

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine met via Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Dr. Wendy Cuevas, DACVPM, Chair  
Dr. Matthew Bradley, DVM, Vice Chair  
Dr. Beckey Malphus, DVM, Board Member  
Dr. William Wright, DVM, Board Member  
Ms. Jessica Sewell, RVT, Board Member  
Mr. Thomas Culpepper, Consumer Board Member

**Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
Meagan Doss, Complaints/Compliance Analyst  
Tammy Vining, Licensing Analyst

**Attorney General's Office**

Mary Brannen, Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Larry Corry, DVM, Board Member

**Visitors Present**

Dr. Keri Lynn Riddick, DVM, Executive Director, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
Susan Blevins, Director of Operations, Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA)  
1 Unidentified User - Call in user 1

**Call to Order:** Dr. Cuevas established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda** Mr. Culpepper motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented.

**Open Session Board Minutes – February 9, 2022 Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Culpepper motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 9, 2022 open session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Discussion – SB 604**

The Board entered into a discussion of SB 604 which proposes a move of the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine from being administratively assigned to the Professional Licensing Board Division of the Office of Georgia Secretary of State to the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDOA). Dr. Cuevas stated that it does not appear that the bill will not be moving forward as it did not make Crossover Day.

Dr. Malphus asked the Board if any members are aware of the purpose of the move and Dr. Bradley seconded her concern. Dr. Bradley remarked that from reading the bill he could only assume that what the sponsors were attempting to do was create an independent Board, not really under the supervision of the GDOA, just under their umbrella, giving the Board the liberty to do as it pleases with not a lot of oversight. He stated that he has to assume that the intent is to remove some of the inherent bureaucracy and red tape that exists within any governmental

agency. He indicated that his remark is not a slight against the Georgia Office of Secretary of State by any means, as with any governmental entity there is just a lot of red tape.

Dr. Malphus queried if the Board members were aware of who is backing the proposed legislation, the purpose of the change, and what groups or persons instigated the formation of the bill. She asked if anyone was aware of whether or not there is any staff or IT services set up at the GDOA, and asked expense and budget questions as to how the GDOA could support the Board if this change was to occur.

Dr. Bradley noted that had the change taken place this year the GDOA might not have been in a position to handle license renewal which begins October 2022. He expressed that if the bill were to pass and be signed by the Governor it will likely go into effect as of July 1 and his concern is that the move will only allow a few months for the GDOA to be in position to process the expected over 6,000 renewal applications. Mr. Culpepper questioned the systems and resources the DOA has in place to support the move.

Ms. Price noted that the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) submitted a letter of support for the Bill to the Board; however, the letter does not clarify any of the Board's questions in regard to the purpose, advantages and disadvantages of making such a change. Dr. Cuevas commented that her staff duties as the Director of Veterinary Services for GVMA had no involvement in any discussions or drafting of this bill and as a result, she had no additional insight as it relates to GVMA's position on the bill. She stated that her employers respect her position on the Georgia Board and are careful to keep the roles separate; therefore, she does not even attend the GVMA board meetings.

Dr. Bradley motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion for Ms. Price to draft the Board's concerns in a letter to submit to Senators Mullis of the 53<sup>rd</sup> District and Harper of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, and to GVMA to present at next meeting on April 6, 2022. The purpose of the letter is to allow the Board to consider the pros and cons of the move in order to make an informed decision as to whether they support or oppose the move.

Dr. Wright joined the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Mr. Culpepper queried the Board as to whether or not anyone has reached out to Mr. Gary Black, the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, for his stance on the proposed move. The Board members noted that none of them had been in contact with Mr. Black. Mr. Culpepper motioned, Dr. Malphus seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to also submit the letter to Mr. Black to determine his interest and investment in the change.

**Executive Session Board Minutes – February 9, 2022 Executive Session Board Zoom Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Culpepper motioned, Dr. Bradley seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the February 9, 2022 executive session zoom meeting minutes as presented.

**Adjournment** No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Hornaday, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed by:** Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes approved on:** April 6, 2022

**WENDY CUEVAS, DACVPM**  
**BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

**ADRIENNE PRICE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**