

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 418<sup>th</sup> COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Texas Animal Health Commission**  
**October 3, 2023**

**Item 1 – Welcome and Call to order by Chairman Locke**

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Commissioners met in person on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Chairman Coleman Locke began the meeting at 9:00AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Item 2 – Roll Call for Commission Members**

The Chairman called the roll for the commission members. Commissioner Osterkamp was absent. No motion to excuse his absence was made.

**Item 3 – Approval of the minutes of the 416<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 416<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the 416<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Staggs and seconded by Commissioner Jordan. The motion carried.

**Item 4 – Approval of the minutes of the 417<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

There was no public comment and no discussion concerning the minutes of the 417<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the 417<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Jordan and seconded by Commissioner Leathers. The motion carried.

**Item 5 - Closed Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice, Discuss Pending or Contemplated Litigation, and Settlement Offers as Permitted by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.**

The closed executive session was called at 9:04AM.

**Item 6 – Closed Executive Session to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of Specific Commission Employees as Permitted by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code**

**Item 7 – Reconvene to Consider Any Action Needed Following Closed Executive Session**

The meeting reconvened at 11:52AM.

(Items 8 and 9 were taken out of order.)

**Item 9 – Selection of the New Executive Director**

Chairman Locke presented the recommendation of the selection committee. The selection committee recommended that the commission hire Dr. Lewis R. “Bud” Dinges as the new TAHC Executive Director with a start date of October 16, 2023, at an annual salary of \$180,000. Chairman Locke summarized the qualifications of Dr. Dinges.

Commissioner Staggs moved to approve the selection of Dr. Dinges as discussed. Commissioner Oates seconded the motion. The motion carried, unanimously.

**Item 8 – Consideration of Incumbent Executive Director in Accordance with Section 669.002 of the Texas Government Code**

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Chairman Locke made a recommendation to reassign Dr. Andy Schwartz, the incumbent Executive Director to the position of Director IV, with a working title of “Executive Director Emeritus”, on October 16, 2023, with a salary of \$187,811. Chairman Locke further recommended that Dr. Schwartz will help train and assist the new executive director provide technical consulting upon request. In the new role, Dr. Schwartz will report directly to the new executive director.

Commissioner Leathers moved to approve the reassignment of Dr. Schwartz as discussed. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The motion carried, unanimously.

**Item 10 - Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

**Item 11 - Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.