



**Rabies Control Board  
Report of Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date February 9, 2006**

**Attendance** = Board members present were Christopher Hannafin, DVM (Chair), Betsy Hanson (ACO), Utpala Bandy, MD (RIDOH), Lori Gibson (RIDEM). Board members absent were Edward Wright (Farm Bureau), Roger Cournoyer, DVM (RIVMA), Kristine Powell (PARL). Other RIDOH staff in attendance was Linda Mouradjian, Linda D'Agostino, Tara Cooper. Other RIDEM staff in attendance was Elizabeth Stone.

**Meeting Information** = 1pm, Room 300, RIDEM Offices, 235 Promenade Street, Providence

**Agenda** = On file. Notice of Meeting with Agenda posted on State Open Meetings Website

2-3-2006. Posted at State House and RIDEM 2-3-2006

**Meeting called to order** by Dr. Hannafin 1:15 pm

**Welcome / Review of Last Meeting Minutes / Review of Agenda :**

- : Review of Rabies Control Board Purview and Statutory Roles
- : Review of Agenda, no changes
- : Approval of 7-16-2003 Minutes, Motion by Dr. Hannafin, Second By Betsy Hanson.

**New Business :**

- : Review of Current Rabies totals and data from 2004, 2005.
  - Elizabeth Stone, Dr. Bandy recommended review of websites and web links
  - Tara Cooper provided draft of current data and added one cat from Woonsocket positive
  - Dr. Hannafin discussed Rabies and Distemper in Pawtucket, recent human cases in US.
- : Review and Discussion of Rabies Board Structure and Appointments.
  - Reviewed handouts concerning Open and Closed Meetings. Posting requirements and minutes approvals prior to posting.
  - Reviewed Status of Appointments, Betsy Hanson expressed desire to remain on board.

Dr. Bandy recommends changing RIDOH Directors info on any listings to add Dr. Gifford

Elisabeth Stone reviewed current Bills in House and Senate, advised any new appointment will likely require legislative approval, that Senate and House appointments to board would be removed per Separation of Powers. Board discussed proposed bill changes that would allow for rotating chairman on annual basis. Unanimously, members wanted chairmanship to remain permanently with State Veterinarians Office. Members are comfortable with all other proposed statutory changes.

**: Review and Approval of New Rabies Manual.**

Review of Drafted New Manual indicates need to reconstruct entire manual to be compartmentalized and provide guidelines for each specific sector of rabies control and suppression, ie, sections for Veterinarians, Animal Control, Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators, Environmental Police and Shelters/Pounds. RIDOH offers to help collate and publish new manuals. Specific changes and corrections to manual were noted.

**Other New Business.**

Members suggested that ongoing Updates to Rabies Manual be parallel to or part of training and outreach efforts for the public and participating agencies.

**Motions and Votes on future actions.**

Dr. Hannafin motioned and Dr. Bandy seconded the following action. All were in favor.

The Board authorizes Dr. Hannafin and Elisabeth Stone to draft for approval by the board, as needed, any letters for the legislators sponsoring Separation of Powers bills, expressing the need to 1) update the membership, 2) supporting leaving the chairmanship as currently written, with the State Veterinarian as chair, in order to maintain consistency, access and administration, 3) the board is comfortable with all other proposed legislative changes at this time.

**Next meeting**

Board proposed the next meeting as needed or when the Rabies Manual changes had been made and are ready for approval.

**Adjournment =** Dr. Hannafin motioned for adjournment at 3:45 pm, Dr. Bandy second.

Prepared by:

C. H. Hannafin, DVM  
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