

Aquatic Livestock Committee Report

2015 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, March 24, 2015



The Aquatic Livestock Committee met on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2015 NIAA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with approximately 15 people present. Mr. Todd Low served as Chair.

The Aquatic Livestock Committee session focused on using science for better decision making. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to water policy in CA; a new mobile technology platform to support aquaculture diagnostics; and using science-based metrics:

Aubrey Bettencourt, Executive Director, California Water Alliance, presented "Future of water in America and the Impact on Livestock Industries"

Kasha Cox, Senior Territory Manager, US Aquatic Health, Merck Animal Health, presented "DVM Dx - Leveraging a Livestock Health Platform for Aquaculture"

Marty Matlock, PhD, PE, BCEE, Executive Director, Office of Sustainability, University of Arkansas, presented "Science-based Metrics - Tools to Improve Your Operation"

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business:

- One resolution amended – change to date of existing resolution from 2014 to 2015. (Motion by Fred Lau and seconded by Debra Sloan).
- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Water policy is complex and deeply affects the quality of life of who life and work in the region. California's current water crisis highlights how federal policy has exacerbated the situation. The lack of water in Southern California will have unknown impacts for the nation's food security as well as demographics as the population may move to regions where water is more plentiful.
 - 2) The livestock industries (including aquaculture) must leverage new technologies if they can improve the operation. Confidentiality need to be addressed in this age of information access and sharing. Policy must protect the operations while facilitating commerce.
 - 3) Science-based metrics are the tool to rebut uneducated assertions about livestock industries and its products. They provide a common platform where producers can compare themselves to industry standards and other parts of the food system can interface with an entire sector.

Aquatic Livestock Committee Session adjourned at 12:15.