

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

January 30, 2026

ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson, Joshua Schlote, LVT, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 7343 Husker Circle, Husker Conference Room, Lincoln, NE 68504-9816. The meeting was conducted In-Person and by WebEx. Board members present and answering roll call were:

Joshua Schlote, LVT, Vice-Chairperson
Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Donovan Hauser, DVM
Marcie Kemnitz, PhD
Vacancy DVM Member

Absent: None

A quorum being present, the meeting convened. Also present to participate in the meeting: Vonda Apking, Program Manager, Licensure Unit, Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator, Licensure Unit; Milissa Johnson-Wiles, Assistant Attorney General; Katherine Amyot, DHHS Department Legal; Randy Clark, Mark Meyerson and Hayle Alvarado, Investigators, with the Investigation Unit via WebEx; Tricia Allen, Program Manager with the Investigation Unit via WebEx and Jeanette Peterson, RN, BSN, Compliance Monitor via WebEx

Schlote announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Board members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx> and posted on the Bulletin Board at the entrance to the Nebraska State Office Building on January 15, 2026.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Byers moved, seconded by Kemnitz, to adopt the Agenda. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser to approve November 5, 2025, minutes as written. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES

Kaylie Fritts, DVM, Deputy Nebraska State Veterinarian with the Agriculture Department, was present via WebEx for discussion with the Board.

H5N1 or Avian Influenza – there is an uptick in detections with the migratory season in wild waterfowl.

Good News – for Large Animal medicine there will be a free ECVI (Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) platform that will be available this spring which will make it easier for Veterinarians to file the health certificate to cross state lines.

New World Screwworm (NWS) – continues to be an issue in Mexico. Nebraska at this time of the year has a natural barrier with our cold weather.

2026 LEGISLATION UPDATES

LB961 - Adopt the Collateral Sanction Relief Act

Notice of Hearing January 23, 2026

To learn more regarding this Bill go to:

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62956&docnum=LB961&leg=109

REGULATION UPDATES

Currently there are no Regulation updates for the Board.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS AND APPLICATION REVIEW – CLOSED SESSION

Byers moved, seconded by Hauser, to go into closed session at 9:13 a.m., for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Board Break 9:56 a.m.

Board Returned 10:03 a.m.

Schlote, Vice-Chairperson, opened the session at 10:06 a.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW (0)– OPEN SESSION

There were no applications for the Board to review.

DISCUSSION(S)

Proposed draft revisions for the Regulations, Title 172 Chapter 180 were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Suggestions were given for further edits. The DHHS Legal Department will edit the proposed draft with these suggestions, and the edited draft will be sent to the Board by email ballot for approval.

FYI(S)

A. NAVLE (North American Veterinary Licensing Examination) Retake Policy Update.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the updates.

PRACTICE QUESTION(S)

A. Are Equine Aquatred, Theraplate and Equine Acuscope/Myopulse considered as an “apparatus”?

Mindi Clarke, Certified for Equine Acuscope from Lincoln, NE – presented the Practice Question to the Board.

It is the Board's opinion that you would need to be licensed as a Veterinarian to provide these services in Nebraska.

The Board suggested that if Ms. Clarke is interested in providing a pathway for these services to be provided by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian that she should seek the support of a State Senator for Statutory change.

DESIGNATION OF THE METHOD BY WHICH THIS BODY WILL GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS MEETINGS

Jan Gadeken-Harris explained that the Board needs to inform the public each year the method by which the Board will provide notice of their meetings. In the past, the Board had chosen to post meeting agendas on the Bulletin Board at the Nebraska State Office Building, to e-mail agendas to the interested parties list, and to post agendas on the Department's website. Hauser moved, seconded by Byers, to continue the same method that the Department has been using to provide public notice of this Board's meetings by posting meeting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, by e-mailing agendas to the interested parties list, and by posting agendas on the Department's website. Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

Please Note: if you would like to be included on the list of "Interested Parties" to receive a notice of the Agenda for the meetings, please contact Jan Gadeken-Harris at: Janis.gadeken-harris@nebraska.gov

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kemnitz moved, seconded by Byers, to maintain the following slate of officers for 2026:

Chairperson: Joshua Schlote, LVT

Vice-Chairperson: Donovan Hauser, DVM

Secretary: Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ

Voting aye: Byers, Hauser, Kemnitz and Schlote. Voting nay: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The 2026 AAVSB Annual Conference is scheduled for September 23 – 26, 2026 in Providence RI. There is talk that the 2027 Conference could be in Omaha, Nebraska, and if that happens that would be exciting news for the Veterinary community of Nebraska.

If you are interested in the 2026 conference, go to the AAVSB website for information:

<https://www.aavsb.org/event/2026-annual-meeting-conference/>

AAVSB has scheduled a Board Basics & Beyond (BBB) meeting in Kansas City, MO on April 22-25, 2026. This meeting is designed for new and seasoned Board members, offering foundational governance education, regulatory trends, ethics and strategic leadership.

Kemnitz, being a new Board member is considering attending the meeting if her schedule allows.

For more information regarding the BBB meeting go to the AAVSB website for information and registration:

<https://www.aavsb.org/event/2026springmeetings/>

SCHEDULE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2026. The schedule will be posted on the DHHS website. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Schlote, Vice-Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

signature available upon request

Christopher G. Byers, DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (SAIM), CVJ, Secretary
Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery