

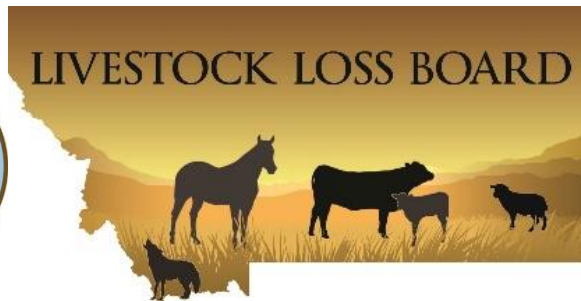
MONTANA LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD

Meeting Minutes

(This Meeting was Open to the Public & By ZOOM)

April 30, 2025

MT Department of Livestock Board Room #319/Helena, MT



Board Members Present

John Sampsel (Stanford)
Joe Kipp (Browning)
Jordan Mannix (Helmville)

Doreen Gillespie (Ethridge)
Raina Blackman (Wolf Creek)

Staff Present

Mike Honeycutt, EO
Lindsey Simon, Centralized Services

Brian Simonson, Deputy EO

Public Present

Kristin Juras, Lieutenant Governor, State of Montana
Dalin Tidwell, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Kraig Glazier, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Bruce Gillespie
Trina Jo Bradley
Erika Nunlist

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

(:14) 1:00 PM

Chairman John Sampsel called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

(0:18) 1:00 PM

Chairman John Sampsel called the meeting to order and requested introductions:

- John Sampsel, Stanford
- Joseph Kipp, Operator/Outfitter, Browning
- Jordan Mannix, Livestock Producer, Helmville
- Doreen Gillespie, Livestock Producer, Ethridge
- Raina Blackman, Sheep/Corn Maze Co-Owner, Craig
- Brian Simonson, DOL Deputy Executive Officer
- Mike Honeycutt, DOL Executive Officer
- Kristin Juras, Lieutenant Governor
 - Lieutenant Governor Juras requested that the Chairman give her a minute to make a comment
- Bruce Gillespie, Livestock Producer, Ethridge
- Dalin Tidwell and Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services

Lieutenant Governor Juras addressed the LLB saying that the Governor's thought, with the departure of George Edwards, was that they had an opportunity to take a fresh look at the structure of their support staff and how to best use taxpayer dollars moving forward. Juras thanked Brian Simonson for stepping in during the interim to do what Mr. Edwards did. She thanked the LLB members for their public service

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

(3:02) 1:03 PM

(3:02) 1:03 PM – BOARD APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES

John Sampsel requested approval of the LLB June meeting minutes

MOTION/VOTE

(3:12) 1:03 PM

Raina Blackman moved to approve the minutes from the Montana Livestock Loss Board June 26, 2024 meeting. Doreen Gillespie seconded. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

(3:37) 1:04 PM

(3:41) 1:04 PM – Legislative Update

Brian Simonson reported that the LLB did not put forward any legislative proposals during the 2025 Session:

- Representative Eric Tillman brought two bills forward – HB 356-adding Black Bears to the LLB Predator List and HB506-adding Domestic Bison to the LLB Species Claims List
- Mike Honeycutt shared that Representative Darling brought HB767, which would create the ability for goat owners to request a county petition for coyote control

(7:15) 1:08 PM Eagle Depredation Discussion (Non-Agenda Item)

John Sampsel announced that Joe Kipp had requested a discussion regarding eagle depredation:

- Mr. Kipp voiced his concern about eagles killing livestock. He wondered the LLB's thoughts on making a request to the next Legislature to add eagles to the LLB Predator List
- No action was taken

(23:58) 1:24 PM – CLAIMS/BUDGET STATUS DISCUSSION

- Brian Simonson said that for 2025, there had only been 11 claims processed. He said that for 2024, there was a total of 221 livestock paid on for a total of \$254,000 in claims.
- 80% of the Operating dollars were still left over, \$42,000. The entire \$150,000 from HB2 funds for Depredation Remediation had been spent. \$50,000 of the \$300,000 statutory money appropriations to pay claims had been spent. \$250,000 in grant dollars had gone out this year.
- No action was taken

(43:44) 1:44 PM – USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES DISCUSSION

Dalin Tidwell and Kraig Glazier went through the predation claims process, explaining what to expect and the timing:

- No action was taken

(1:14:58) 2:15 PM RECESS

(1:15:02) 2:21 PM RECONVENE

NEW BUSINESS

(1:15:04) 2:21 PM

(1:15:09) 2:21 PM – MULTIPLIER AND LLB FUNDING DISCUSSION

John Sampsel reported that Joe Kipp had requested a discussion on the multiplier:

- It was suggested that if the LLB wanted to pay the multiplier, that in their budgeting process for Legislature to ask for more money for that purpose next Session
- No action was taken

(1:33:05) 2:39 PM – STAFFING SOLUTIONS/GRANT PROCESSING PROCEDURAL CHANGES

The LLB discussed how to deal with the vacancy George Edwards left when he retired:

- Brian Simonson said the position could be changed to someone who managed and verified data and was more administrative in nature
- The LLB discussed about how much of the grant process the new person could handle. Mike Honeycutt said that he would not give a staff member too much

responsibility in saying yes or no to a person receiving a grant because that was the LLB's responsibility

- The previous employee position cost the DOL \$110,000 in salary and benefits
- The previous employee also represented the LLB at the Legislature, but Mike Honeycutt contended that DOL staff already were in front of the Legislature on behalf of the DOL and BOL and could also represent for the LLB, but added that there were times when it would be more important for an LLB member to testify before the Legislature
- Mike Honeycutt said that usually a DOL staff member attended stakeholder meetings, if not multiple members of the LLB, who could give a report on what the LLB was doing
- The proposal presented to the LLB was to have the new person dedicate a half or a quarter of their time to the LLB
- Brian Simonson said the seasonality of the work was very up and down and he questioned how the new person could do 20 hours a week for LLB from December to April. Mike Honeycutt said that a full-time person could dedicate half of their time to LLB and serve some other purpose for the other half
- Raina Blackman requested that the job description for the new person be for half-time and then another job description for the new person be for three-quarter-time

MOTION/VOTE

(2:30:43) 3:36 PM

Doreen Gillespie moved to find a person for the new Livestock Loss Board position for 50% of the time and have a vote on it. Raina Blackman seconded. The motion was amended by Doreen Gillespie per Raina Blackman's request.

MOTION/VOTE

(2:38:08) 3:43 PM

Doreen Gillespie moved to amend her previous motion to request that two job descriptions be presented to the board for a vote at another meeting, for a new LLB position that was discussed. The job descriptions would be for a half-time employee and for a ¾-time employee. Raina Blackman seconded. The motion passed.

(2:38:55) 3:45 PM RULEMAKING – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION

Lindsey Simon, Agency Legal Counsel presented to the LLB the Governor's Office Counsel request for every agency, department and board to verify that they had public participation rules in place:

- No action was taken, but the LLB decided to follow what the DOL was doing with their public participation rules. Lindsey Simon said she would bring back actual rule language to their next meeting and then the LLB could vote to start the formal rulemaking process

PUBLIC COMMENT

(2:53:54) 3:59 PM

Mike Honeycutt announced that there was just one member of the public left on ZOOM:

- Trina Jo Bradley commented that everyone had done a good job

SET DATE FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

(2:55:23) 4:01 PM

The next LLB meeting was scheduled in Helena for Monday, July 28, 2025, starting at 1:00 PM in the Montana DOL Conference Room #319


MOTION/VOTE

(3:00:49) 4:04 PM

Doreen Gillespie moved to adjourn the meeting. Jordan Mannix seconded. The motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

(3:01:00) 4:05 PM



John Sampsel, Chairman