

**MINUTES, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
Raleigh, North Carolina, January 16, 2025**

At 8:02 a.m., President Azure Holland, DVM, called to order the regular meeting of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. This meeting was held at the Board office and virtually through Zoom. Board members present in person were Azure Holland, DVM; Edward Faulkner, DVM; Allen Cannedy, DVM; Tim Gold; Ronald Komich, DVM; and Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM. Board member Robin Lazaro was present via Zoom. Michael Martin, DVM was not present for the board meeting. Also present in person were Keith West, Executive Director; Board Attorney, Matthew Skidmore; Jennifer Kendrick, Executive Director, North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association (NCVMA); Nicky McNeil, Vice President, AVTA, and Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, North Carolina Physician's Health Program (NCPHP).

The following guests were also in attendance via Zoom: Justin Pedley, RVT, Department Head, Veterinary Medical Technology at Alamance Community College; Holly Swanger, RVT; Jon Tabor, RVT, Stefani Lajuett, RVT, (Vet tech association Board member); David Cowan, CVT, VTS, Action Vet Tech Services); Bec Mitchell, Student Liaison; Shannon Bass, President (NCVMA); Jennifer Shults, DVM, Legislative Chair, (NCVMA); Jon Carr, Attorney and Lobbyist (NCVMA); Anna Jones, Student Liaison; Gail Thomassen, NCSU; Shannon Nowak, RVT; Paige Harrington, DVM, Vice President (NCVMA); Krystina Phillips, RVT, (NCAVT); Marguriette Gleason,

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past President NCVMA; Jacklyn Phillips, RVT, owner of Action Vet Tech Services; Kim Lewis, President, (NCAVT); Dustin Anderson, RVT, (past Board member NCAVT); Erin Clark, Beth Venit, (AAVSB) .

President Azure Holland, DVM reviewed for the Board the Governor's and the North Carolina Ethics Commission's statements on recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest. She also reviewed N.C.G.S. § 90-179 of the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.

The November 7, 2024, Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Ronald Komich, DVM made a motion to accept the minutes and Allen Cannedy, DVM, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Executive Director Keith West stated that the September 2025 committee meetings and board meeting will be rescheduled due to conflict with the 2025 AAVSB meeting. The board agreed with the new dates and the committee meetings were rescheduled.

President's Report:

None

Legislative Committee Update:

Executive Director Keith West announced that the updates to the Practice Act that were approved will be reintroduced to the General Assembly

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this year for consideration. Ronald Komich, DVM made suggestions for edits to be considered.

Keith West also provided a rules update stating the Rules Review Commission had completed their review and that the rules are currently with APO. The Board will be notified once they have completed their review. Approximately 60 days.

Facility Inspection Report:

Executive Director Keith West provided a report on all the inspections since the last meeting totaling 150 inspections. Robert Bakal, DVM completed 37 inspections, Andrew Horne, DVM completed 31 inspections, Marjorie McFetridge, DVM completed 37 inspections, Nicolette Peer completed 16 inspections, and Marisol Iannuzzi, DVM completed 29 inspections.

Keith West explained that inspectors have begun inspecting facilities that offer boarding. They are working with the facilities that offer boarding on any issues found by providing a flexible timeline to make the required changes and submitting a plan of action to fix any violations.

Keith West provided an employee update and stated that all positions within the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board office staff have been filled. The new Deputy Director, Melissa Bowman, was present and introduced herself. Patricia Rodenburg will start the following week as the

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new Practice Facility/ Corporations Coordinator.

Attorney's Report:

Mr. Skidmore began his report by reminding the board members of the state ethics training, how to review their status and to file their annual statement by April 1, 2025.

Mr. Skidmore reported that there were 11 complaint decision letters completed since the last meeting, and that the number of complaints filed has lowered substantially.

Student Liaison's Report:

Student Liaison, Anna Jones, provided an update on current classes, topics and seminars at NCSU. She stated that students are preparing for the NAVLE set for the spring semester. Ms. Jones announced that there will be an open house held on March 8, 2025, and they will use this opportunity as an outreach to the community.

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director, Keith West stated that the board meeting scheduled for March 6, 2025, will be held on NCSU campus.

Keith West reported that the board finances remain in good standing

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and presented the status report of the number of active Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians and stated that the number of applications continue to increase.

The board meeting began a break at 8:46 a.m. and returned at 8:56 a.m.

At 8:57 a.m., pursuant to G.S. § 143.318.11 (a)(3) and (6), a motion was made to go into closed session by Edward Faulkner, DVM and seconded by Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM to discuss the pending cases Ava Marie Louise v. NCVMB at Mid State Equine Hospital, and NCVMB v. Valentina DeGiovanni, D.C., Christopher Winans, D.C. and Winan's Chiropractic, LLC. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 10:36 a.m., Edward Faulkner, DVM made a motion to leave closed session and Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

North Carolina Professional Health Program (NCPHP) Report:

Joseph P. Jordan, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, presented his report on the status of the program attendance.

Edward Faulkner, DVM read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 12.

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Report of Committee on Investigations No. 12

- a. 2024089-12 – Letter of Caution, and (2) Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- b. 2024101-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2024102-12 – Letter of Caution
- d. 2024106-12 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- e. 2024118-12 – Letter of Reprimand

Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM made a motion, seconded by Ronald Komich, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 12. The report from Committee 12 was approved unanimously.

Robin Lazaro, RVT read into the minutes the decisions from Committee on Investigation No. 10.

Report of Committee on Investigations No. 10

- a. 2024090-10 – Letter of Reprimand
- b. 2024096-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- c. 2024098-10 – Letter of Caution
- d. 2024103-10 – Letter of Reprimand
- e. 2024105-10 – Dismissed, No Probable Cause
- f. 2024109-10 - Dismissed, No Probable Cause

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Edward Faulkner, DVM, made a motion, seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM, to approve the report from Committee on Investigations No. 10. The report from Committee 10 was approved unanimously.

These decisions are preliminary and will not be final until the decisions are accepted into the minutes, the decision is drafted by the Board Attorney and is approved by the Committee chair and then mailed to the licensee and complainant. In the case of a letter of reprimand, the licensee has 15 days from its receipt to reject it and request a hearing. If a rejection occurs, the case is returned to the Committee for review and action.

Other Business:

None

Approval of Expenses:

Edward Faulkner, DVM made a motion to approve the Board's expenses, and it was seconded by Andrea Gentry-Apple, DVM. The expenses were approved unanimously.

Final Review and Summary of Action Items:

Executive Director, Keith West, reminded the board members that the next board meeting on March 6th will be held at NCSU. A special board meeting will be held on January 21, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom only.

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A motion to adjourn made by Edward Faulkner, DVM, seconded by Andrea Gentry- Apple, DVM, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith West
Executive Director