections of veterinary establishments.
- Once effective, emergency regulations for satellite offices to registered establishments will result in additional administrative duties for staff.
- Information sessions were presented to veterinarian and veterinary technology students by board staff.

Ms. Foley provided an update on open and closed discipline cases.

## **New Business**

There was no new business to report.

**Next Meeting**

The next full board meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2025.

**Adjournment**

With no objection, Dr. Newman adjourned the meeting at 10:19 AM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Moss". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Kelli Moss  
Executive Director