



LOUISIANA ANIMAL
WELFARE COMMISSION

Governor's Office of Community Programs

P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, LA 70160

(504) 568-8315

LAWC Minutes

March 19, 2014...Louisiana State Police Fusion Center
376-A E. Airport Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
1:00 PM, estimated duration: two hours

Attendees: Dr. Gary Balsamo, Amy Burris, Hilton Cole, Paul Edmonson, Dr. Brian Melius, Juanita Murphy, Mary Oliphant, Heather Parker, Joelle Rupert

Absent: Dr. Phillip Dupont, Dr. Amy Grayson, Anita Milling, Susan Schneider

Guest: Julie Lewis

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Juanita Murphy gave the Treasurer's report

Dr. Gary Balsamo gave a brief report on the website and invited any commission members to send him suggestions or changes.

Ms. Heather Parker reviewed the follow up-report on the grant program with the Commission. There were some issues with grant recipients using the money for vaccinations and other charges not related to spay/neuter surgeries. After the discussion, a motion was made to only allow grant money to pay for spay neuter surgeries. A committee was formed to oversee the grant process. Ms. Burris formed a committee to oversee spay/neuter grants with members Heather Parker, Juanita Murphy and Brian Melius and the committee members are expected to submit suggestions for the spay/neuter grant program and determine whether or not changes need to be made. The grant program is open-ended.

Hilton Cole gave information on the LSART award and stated that they are ready to be paid but that the bill hasn't been submitted to Ms. Oliphant. There was a discussion regarding a commendation to be put in each LSART trailer that would show that the LAWC recognizes the hard work of the LSART.

Dr. Balsamo said that Pinckney Wood was invited to attend the meeting to receive his award from the LAWC but that he was unable to attend. The LAWC will wait until he can attend a meeting to present his plaque.

...to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals

Juanita Murphy and Julie Lewis reported on the Continuing Education Meeting for Police. May 7 was selected as the date.

Dr. Balsamo reported that he has made progress on achieving the state pet registry and relationship to online rabies registration. He reported that more information would be forthcoming based on meetings and that he feels confident that the LAWC can finally achieve this mission.

Ms. Burris discussed legislative items for the 2014 legislative session and stated that HB 1091, the prohibition of dogs from riding unrestrained in truck beds on Louisiana interstates, is the main piece of legislation that is directly involved with the LAWC. A motion was made to state LAWC support for HB 1091 and issues a letter of support to the legislator who sponsored the legislation.

...to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals