



## Rhode Island

### Livestock Welfare & Care Standards Advisory Council

#### Minutes 3/21/2013

**Members Present:** Chairman Scott Marshall (State Vet), Secretary Al Bettencourt (RI Farm Bureau), Joe Warzycha (RISPCA), Christie Smith (Potter League), Louis Vinagro (RI Raised Livestock), Debora Bresch (ASPCA). Guest: Ken Ayars, Chief of Division of Ag.

**Member Not Present:** Dr. Rick Rhodes, URI

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Marshall at 1:10 pm.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves.

**Housekeeping and Protocol:** There was a discussion about our mission and how we would proceed. We are an advisory board to the Director of DEM. Therefore all advisory opinions, recommendations and initiatives shall flow through the Director of DEM. Likewise any requests for opinions, recommendations, etc shall flow through the Director of DEM. In addition to offering opinions on proposed legislation and initiatives, we will also propose legislation and programs to the Director of DEM. A form that DEM uses to initiate positions was circulated and we will use that form to make proposals and answer requests for opinions. We will use our own letterhead rather than that of DEM and we will have our own meeting postings on the Secretary of State's web page.

All proposed legislation must be submitted to DEM by October of each year.

A report of our proceedings will be issued each April.

We will meet quarterly, at least two times during the General Assembly session, and as needed.

When we cannot come to consensus on issues the majority opinion will prevail as the position of the Board but the minority position will also be stated on the same form.

We can "meet" by email and conference calls, but when a vote is needed it must be done in person.

**Discussion of Pending Legislation:** Bill 5578 was to have been discussed by the Board. However, a letter from DEM stating that current law already achieved the objectives of the bill was presented. Since the bill is not needed, we did not offer an opinion on it.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the RILWCSAC will be May 2 at a time and place to be determined.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Bettencourt  
Secretary