

Call to Order

The October 26, 2023, Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 2, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer – Thomas B. Massie, Jr., DVM, President

Members Present

Jeffery B. Newman, DVM, Vice-President
Tregel Cockburn, DVM, Secretary
Steve Linas, OD, Citizen Member
Steve B. Karras, DVM

Members Attending Electronically

Richard G. Bailey, DVM was approved by the President of the Board to participate electronically due to a personal travel conflict that prevented him from being in the Richmond office for the meeting. Autumn N. Halsey, LVT was approved by the President of the Board to participate electronically due to a health issue that prevented her from being in the Richmond office for the meeting.

Staff Present

Arne W. Owens, Agency Director
Leslie L. Knachel, Executive Director
Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Erin Barrett, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Matt Novak, Policy & Economic Analyst DHP
Laura Booberg, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel
Laura Jackson, Board Administrator
Laura Paasch, Senior Licensing Specialist
Barbara Hodgdon, Deputy Director, Healthcare Workforce Data Center DHP
Taryn Singleton, LVT, Discipline Case Specialist

Public Present

James DeBell, DVM
Talya George, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)
Pattie Seeger, LVT, AAS, BBA

Susan Seward, VVMA

Establishment of Quorum

With five out of seven board members present in the Henrico, VA location and two members participating via electronic communication, a quorum was established.

Introductions

Dr. Massie welcomed Arne Owens, the new DHP Director, who began his appointment on November 1, 2022.

Dr. Massie announced that the agency has a new Chief Deputy Director, James Jenkins, who began his appointment on November 30, 2022.

Laura Booberg was introduced as the new Assistant Attorney General assigned to represent the Board.

Ordering of Agenda

Dr. Massie opened the floor to any edits or corrections regarding the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was accepted as presented.

Public Comment

Dr. James DeBell spoke about telehealth and the limited access to medical records from facilities to veterinary offices.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Massie stated that a copy of the draft minutes from the October 13, 2022, full board meeting is provided as a handout and is added to the list of draft minutes being approved. Dr. Massie opened the floor to an additions or corrections regarding the draft minutes from the following meetings:

- October 13, 2022, Full Board Meeting
- January 5, 2023, Veterinary Establishment Inspection Committee Meeting
- January 19, 2023, Regulatory Committee Meeting
- March 28, 2023, Regulatory Committee Meeting
- March 28, 2023, Full Board Meeting
- October 10, 2023, Conference Call

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

Agency Director's Report

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

Legislative/Regulatory Report

Ms. Barrett introduced Matt Novak as the new Policy & Economic Analyst for DHP. Ms. Barrett provided information on the following:

- 2023 legislative update
- Petitions for Rulemaking
 - Submission by the VVMA

Ms. Halsey made a motion to deny the petition submitted by the VVMA because the Board believed medical learning requirements contained in the current continuing education require should not be reduced. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cockburn. The motion carried with six votes in favor, and one opposed by Dr. Newman.

- Submission by Gerald Blackburn

Dr. Cockburn made a motion to initiate rulemaking to implement the request and to reduce licensure by endorsement requirements in other parts of the regulations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman. The motion carried with six votes in favor, and one abstention by Dr. Karras.

- Regulatory Update
 - Reviewed current Regulatory Actions
 - Initiation of periodic review of public participation guidelines

Dr. Karras made a motion to initiate the periodic review of the public participation guidelines. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman. The motion carried unanimously.

- Consideration of fast-track regulatory action to allow agency subordinates to hear credentials cases

Ms. Halsey made a motion to amend as presented, via fast-track action, 18VAC150-20-15 to allow agency subordinates to hear credentials cases. The motion was seconded by Dr. Karras. The motion carried unanimously.

- Guidance Document Update

150-2 Guidance on Expanded Duties for Licensed Veterinary Technicians

Ms. Knachel reported that the board office had received several questions related to whether a licensed veterinary technician was allowed to perform certain procedures. The board discussed the various procedures. Staff will update the

guidance document and present a draft to the Board for its consideration at its next meeting.

- Policy review for electronic participation amendment

Dr. Newman made a motion to revise the electronic participation policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Karras. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

- Ms. Hodgdon provided the report on the 2022 Veterinarians and Veterinarian Technicians Healthcare Workforce Data Center Reports.

Consideration of Agency Subordinate Recommendations

Ms. Moss provide information on the agency subordinate recommendations for the following cases:

- Luke Delpo, Veterinarian, Case 210966 and
- Westlake Veterinary Medical Center, Case 210965
- Karen Baum, Veterinarian, Case 219564 and
- Little Doc's Veterinary Care, Incorporated, Case 219563
- Eclectic Equine Services, Case 220672

Ms. Halsey made a motion to accept the Agency Subordinate recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cockburn. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items continued

- Ms. Knachel reported that there has been preliminary discussion related to a proposed licensing reciprocity agreement between Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia.
- In addition, Ms. Knachel discussed with the Board a question received from the Virginia Racing Commission about whether unlicensed individuals are allowed to use of Magna Wave Therapy on animals. The Board determined that if the therapy falls within the scope of the practice definition found in § 54.1-3800 of the Code of Virginia then the use of magna wave therapy would be considered the practice of veterinary medicine and require a license.

Board Counsel's Report

Ms. Booberg gave an update on the appeal of a discipline case.

President's Report

Dr. Massie had no information to report to the Board.

Board of Health Professions' Report

Dr. Karras had no information to report to the Board.

Staff Reports

- Ms. Knachel provided updates on licensure statistics and outreach activities.
- Dr. Cockburn reported on the 2023 Annual American Association of Veterinary Boards AAVSB conference in Kansas City, MO.
- Ms. Moss provided an update on open and closed discipline cases.

New Business

Elections

Dr. Massie provided information from the bylaws regarding officer elections.

- **President**
Dr. Karras made a motion to nominate Dr. Bailey to serve as President which was seconded by Dr. Cockburn.

Dr. Bailey made a motion to nominate Dr. Massie to serve as President which was seconded by Dr. Newman seconded the motion.

No further nominations were received. Ms. Knachel did a roll call. Dr. Massie received a majority of votes with Dr. Linas abstaining. Dr. Massie will complete his current term as President and begin a new term beginning January 1, 2024. President.

- **Vice-President**
Dr. Cockburn made a motion to nominate Dr. Bailey to serve as Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman. No other nominations were received. Voting by roll-call ballot was unanimous and the motion carried for Dr. Bailey to serve a one-year term as Vice-President beginning January 1, 2024.
- **Secretary**
Dr. Cockburn made a motion to nominate Dr. Linas to serve as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Dr. Karras. No other nominations were received. Voting by roll-call ballot was unanimous and the motion carried for Dr. Linas to serve a one-year term as Secretary beginning January 1, 2024.

Next Meeting

The next full board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024.

Adjournment

With no objection, Dr. Massie adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Board President

Leslie L. Knachel, MPH
Executive Director