Montana Board of Livestock
Meeting Minutes
(This Meeting was Open to the Public & By ZOOM)
August 27, 2026
MT Department of Livestock Board Room #319
302 N Roberts, Helena, Montana

Board Members Present
Gene Curry (cattle producer)
Alan Redfield (cattle producer)
Greg Wichman (sheep producer)
William Kleinsasser (swine producer)
Jake Feddes (cattle producer)

(Eric Moore and Lillian Andersen attended meeting by ZOOM. Jake Feddes attended afternoon portion of meeting by ZOOM)

Staff Present
Mike Honeycutt, EO
Lindsey Simon, Legal Counsel
Riley Meredith, PIO for DOL
Mike Spatz, Human Resources
Rick Corder, Centralized Services
Carolyn Johnson, Centralized Services
Justin Meadows, Centralized Services
Tom Shultz, Centralized Services
Alicia Love, Meat, Milk & Egg
Olivia Johnson, Meat, Milk & Egg
Brian Simonson, Deputy EO
Donna Wilham, Adm Asst to EO
Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, MT State Vet
Dr. Emily Kaleczyc, Asst State Vet
Dr. Kelsey Martin, Animal Health
Dr. Brenee Peterson, Animal Health
Dr. Greg Juda, MVDL
Holly Berry, Brands Enforcement
Job Greenall, Meat, Milk & Egg
Kaylee Hiel, Meat, Milk & Egg

Public Present
Dalin Tidwell, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Kali Wicks, Montana Milk Producers
Lori Harshbarger, Harshbarger Law Firm
Tina Hamm, Hall and Hall
Sandra Nuffer, Cooper Nuffer – Montana Livestock Auction
Cassidy Brunner, Daryn Cederberg, Jon Kamps – Headwaters Livestock Auction

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
(0:01) **8:01 AM**
Chairman Gene Curry called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS
(0:01) **8:01 AM**
Chairman Gene Curry called the meeting to order and requested introductions:

- **William Kleinsasser,** Swine Representative, Augusta
  Jake Feddes, Cattle Representative, Manhattan
  Greg Wichman, Sheep Representative, Hilger
  Alan Redfield, Cattle Representative, Paradise Valley, south of Livingston
  Gene Curry, Cattle Representative, Valier

  Two late introductions came from BOL members attending by ZOOM:
  (8:07) **Lily Andersen**, Dairy & Poultry Representative, south of Livingston
  (8:47) **Eric Moore**, Cattle Representative, Miles City

Chairman Gene Curry requested introductions from the audience:
Lindsey Simon, BOL Counsel
Riley Meredith, DOL Public Relations Officer
Kali Wicks, Montana Milk Producers
Sandra Nuffer, Montana Livestock Auction
Cassidy Brunner, Headwaters Livestock Auction
Daryn Cederberg, Headwaters Livestock Auction

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

(1:26) **8:02 AM**

(1:26) **8:02 AM – BOARD APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**
Gene Curry requested approval of the minutes of the last BOL meeting, held on May 27, 2026

MOTION/VOTE

(1:38) **8:02 AM**
Alan Redfield moved to approve the minutes from the Montana Board of Livestock May 27, 2026 meeting. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE UPDATES

(2:02) **8:03 AM**

(2:07) **8:03 AM – LEGAL COUNSEL/BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION PROPOSED LIVESTOCK MARKET TRANSFERS**
Lindsey Simon reported that there would be two contested case hearing matters regarding Livestock Market Certificates and requested that the Headwaters Livestock Auction Market matter be addressed first

(3:25) **8:04 AM In the Matter of the Application for Change of Ownership for Headwaters Livestock Auction**
Lindsey Simon explained that Valley View LLC, who do business as Headwaters Livestock Auction, was proposing to transfer their livestock market certificate to Wheatland Livestock Incorporated. The BOL options, according to Ms. Simon, were to

wholly accept the decision of the Hearing Examiner regarding the proposal, modify the decision or reject the decision:

- Ms. Simon said that testimony given at the hearing was that the land underneath the Market was going to be sold to Wheatland Livestock, Incorporated and the business itself and the Market Certificate was going to be transferred to a separate legal entity that was formed called HLA, LLC. The issue with this, according to Ms. Simon, was that the Hearing Examiner proposed to approve the transfer of the Market Certificate to Wheatland Livestock, Incorporated, and so she advised the BOL, if they wanted to approve the transfer of the Market Certificate, that the Hearing Examiner's proposed decision would need to be modified.
- Cassidy Brunner explained that Wheatland Livestock, LLC was quoted as the Market Owner in their first-submitted paperwork, but that Wheatland Livestock LLC would be the real estate and HLA, LLC the Market Certificate Holder

MOTION/VOTE

(11:14) **8:12 AM**

Alan Redfield moved to allow the administrative record to be supplemented with the first addendum that was submitted to Lindsey Simon (DOL Legal Counsel) this week from Cassidy Brunner, Headwaters Livestock Auction (Valley View, LLC), as just discussed. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

Lindsey Simon said that a motion to reject could send the proposed decision back for another hearing, but, a motion to accept would modify the Hearing Examiner's decision, proceed to the final order and approve it

MOTION/VOTE

(16:22) **8:17 AM**

Alan Redfield moved to modify the proposed order to include HLA, LLC as the name of the Market Certificate transferee, not Wheatland Livestock Incorporated, and to otherwise adopt the recommendation made by the Hearing Officer to transfer that license from Headwaters Livestock Auction (Valley View, LLC) to HLA, LLC. Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

(18:14) **8:19 AM In the Matter of the Application for Change of Ownership for Montana Livestock Auction**

Lindsey Simon explained that in this matter, the transaction would be simply a shared sale, with the Market Certificate continuing to be held by the same corporation, High Country Livestock, Incorporated. Sandra Nuffer, the sole shareholder was proposing to sell all of their shares and change ownership to Barry and Danielle McCoy, current owners of Dillon Livestock Auction:

- Ms. Simon said that the Hearing Examiner approved the proposed sale, and the BOL could simply adopt or reject that proposal

MOTION/VOTE

(20:49) **8:22 AM**
Greg Wichman moved to adopt the hearing examiner's proposed decision and approve the transfer of shares/ownership in High Country Livestock, Inc. (dba Montana Livestock Auction) from Sandra Nuffer to Barry and Dannielle McCoy. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

Lindsey Simon said that a request for a protective order had been filed that the financial information that had been submitted in conjunction with the proposed transfer be held confidential

MOTION/VOTE

(24:45) **8:26 AM**
Jake Feddes moved to grant a motion for protective order regarding the finances reported to the Montana Department of Livestock of High County Livestock, Incorporated in their transfer of shares/ownership of Montana Livestock Auction. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.

(28:29) **8:29 AM – EXECUTIVE OFFICE UPDATES**

(28:58) **8:30 AM Executive Officer Updates**

(28:58) **8:30 AM YNP Bison/EIS/IBMP Operations Update**
Mike Honeycutt reported that there was a process now in place by the Department of Interior, the Park Service, to replace the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Yellowstone Bison that was adopted in 2024:

- Mr. Honeycutt said that the Governor's Office, FWP and the DOL were primary cooperating partners on the State side and have been engaged in meetings and conversations to provide input to the Park Service on development of alternatives in that EIS
- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said that the Park Service usually does their Fall Bison counts at the end of August or beginning of September and so she was hoping to have the post-calving numbers within the next 30 days
- A rogue Yellowstone Bison bull wandered out of the west side of the Park recently and it was believed to have made its way to Idaho

(33:19) **8:35 AM Intervention in Legal Actions Against Recent BLM Grazing Decisions on Bison**
Mike Honeycutt reported that the DOL was in ongoing litigation with regards to BLM grazing allotments in Phillips County, attached to the property owned by American Prairie:

- Mr. Honeycutt reported that Judge Morris had heard arguments from American Prairie, BLM and the State that week to grant a stay on the decision by BLM asking American Prairie to remove bison from those grazing allotments. No word on Judge Morris' decision had been received, as of yet
- Riley Meredith, Public Information Officer for the DOL, introduced himself to the BOL

(42:38) **8:43 AM Legislative Interim Update**
Mike Honeycutt reported that the DOL had presented 11 Legislative concepts to Economic Affairs the previous week and they were well received and all approved for pre-drafting in 25 minutes:

- Mr. Honeycutt reported that the budget concepts presented to the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) resulted in just one refusal, the LLB request for additional general fund
- The next Interim Budget Committee meeting with the DOL was scheduled for mid-September, where the primary focus would be going through the most recently completed fiscal year.
- Mr. Honeycutt announced that the Fiscal Analyst that the DOL had worked with for years during Legislature, Rob Miller, would be retiring from Legislative Services before the next Session

(51:48) **8:53 AM USDA-APHIS-WS EIS for Grizzly Bear Damage Management in Montana**
Mike Honeycutt announced that public comment regarding a current EIS regarding USDA Wildlife Services Grizzly Bear Depredation Management in Montana would close October 5, 2026:

- Mr. Honeycutt said that although dealing with grizzly bears was more in the FWP camp than the DOL camp, the DOL would probably provide comments regarding the EIS that would support the status quo of how Wildlife Services was operating when it came to grizzly bears within Grizzly bear habitat today

(59:21) **9:00 AM – HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**
Mike Spatz, Human Resource Officer for the DOL, introduced himself

(59:58) **9:01 AM Staff Openings, Recruitment Updates**
Mike Spatz reported that there had been a lot of movement since the last BOL meeting, with eight new hires and seven vacated positions:

- Mr. Spatz said that the Molecular Lab Technician position was filled and nearly all the Brands Enforcement vacancies in Billings were filled except for one in the Billings Market. Ty Hultman was promoted to a District Lead Investigator, the FTO position, on June 17th. A Market Supervisor in the Three Forks Market had given word of resignation effective the first Friday of September. The half-time Egg Grader position in Great Falls was filled, only to have that person resign three days later.

(1:09:09) **9:10 AM General Updates**

(1:09:11) **9:10 AM Mid-Year Check-In Process Completion**
Mike Spatz reported that there was about 97% - 98% participation in the most recent Mid-Year Check-In Process:

- Mike Honeycutt explained that 97%-98% participation meant that only two or three people didn't get all the way through to completion on their Check-in

Process, adding that the Check-In had moved to an electronic format, making it more difficult to complete in the Markets, where there was just one computer available for all the employees there

(1:16:28) **9:17 AM HR Training for Supervisors**
Mike Spatz reported that the EEO Non-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Training, required every three years, was out and due for completion by December 31, 2026

(1:16:48) **9:18 AM HR Job Reclassification Request**
Mike Spatz reported that, stemming from the recent Federal Audit in the Meat, Milk & Egg Bureau, they found a need for a Compliance Investigator position:

- Mr. Spatz explained the there was no need to add a new position to fill that need, but, reclassifying an existing position and recruiting it internally was the request, making for three Compliance Officers in that Bureau, with this new position having some labeling duties attached to it as well. The reclassification would add about $1.50/hour increase to the salary of that internal person
- Alicia Love said that the "vulnerability" identified during the audit would be compensated for by a compliance person who had technical knowledge in labeling requirements and could take enforcement when needed

MOTION/VOTE
(1:23:18) **9:24 AM**
Jake Feddes moved to approve reclassifying the Label Specialist position from Compliance Specialist to Compliance Investigator. Alan Redfield seconded. The motion passed.

(1:23:43) **9:25 AM Request to Change Hours of Egg Grader Position (Non-Agenda Item)**
Mike Spatz said that with a proposed increase of hours in the Great Falls Egg Plant and finding it harder to recruit for half-time positions, the request was to change the hours of the half-time Egg Grader position to a full-time position:

- Alicia Love explained that adding those extra hours to the Egg Grader position would allow that person time to go out and do quarterly SCEs visits, which would ease some of the work in the Milk Program and provide a fill-in person when vacation breaks or sick days are taken

MOTION/VOTE
(1:33:27) **9:34 AM**
Jake Feddes moved to approve changing an Egg Grader position from a half-time to a full-time position. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.

(1:34:37) **9:35 AM RECESS**

(1:34:39) **9:51 AM RECONVENE**

Gene Curry called the meeting back to order

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION REPORTS

(1:35:32) **9:52 AM**

(1:35:33) **9:52 AM FISCAL BUREAU**

Brian Simonson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Executive Officer, introduced himself, adding that he was here to give the DOL's end-of-year financial closeout and other operations and duties as well

(1:35:48) **9:52 AM Predator Control Aerial Hunting Allocations**

Brian Simonson explained that it was time for the BOL to approve the $575,000 dispersion of per capita fee funds to three counties who did not participate in the USDA Wildlife Services helicopter operations for predator control to fight coyotes:

- Mr. Simonson reported that this year, the three counties paid about 8.78% of the per capita for the state, and after the insurance was paid for three helicopters, it left $512,589 for Wildlife Services, $19,820 for Carter County, $20,250 for Powder River County and $10,415 for Richland County

MOTION/VOTE

(1:37:58) **9:55 AM**

Alan Redfield moved to approve the Predator Control allocations for FY2027, which include $512,589 to USDA Wildlife Services for aerial hunting and $19,820 to Carter County, $20,250 to Powder River County and $10,415 to Richland County, the three counties that did not participate in the Wildlife Services aerial hunting program. Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

Brian Simonson added that combining the $512,000 just approved for Wildlife Services, $145,000 in the FWP Wolf Mitigation funds and then the $95,000 transfer to Wildlife Services from the LLB, that added up to just over ¾ of a million dollars the DOL was contributing to the work of Wildlife Services

(1:40:13) **9:57 AM June 30, 2026 State Special Revenue Report**

Brian Simonson reported that this report included about two months' worth of financial information from the last report, but added that at the end of the year it could be almost three months' worth of revenue coming in at the last minute from the MVDL:

- The Field Inspections number came in nearly exactly as they did this time last year; Market Inspection were up $31,000 from 2025; Investment Earnings were down $95,000 as the re-record savings account had gone down and the interest rate percentage was down by half a percentage point less that at this time last year; Per Capita Fee showed $123,000 more than this time last year, probably due to the 3% increase and the one-cent for chickens; $255,768 was brought in for Milk Inspection for the year, and $245,000 of Milk Inspection Fees were spent, a result of the Milk Inspection general fund subsidy granted by the

Legislature helping the budget to cover expenses; the Diagnostic Lab was down by $38,000, the proprietary fund balance was $446,000, which was a $100,000 loss of revenue that had been stored up, and with the disruptions from moving into the new Lab building and an anticipated increase in O&M costs, Mr. Simonson expected a bumpy ride for a whole year;
- The BOL discussed the current situation of salmonella testing on eggs and chickens in the MVDL and the salmonella testing that Wilcox was having done at Washington State University

(1:56:45) **10:13 AM** **June 30, 2026 Budget Comparison Report**
Brian Simonson reported that the DOL had spent $1,095,000 more than the year before, but still had $1,264,000 left of the budget that wasn't spent:

- With all the vacancies and the pay increases, Mr. Simonson said that the $791,339 number had been growing steadily all year; the $485,611 in Operations was 8% of that budget left over; predominantly in Contracts; there was $200,000 less in testing; CSD had about $133,000 of extra authority in the Rent area; under Budgeted Funds, $689,000 of general fund was left over, with $400,000 of that in Meat & Poultry Inspection, aided by $300,000 general fund from the Legislature and a 50-50 match from the Feds; there was a lot of money spent on end-of-year "wish list" items, but there was still had a lot of authority left over
- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski was doing a lot of work with MVDL staff who wanted to do more work around Brucellosis, working with MSU and USDA, hoping to get research grants
- Evan Waters' analysis of FY26 compared to FY27 showed $612,000 more in expenses in FY27, and most of that would be in Personal Services

PREDATOR CONTROL
(2:21:32) **10:38 AM**

(2:21:42) **10:38 AM** **Update on Activities of USDA Wildlife Services - (Presented by Dalin Tidwell, Montana State Director)**
Dalin Tidwell, State Director for USDA Wildlife Services, introduced himself and caught the BOL up on USDA Wildlife Services activities for the past couple of months:

- Mr. Tidwell reported on new hires, including Specialists, Range Riders and a Budget Analyst who was scheduled to start in September; he reported that adjustments in the 4D Rule wouldn't affect their grizzly bear work much; the EIS draft was out in time for a court-mandated deadline and was out for public comment; there were continued challenges with the new OARS reporting system; coyote take in the state through July was over 9,200; helicopters and maintenance were in good shape
- Investigative Report (IR) numbers so far this year: Black Bear-28 total, with a typical year being 23 to 40 in the last five years; Grizzly Bear-114 (70 in the last two months), with normal numbers being 150-180 the last five years, 51 were confirmed and probable and 19 unconfirmed for about $112,000 worth of damage; Wolf-44 total, with normal around 80-82 for the last five years, mainly

cattle and sheep, but one guard dog; Mountain Lion-21 total, with between 27 and 53 being the normal
- Alan Redfield shared a problem his neighbor had in getting kills investigated quickly by Wildlife Services

(2:44:27) **11:01 AM** **LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD (LLB) REPORT TO THE BOL**
Brian Simonson reported on livestock loss claim information gathered by Leslie Doely, LLB Program Manager:

- Payments for 104 depredations had been issued since the last BOL meeting; for the year, 87 total depredations had been reported, right on par with last year at this time; November 4, 2026 is the grant application due date, with $350,000 available

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS

(2:50:29) **11:07 AM**

(2:50:29) **11:07 AM** – **VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**
Dr. Greg Juda, Director of the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Bozeman, introduced himself

(2:51:22) **11:08 AM** **Update on Lab Move in Progress, To-Date**
Dr. Greg Juda reported on the status of the MVDL move into the new Combined Lab Complex, which had begun on Monday of that week:

- Two local moving crews had moved every Lab section's equipment by the end of the day on Tuesday. Serology and Microbiology equipment was qualified and IT had been at the Lab that week as well, to set up computers and work stations; Virology had been doing rabies testing in the new Lab on Tuesday; Receiving hadn't yet been moved, because of a holdup with the phone line being transferred from MSU over to the new Lab. There was a lot of cleaning to do in the old Lab, although there was a possibility that the Marsh Lab building would be demolished, Mike Honeycutt adding that MSU would be asking for money during the upcoming Legislative Session for that demolition

(3:02:18) **11:19 AM** **Salmonella Testing for Wilcox at MVDL Discussion (Non-Agenda Item)**
Mike Honeycutt requested that Dr. Greg Juda walk the BOL through conversations had had with Wilcox regarding potential onboarding of testing for Montana poultry producers:

- Dr. Greg Juda explained that the MVDL was fully set up to do salmonella enteriditis testing, which was primarily done on eggs, but his understanding was that Wilcox was looking to become NPIP-Certified, which would require salmonella pullorum testing, requiring necropsy of birds and culture of various tissues. That testing was very time and resource consuming and Dr. Juda told Wilcox that even though the MVDL had the ability to do that testing, being short-staffed at the moment, made it not a possibility. The Waddl Satellite Lab was currently doing the testing for Wilcox at a fraction of the cost of the MVDL, and

that the MVDL ran in the red every time they do the salmonella pullorum test. Dr. Juda said it would not be worth getting an additional Pathologist and what you'd have to pay them to do this testing. Mike Honeycutt said that Waddl may be utilizing Post-Doctoral Fellows from the Veterinary School to do their work
- Dr. Tahnee Szymanski said that flocks certified for the NPIP Program only needed to be salmonella pullorum tested once

(3:26:21) **11:43 AM** – **ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU**
Dr. Emily Kaleczyc, Animal Health Bureau, introduced herself

(3:26:44) **11:43 AM** **Out-of-State Travel Requests**

(3:27:10) **11:44 AM** **Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)**
Dr. Emily Kaleczyc requested that the BOL approve an out-of-state travel request for Dr. Brenee Peterson and herself to attend the annual SHIP meeting in Minnesota

MOTION/VOTE
(3:28:03) **11:45 AM**
Alan Redfield moved to approve out-of-state travel for Dr. Emily Kaleczyc and Dr. Brenee Peterson to attend the Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota on September 9-11, 2026. Jake Feddes seconded. The motion passed.

(3:28:49) **11:45 AM** **United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)**
Dr. Emily Kaleczyc requested that the BOL approve an out-of-state travel request for three Veterinarians to attend the annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association (USAHA) being held in Madison, Wisconsin in October:
- Dr. Kaleczyc explained that although Dr. Peterson would remain in the state during the meeting, that the travel between the other three Veterinarians would be staggered, with Dr. Szymanski attending the full meeting

MOTION/VOTE
(3:29:49) **11:47 AM**
Greg Wichman moved to approve out-of-state travel for Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Dr. Emily Kaleczyc and a Program Veterinarian to attend the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on October 15-21, 2026. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.

(3:31:17) **11:48 AM** **Tri-National Accord (Out-of-Country Travel Request)**
Mike Honeycutt requested that the BOL approve out-of-country travel for him to attend the Tri-National Accord meeting being held in Calgary, Alberta on September 28-October 1, 2026:
- Mr. Honeycutt explained that this meeting, regarding the trade agreement between the US/Canada/Mexico, was one usually attended by the Department of Agriculture, but this year a lot of the meeting agenda was about Animal Heath

and no one from the Department of Agriculture was able to attend. With Dr. Szymanski also not able to attend, Mr. Honeycutt would be the only representative from Montana during those meeting days

- Dr. Szymanski said a big agenda item would be discussing regionalization efforts and moving products, especially if there was a detection of African Swine Fever in the US. Mr. Honeycutt said there would be time given for the US to meet separately with both Canada and Mexico, adding that we would like to continue shipping feeder cattle to Alberta

MOTION/VOTE

(3:36:08) **11:53 AM**

Jake Feddes moved to approve out-of-country travel for Mike Honeycutt to attend the Tri-National Accord meeting in Calgary, Alberta on September 28-October 1, 2026. William Kleinsasser seconded. The motion passed.

(3:36:53) **11:54 AM** **No-Cost RFID Tag Update**

Dr. Tahnee Szymanski updated the BOL on USDA Federal Fiscal Year RFID tags:

- Dr. Szymanski said that Montana should receive an allocation north of 250,000 RFID tags for this year. An early-on shipment of 10,000 of those tags had been received and an additional 135,000 out of our FY26 allocation should be received as well. There were some leftover tags from last year that had been distributed between Brucellosis vaccination states, putting another 45,000 out for Montana by the end of September. Federal FY27 starts October 1st and Montana was hoping to receive more allocation of RFID tags because of USDA discussions regarding additional allocation for states with a high historical tag use. So far, 55,000 tags had been received and shipped to Veterinarians and an additional 135,000 tags were on their way to the DOL
- Last year, Dr. Szymanski reported that Veterinarians received about 70% of their Brucellosis tag needs and the Market Veterinarians received about 50% of their tag needs. She said that the DOL still had no-cost RFID tags for swine available
- Mike Honeycutt reported that he had gotten Senator Sheehy's staff to send a letter to USDA with regards to tags

(3:47:35) **12:04 PM RECESS**

(3:47:42) **1:00 PM RECONVENE**

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION REPORTS

(3:48:32) **1:01 PM**

(3:48:32) **1:01 PM** – **MEAT, MILK & EGG INSPECTION BUREAU**

Alicia Love, Meat, Milk & Egg Inspection Bureau Chief, introduced herself

(3:48:58) **1:02 PM** **Out-of-State Travel Request**

(3:48:58) **1:02 PM Association of State Meat Inspection Directors (ASMID) Fall Conference**
Alicia Love requested that the BOL approve out-of-state travel to send two people to the annual Association of State Meat Inspection Directors (ASMID) Fall Conference in Madison, Wisconsin on September 15-21, 2026

MOTION/VOTE

(3:49:44) **1:03 PM**
Alan Redfield moved to approve out-of-state travel for two Meat & Poultry Supervisors to attend the State Meat Inspection Directors (ASMID) Fall Conference in Madison, Wisconsin on September 15-21, 2026. Greg Wichman seconded. The motion passed.

(3:50:17) **1:03 PM After-Action Report on Montana Milk Quality Issues**
Mike Honeycutt opened up the discussion for BOL members and others to comment on actions after milk quality issues were reported by consumers in the state:

- Alicia Love explained the sequence of events regarding consumers reporting premature spoilage of milk this summer from a processing plant in Billings and actions taken by DOL staff
- Mike Honeycutt said the issue was something that had never been dealt with in milk in Montana and with no reports of illness, the bar was not met to declare some sort of public health issue. Mr. Honeycutt talked about the media coverage of the issue, the DOL staff engagement with the media, the processor, the public, Legislators and industry and the processor's quick response to mitigate the issue
- Rob Adamson, DFA, thanked everyone for their help through this, apologizing to the farmers who they take their milk from and adding that their goal and plan was to provide a good product for Montana farmers, and that was what they were going to do

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS/COMMENTS FROM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

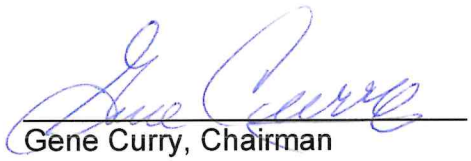
(4:58:07) **2:11 PM**
Kali Wicks was the only person offering public comment, voicing her thanks to the BOL for their conversation and back and forth during the meeting

SET DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

(4:59:03) **2:12 PM**
Gene Curry requested that a date be set for the next BOL meeting:

- With Fall cattle hauling on the horizon, the BOL was finally able to settle on a Thursday, October 8, 2026 date for their next meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED
(5:03:38) **2:16 PM**



Gene Curry, Chairman