



**RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508

RABIES CONTROL BOARD MINUTES FILING

Meeting Date: August 12, 2009

Location: 235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
Room 370

Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM (DEM, Chairman), Utpala Bandy, MD (DOH Designee), C.H. Hannafin, DVM (Veterinarian), Charles Brown (DEM Designee), Dave Holden (RISPCA), Betsy Hanson (ACO), Peter Belinsky, VMD (Non-member DEM rep.).

Meeting Agenda:

Meeting called to order: Meeting called to order at 9:30 by Dr. Marshall, this was followed by roll call of all the attendees.

Old Buisness:

- 1. Acceptance of the meeting minute of the RCB for the 04/29/09 meeting:** Dr. Marshall motioned to accept the minutes, this was seconded by Dr. Hannafin. This motion was then approved by a unanimous vote.
- 2. Unfilled Seat:** One position on the RCB is still unfilled, that of a Livestock Farmer who is a member of the RI Farm Bureau. The farmer that was selected has failed to produce a senate confirmation. Dr. Marshall proposed that Mr. Bettencourt from the RI Farm Bureau be approached to search for a new farmer. Dr. Marshall made a motion to continue the search for a new farmer to fill the empty seat. This motion was seconded by Officer Hanson. Motion was then approved by a unanimous vote.

New Buisness:

- 1. Enforcement of RCB regulations:** Dr. Marshall proposed that the board may need to serve as an advisory board and that any regulations be promulgated under another government agency. Dr. Hannafin felt that RIVMA may not be willing to take on the RCB however DEM or the state as a whole should consider taking on the board. A major problem with the RCB is that there is nobody to enforce these regulations. Dr. Hannafin moves that Dr. Marshall and DEM

pursue to take control of the RCB. He also questioned the role of the state as well as the state police in towns such as Exeter that have no town police to enforce domestic animal related issues. Dr. Marshall stated that the police have a statutory responsibility to resolve such issues. Dave Holden stated that the police have a responsibility due to a RI State law to enforce and become involved. Dr. Hannafin questioned that if DEM takes on the responsibility of the RCB, would Environmental Police Officers (EPO's) be held responsible for handling domestic animals in certain situations. Dr. Marshall felt that the job description of an EPO pertains specifically to wildlife and was doubtful they would be responsible for domestic animal calls. Dave Holden felt that their responsibility would be on the level of mutual aid.

- 2. Evaluation of the revisions made to the regulations:** Dr. Marshall and Wendy Waller, an attorney from Save the Bay who agreed to help the RCB, revised the regulations. The revisions were reviewed by the RCB line by line and corrections were made as needed. Dave Holden made a motion to add an enforcement section to the new regulations and Dr. Hannafin seconded that motion. Major revisions included removing state exemptions for show animals and making all regulations the same as import regulations. Dr. Marshall called for a motion to accept the new regulations. Dr. Hannafin made a motion to accept the new regulations as written with the understanding that the adjustments made in the meeting were properly made and that a section on enforcement of the regulations is added. This was approved with a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 4, 2009 at 9:30 am in the same location.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 am.