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PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
NEVADA DAIRY COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

SPARKS, NV

Reported By: SUSAN E. BELINGHERI, CCR #655

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APPEARANCES

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Christopher Cook - Chairman
Troy G. Crowther, Commissioner - Via Videoconference
John Collier, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

Anna Vickrey, Operations Manager of Food Safety
Yong Inouye
Brian Stockton, Deputy Attorney General

Kimberly Whitfield - Via Videoconference

1 SPARKS, NEVADA; THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016; 1:00 P.M.

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4 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay. All right. Everybody
5 ready? Let's start this September 22nd meeting of the
6 Nevada State Dairy Commission.

7 Ms. Vickrey, would you begin the
8 proceedings, please.

9 MS. VICKREY: Yes. This is the time and
10 place set for our regularly scheduled meeting of the
11 Nevada State Dairy Commission for the month of
12 September, 2016. This meeting has been scheduled and
13 noticed in compliance with pertinent statutes, including
14 the Open Meeting Law.

15 A copy of the agenda has been handed to the
16 court reporter, with the request that it be part of the
17 official transcript of these proceedings.

18 My name is Anna Vickrey, operations manager
19 of food safety for the Department of Agriculture.

20 Present today are Mr. Christopher Cook,
21 chairman; Mr. Troy Crowther, member of the Commission;
22 and Mr. John Collier, member of the Commission.

23 Those who present statements or evidence to
24 the Commission during the meeting are requested to first
25 be acknowledged by the chairman and to identify

1 themselves for the record.

2 CHAIRMAN COOK: Thank you. Would you
3 proceed to the first agenda item.

4 MS. VICKREY: First agenda item is public
5 comment.

6 CHAIRMAN COOK: Seeing as we have no members
7 of the public here, I think we can probably press ahead.

8 MS. VICKREY: Next on the agenda is the
9 approval of the minutes for the August 18, 2016, dairy
10 commission meeting.

11 MR. COLLIER: Mr. --

12 CHAIRMAN COOK: I'll entertain a motion.

13 MR. COLLIER: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
14 accept the August 18th meeting minutes with the
15 corrections so indicated in our packet, and I submit
16 those to you for approval.

17 MR. CROWTHER: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN COOK: Motion and a second. No
19 dissenting votes. Motion carries.

20 Let's go on to the next one, please.

21 MS. VICKREY: Next is the staff report.

22 Well, we've been busy. We are currently
23 working on our federal milk samples for the dairy lab,
24 and basically what that means is that the FDA sends us a
25 set of -- a sample set that all of the analysts must

1 process, and then --

2 CHAIRMAN COOK: Sample set of -- this is
3 milk drawn from the dairies?

4 MS. VICKREY: This is milk that's prepared
5 in the laboratory, the federal laboratory, that they
6 send out to all the states for all the analysts in the
7 state central laboratories. And it's a proficiency
8 test, and so we run, each of us runs our own samples.

9 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay. Okay.

10 MS. VICKREY: And then we present our
11 results at the end of the week, and we either pass or
12 fail on those tests. So we really want to pass those so
13 that we can continue with our dairy lab. And I think
14 we're doing pretty good. It's just been kind of a
15 hectic week because the first day we have to -- once we
16 get the samples in, we have to run all of the tests. So
17 we were working until eight o'clock Tuesday night. So
18 we were all pretty tired.

19 And at the same time I've got a managers'
20 conference for the Pacific region food managers' meeting
21 here in Reno that I've been popping in and out of. So
22 lots of, you know, good information out of the
23 conference, particularly with the new FSMA regulations.
24 A lot of discussions on those, how we're going to
25 proceed in the future with some of our food facilities.

1 The other update, we've been running our
2 brucellosis tests on our goats recently, and tomorrow
3 we're going to be running it on our sheep herd out in
4 Fallon.

5 CHAIRMAN COOK: Do we do that type of
6 testing on the cows, the dairy cows, or is that
7 something the dairymen do themselves?

8 MS. VICKREY: We do not. They are under
9 USDA approval process for the entire state, because all
10 of the herds are monitored for all of the cows. We
11 don't have to worry about that unless we have a positive
12 result comes up on one of our dairy farms, or one of the
13 cattle in the state, and then we have to, you know,
14 maybe do some -- we won't be doing the testing, but
15 their private veterinarians or the state veterinarian
16 will be in charge of that.

17 The reason we have to do the goats and the
18 sheep is because we do not have a statewide program.
19 Even though we test our dairy goats and our dairy sheep,
20 that does not include the rest of the animals within the
21 state. So they do not have that approval at this time.
22 So we have to make sure that we run those within our own
23 purview.

24 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay.

25 MS. VICKREY: And so Lisa's been great.

1 She's acting veterinarian on that program, so we
2 appreciate all of her help.

3 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay.

4 MS. VICKREY: And just so you know, the
5 Taiwanese federal and, kind of their federal inspectors,
6 are in California right now with a bunch of USDA and FDA
7 folks. What they're doing is they're doing their own
8 equivalency with their food code, basically, comparing
9 it with the U.S. food code. So they've been going to
10 several dairies in California, and on Monday they will
11 be coming to Nevada and they will be doing their
12 equivalency inspection at the Fallon dairy plant --

13 CHAIRMAN COOK: Oh, cool.

14 MS. VICKREY: -- for the powder. So the
15 closing meeting will be here Tuesday morning at the
16 Department of Agriculture, where they're going to do
17 their finalization on the equivalency. It's been going
18 very well. They have found some very insignificant
19 violations at the plants in California, and so --

20 CHAIRMAN COOK: This would be at the
21 Taiwanese standards.

22 MS. VICKREY: Yes. So we're, we're very
23 hopeful that we will do just as good here in Nevada.

24 This is very important, especially for our
25 powder industry, because they will be purchasing powder.

1 Currently our powder plant does not sell to Taiwan, but,
2 you know, that might open up some more doors for them.

3 CHAIRMAN COOK: True.

4 MS. VICKREY: That's all I have.

5 Kimberly, do you have -- do you want to go
6 through our budget? I gave you all a copy of that.
7 It's right here.

8 MS. WHITFIELD: Mr. Chairman, we're in the
9 new fiscal now, 2017, which began July 1st, so obviously
10 we don't have much to report here yet that's occurred,
11 since most of the reporting activity for August isn't
12 even reflected on this. We're about a month behind on
13 this.

14 But I just wanted to point out a couple of
15 things. The work program, that's what's actually
16 budgeted on the second to the right-hand column on the
17 right, if you're looking at this for comparative
18 purposes.

19 We don't have the fluids listed. They've
20 removed -- which was good. We're not doing assessments
21 of that any longer.

22 And Lynn thought it would be beneficial just
23 for us to remove the projection figures, because those
24 are really just used for forecasting purposes. So we
25 just, really, have the meat here that you need.

1 Looking at the agency reserves, we're over a
2 million at this point, \$1,100,434. And the net revenue
3 year-to-date, which ties to DAWN -- DAWN is our, our
4 system that's like our checkbook register, basically, of
5 income and expenses. So we're at \$864,862.87. And if
6 you, if you look at that, including the balance forward,
7 we're at a negative \$117,930.13.

8 So that's the new budget without the
9 projections, with the work program, the items. It's not
10 even, really, three months at this point. So if you
11 have any questions. There really hasn't been any
12 activity that we've put on here.

13 MS. VICKREY: Thank you.

14 So I think at this point, I know that our
15 reserves are still really high. I think we probably
16 should keep a good eye on it in the next couple of
17 months. And again, we may --

18 CHAIRMAN COOK: Is this a legislative year?

19 MS. VICKREY: Yes, coming up. We may again
20 have to look at reducing some assessment rates. It's
21 hard to predict at this time where we want to go with
22 it. So --

23 CHAIRMAN COOK: You've got the
24 microbiologist on staff, got the lab stocked and
25 equipped?

1 MS. VICKREY: There are some things that
2 we're going to go to the budget with the legislature to
3 try to purchase.

4 CHAIRMAN COOK: We have the second trailer
5 and cow for Southern Nevada?

6 MS. VICKREY: That's in the budget for the
7 legislature --

8 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay. We haven't spent the
9 money yet --

10 MS. VICKREY: No.

11 CHAIRMAN COOK: -- but it's there.

12 MS. VICKREY: No. And that will probably
13 come out the next, for the next fiscal, not this one.

14 MR. COLLIER: Can I ask you a question?
15 What is this work program? What does that mean?

16 MS. VICKREY: That's just what we've been
17 approved to spend through the legislature. So even
18 though the -- it may have been -- these were probably
19 the --

20 MR. COLLIER: Why do you call it "work
21 program?"

22 MR. STOCKTON: It's what the budget office
23 calls it.

24 CHAIRMAN COOK: State terminology.

25 MR. COLLIER: Okay. I just want to know

1 what it is.

2 MR. STOCKTON: Yeah, I don't know why they
3 call it -- they call it that -- I don't know. There
4 must have been a reason sometime, but that's what they
5 call it. And basically the money has to be shifted
6 from -- as I understand it, which is very minimal -- it
7 has to be shifted from one category to another to go
8 into the work program, and the work program is what you
9 can spend.

10 MR. COLLIER: So that's like the budget for
11 this, for this fiscal year we're in?

12 MR. STOCKTON: The budget is how much you've
13 been approved to have --

14 MR. COLLIER: That is what we're approved to
15 spend.

16 MR. STOCKTON: -- the work program is what
17 you're approved to spend. I know it's kind of -- it's
18 kind of a two-step process, as I understand it. So I'm
19 not sure -- I don't know why, that's just how the budget
20 office does it.

21 CHAIRMAN COOK: Well, I'm sure that agency
22 reserve is going to catch some legislators' eyes, so
23 we'll have to figure out a way to whittle that down even
24 more.

25 MS. VICKREY: I think the plan is, we know

1 the legislature begins sometime in January, is that
2 probably at that point in time we should have a plan in
3 place to reduce those reserves.

4 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay. Thank you. Are you
5 done with your report?

6 MS. VICKREY: I am. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN COOK: Okay. Then let us go ahead
8 and proceed to the next.

9 MS. VICKREY: Consideration of any other
10 matters related to the dairy industry.

11 CHAIRMAN COOK: Well, again, seeing a
12 noticeable lack of public -- I guess we can speak openly
13 and we can talk about the wonderful opportunity the
14 State of California has just served up for us to recruit
15 producers.

16 MS. VICKREY: What did they do now? Oh.

17 CHAIRMAN COOK: Discharge limitations? No.
18 What's the term? Enteric fermentation discharges. Go
19 ahead, you can say it. You can go on the record and say
20 it.

21 MS. VICKREY: They're monitoring cow farts.
22 He made me say it. It's air quality issues, obviously.
23 And there's other states that are going through the same
24 thing. I was just in northern Idaho, and I was having
25 some discussions with some folks up there. And I told

1 them I was in the dairy industry, and they said that
2 there was an area in northern Idaho where they were
3 having to reduce cow numbers because of the air quality.

4 CHAIRMAN COOK: Northern Idaho? Not over on
5 the east part of the state where Chobani and all the big
6 dairy farms are?

7 MS. VICKREY: No. This is up in the
8 northern area, just south of Coeur d'Alene.

9 CHAIRMAN COOK: Wow. Holy smokes.

10 MS. VICKREY: So it's not just California.
11 I don't know if we're going to be going anywhere with
12 those -- with any air quality. I haven't really heard
13 anything, so hopefully not. We'd love to have those
14 dairies come here.

15 MR. STOCKTON: We only have two
16 nonattainment areas, Washoe County and Clark County. So
17 those are the only places it could be a problem.

18 CHAIRMAN COOK: And I don't think there's
19 dairies in either county -- producers in either county,
20 is there? Not in, there's none in Washoe County.

21 MS. VICKREY: No, not anymore.

22 MR. STOCKTON: I don't think -- I think the
23 Ponderosa, they're in Nye County, aren't they?

24 MS. VICKREY: They're in Nye County, yes.

25 CHAIRMAN COOK: Well, keep that in mind.

1 Are we scheduled to go to the ag fair in
2 Tulare?

3 MS. VICKREY: Yes, we are. There are four
4 of us going. We have our rooms, we've got our space
5 reserved. And I think in January, before the ag fair,
6 we're looking at putting some skin on the trailer.
7 Something, you know, that shows the agriculture and --

8 CHAIRMAN COOK: A wrap?

9 MS. VICKREY: -- make it pretty.

10 CHAIRMAN COOK: A vinyl wrap?

11 MS. VICKREY: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN COOK: Well, it seems like
13 California keeps serving us up with golden opportunities
14 to do business recruitment.

15 MR. CROWTHER: I have a question about that
16 methane monitoring, or whatever you want to call it.
17 Are they applying that also to beef cattle, or is it
18 just strictly the dairy industry?

19 MS. VICKREY: I think it's confined animal
20 operations in particular areas where you have a higher
21 volume of, of -- just a higher population.

22 MR. CROWTHER: Okay. Because --

23 CHAIRMAN COOK: I can imagine what Harris
24 Ranch must be going through on that feedlot on I-5.

25 MR. COLLIER: That's the first thing that

1 came to my mind.

2 MR. CROWTHER: Yeah. Although Clark County
3 has no dairy farms, they do have beef cattle and some
4 beef operations, so just curious if it's going to affect
5 that, or if they're affected by it.

6 CHAIRMAN COOK: Are there feedlots?

7 MR. CROWTHER: There are -- no. No, not
8 necessarily feedlots, but there are some herds that --
9 you know, we've got, of course we have the well
10 publicized Bundy herd, but then there's some others that
11 are -- I don't know if you'd call it a feedlot. They
12 don't strictly bring them to feed them out for
13 slaughter, but they do pasture them and, and, you know,
14 they move them between here and -- between Clark and
15 Lincoln County. So --

16 CHAIRMAN COOK: Well, I'm sure it's one more
17 item that creates a higher level of consternation for
18 the California dairymen, and they have to figure out a
19 way to comply with it. My understanding is -- what is
20 it, a 30 percent reduction overall they have to try to
21 achieve? Or --

22 MS. VICKREY: Somewhere in there, yes.

23 CHAIRMAN COOK: Not an insignificant amount.

24 Okay. Well, since I got Anna to say it --

25 MS. VICKREY: Next up is public comment and

1 discussion.

2 CHAIRMAN COOK: And there being no members
3 of the public, I guess there's no more discussion, so we
4 can adjourn the meeting.

5 (Meeting adjourns at 1:17 p.m.)

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BOARD SIGNATURE PAGE

CHRISTOPHER COOK, CHAIRMAN

JOHN COLLIER, MEMBER

TROY CROWTHER, MEMBER

1 STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF WASHOE) ss.

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4 I, SUSAN E. BELINGHERI, a Certified Court
5 Reporter and Notary Public for the County of Washoe,
6 State of Nevada, do hereby certify that on Thursday, the
7 22nd day of September, 2016, I reported the Nevada Dairy
8 Commission meeting;

9 That the foregoing transcript is a true and
10 correct transcript of the stenographic notes of
11 testimony taken by me in the above-entitled matter to
12 the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

13

14

Susan E. Belingheri, CCR #655

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