

County Livestock Loss Authority
P.O. Box 507
Reserve, NM 87830

May 15, 2026

Reserve Fire Administration Building
3 Mountaineer Rd. Reserve, NM.
87830

Approved Minutes

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE MEETING VIA:
Zoom:

10:00 A.M. Regular Meeting called to order at 10:12 a.m.

Roll Call: Haydn Forward, Catron County, **Present**
Jim Paxon, Sierra County, **Present, on-line**
Daniel Monette, Socorro County, **Absent**
Tom Paterson, Livestock Representative, **Present**
Sisto Hernandez, NGO, **Present On-line @ 10:14**

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Guests

Lilly Hinkle, Field Technician

- I. Approval of Agenda *move to approve by Director Paxon, second by Director Paterson passed 3/0*
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2026, CLLA meeting *Move to approve by Director Paterson, second by Director Paxon. Passes 3/0*
- III. Public Comment: Limited to 3 Minutes No Public Comment
- IV. Presentation/Reports
 - A. Report by CLLA Administrator on paid claims from Jan. 30, 2026, to-date. **Administrator Mahler advises that since January 30, 2026, 45 claims were processed, 7 of which are "probable" for a total paid amount \$131,100.00. Average time from receiving a completed application to payment going out was less than 1 week.**
 - B. Report by CLLA Administrator on 2024 Indirect Damages applications received to date. **Administrator Mahler advises that 16 applications for Indirect Damages have been received. Final date for submittal is May 31, 2026. Reminder emails will be sent out to the producers as the deadline gets closer.**

C. Presentation of DRAFT Compensation Policy by CLLA Administrator. Administrator Mahler presents the DRAFT compensation policy. *Director Forward asks if County Investigators should be included. Director Paterson advises that the Livestock Demonstration Grant requires the USDA-APHIS staff do the investigation. Director Paterson recommends not including other investigators until such time that Wildlife Services is not able to investigate every depredation.*

V. New Business

A. Discussion and Action by CLLA Board on the determination of the 2024 Indirect Damages compensation amount. *Discussion by Administrator on the use of the 2026 Legislative Appropriations prior to the 2024 funds being completely expended. Dr. Ebert advises that the new funds may be accessed prior to the depletion of the 2024 funds as long as they are separately invoiced. This statement was confirmed by Patricia Depner. Director Forward asks for the known availability of the \$3million appropriation. Dr. Ebert advises that that appropriation required NMDA to do a study on the effectiveness of Conflict Avoidance measures. Representative Small would like the study done to find out "what we are missing". Dr. Ebert advised Rep. Small that we are missing a durable recurring appropriation. In order to get a durable recurring appropriation from the legislature he wants this study done. Dr. Ebert has been identifying researchers who are doing studies. We've found that any study is very expensive. Dr. Ebert has tried to locate researchers that have already initiated studies. We may be partnering with Fish and Wildlife Services and NMDW on a study that would be true to New Mexico. NMDA will withhold \$300,000 for the required study. The first MOA from NMDA to CLLA will be for \$2.7 million until we determine what financial needs are to support that study. Director Paterson advises that a discussion should occur with Stuart Breck at CSU and FWS. Dr. Ebert has spoken to Dr. Breck who is searching for a grant to fund his study. We will coordinate with USFW, NMDW, ADGF and NMDA. Director Paterson is disappointed that we did not receive a request for a letter of support for the grant application. If that would still be useful, please let us know. Director Paterson is grateful that the amount of funds earmarked for the study is \$300,000 and not \$500,000 as he had heard a few weeks ago as we need to keep as much of that money going to the ranchers as possible. Director Paterson supports the goal of sustainable long-term reoccurring funding, let us know what we can do to assist with the grants. Director Forward advises that initially there was \$500,000 held back to NMDA for the study. NMDA reduced their allocation to \$300,000 so more funds are available to compensate ranchers. Director Paterson: Dr. Ebert, can you identify the research question that Representative Small wants to answer? Dr. Ebert advises that Rep. Small's request says: "to study effective human and wildlife cohabitation." Which translates to two questions. The first being "How effective are Conflict Avoidance measures at protecting livestock from wolf depredations." And second: "Is there buy-in from impacted citizens on implementing such measures to encourage coexistence." Many researchers have attempted to answer the first question for decades. Dr Ebert advises that she may be conducting a survey to get the rancher's perspective. Dr. Breck's research will be "in-situ" experiment that will be unique to ranching practices and environment that we have in New Mexico. Dr. John Oakleaf expands on Dr. Breck's study. Dr. Breck is doing a pilot study on cluster data along with a broader study as described by Dr. Ebert. Director Paterson is thrilled that Dr. Ebert is zeroing in on the differences with our cattle operations in the southwest and the utility of non-lethal measures in those environments. Director Hernandez shares that Rae Nikerson with Colorado Parks and Wildlife has completed a thesis on the effectiveness of range riding and will be defending that thesis in August 2026. Dr. Ebert has been in contact with Ms. Nikerson. Director Forward advises that NMDA did reach out to their legal team and there is language in both the 2024 and the new appropriation that 5% can be held back for administration costs of the CLLA. We are still looking for funding of the CLLA admin. Director Paterson advises that the Livestock Demonstration grant is under review to be funded at a higher (\$2.5 million) level that makes*

sense. A portion of that funding will be accessible for CLLA. The Livestock Demonstration grant should be forthcoming. Director Forward advises the CLLA Directors we will continue to strive to find the channels to fund the full admin costs of the CLLA. Motion by Director Paterson that we allocate \$600,000 for 2024 Indirect Damages. Director Paxon feels there will be a lot more applicants with considerably more damage. He asks for consideration of \$ 1 million. Director Paterson agrees that there will be more applicants this year, but future years we can consider increasing. Dr. Ebert reminds the board that there is a cap on the payments so that we may not use the entire allocated funds if you increase to \$1 million. The per animal cap is \$124.00 for 2024. Director Paterson asks if we could supplement the Indirect Damages allocation when we are aware of the number of applicants. Administrator Mahler advises that there would be time to allocate additional funds at the August 2026 meeting. Director Paterson motion to keep the 2024 allocation for Indirect Damages at \$600,000 for this discussion. Second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0

B. Discussion, Direction or Action regarding the provided DRAFT Compensation policy. (Exhibit 1) Director Paterson requests removal of the two blank lines on page 3, with that change and makes the announcement that this is a document that will continue to be amended. Director Paterson moves to approve. Second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0

C. Discussion, Direction and/or Action regarding Confirmed Equine Depredation number 2602250925 2006 Bay Roan mare AQHA "Roys Gold Dallas" for Taylor McQueen. (Exhibit 2) Discussion by Director Forward. Retired competition mare. Director Paterson advises we cannot compensate for future production. We compensate for the animal's value today. Director Paterson recommends we compensate at Ranch Horse value. Director Paxon agrees with Director Paterson on the Ranch Horse valuation. Director Hernandez agrees with both Directors' rationale. Director Paterson's consultant advises \$6,000 valuation for a 20-year-old broodmare. Director Paxon states we agreed that Ranch Horses will be a maximum of \$10,000. At the last NFR competition, horses at that event were 24 years old. Value is not necessarily determined by age. Director Hernandez moves to compensate Taylor McQueen \$10,000. Second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0

D. Discussion, Direction and/or Action regarding the Probable injury claim for Cross 5 Ranch (Bill Noeske) Equine (pony), USDA Report # 2602141455. The animal was euthanized due to broken leg from attack. (Exhibit 3) Director Paterson moves to compensate Cross 5 Ranch \$6,500. Keri Wilson advises that the pony was used for the owner's grandchildren and was provided to her for her daughter's use while on the ranch. Director Hernandez asks if the pony was safe for her child. Keri Wilson responds that he was. Director Hernandez advises that this animal was safe for a child. So that should come into the equation. \$6,500 is a reasonable amount. Director Paxon agrees and moves to compensate Cross 5 Ranch \$6,500. Second by Director Paterson. Passes 4/0

E. Discussion, Direction and/or Action regarding the Probable injury claim for Keri Ann Garcia for the injury to her Livestock Guardian Dog USDA Report number 2601100827 (Exhibit 4) Director Paterson moves to approve the compensation for the veterinary bill minus the rabies vaccination. Compensation proposed is \$519.93. Second by Director Hernandez. Passes 4/0.

F. Discussion Direction and/or Action regarding the increased compensation request by Sally and Elden Hulsey for the loss of a registered replacement bull calf USDA report number 2602241158. (Exhibit 5) Director Paterson: This is a 1-month-old calf. CLLA paid the market

value of the calf. The Hulseys are requesting bull compensation. We have no idea what the breeding capacity was going to be. Director Paterson moves that the appropriate payment has been made. No further payment. Director Hernandez agrees with Director Paterson, registration is not indicative of breeding performance. If the animal had been a yearling or 18 months old and performance tested and exhibited the carcass traits and secondary sex characteristics necessary to justify that cost. Director Forward moves no further payment, second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0

G. Discussion, Direction and/or Action regarding the Confirmed Equine Depredation for Casey Mayer; USDA Report number 2604261253. (Exhibit 6) Director Paterson does not feel this animal is peak Ranch Horse compensation and suggests \$7,500 compensation. Director Hernandez discusses the information provided by the owner. This animal is reliable for day-to-day work, sound, and he was able to take care of both older riders and children. Director Forward mentions that this horse was useful in branding pens. Director Paxon says we are making judgments based on age. This animal is still useable at 17 years old, \$7,500 is not enough. Director Hernandez motions to compensate \$8,000 for the horse. Second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0

Director Hernandez shares that when he was with other organizations that compensated for Mexican wolf depredations, they only reviewed 2 horse depredations the entire time. To have 3 in one meeting is unprecedented.

V. Old Business

A. Discussion, Direction and/or Action regarding the proposed Resolution recognizing the on-going assistance of Dr. Gifford, New Mexico State University; Dr. Peel, Oklahoma State University and Dr. Anderson of Texas A & M for their continued support of both CLLA and the ranching community provided through the Market Value Reports provided quarterly. *Director Paterson mentioned that at the last CLLA meeting we discussed needing to show our appreciation to the gentlemen responsible for determination of our quarterly market values. The CLLA system for quarterly market values vastly exceeds what the LIP program's cull value payments. The CLLA is way ahead of the federal government in valuing livestock that are victims of these endangered species. We are grateful to these three gentlemen and their universities for stepping up. The CLLA has developed a model program for compensation and it's not going unnoticed. The prepared resolution expressed our appreciation to them and expresses our appreciation to their institutions. Director Paterson moves for adoption of this resolution. Director Forward believes the Resolution is very well written it states the importance of their work. I will be proud to sign. Second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0*

B. Discussion Direction and/or Action regarding Insurance for the CLLA Directors. *Director Paterson needs a quote. Move to Table by Director Hernandez, second by Director Paxon. Passes 4/0*

C. Update from Sierra and Socorro Counties regarding the update to the CLLA JPA to the County Commission. *Administrator Mahler advises that Catron took the modified JPA to the Catron County Commission in March. That was approved and provided to Socorro and Sierra*

Counties. CLLA Legal Counsel has reviewed and has no requested changes. Director Paterson asks if they were provided with a red-lined version. Director Forward advised that Mr. Domenici has been provided with the modified changes. Director Paxon asks for the modified version. He is not aware of receiving that document. Administrator Mahler advises it was sent to both County Managers and Socorro's and Sierra's Directors in March. Administrator will provide the highlighted version sent to CLLA legal counsel.

Next Meeting August 14, 2026, in Socorro

VI. Adjourn @ 11:13 a.m. Motion by Director Henandez , second by Director Paxon passes 4/0

The next proposed Regular Meeting of the CLLA will be August 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Socorro County Annex. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the County Livestock Loss Authority Administrator no later than 5:00pm on Monday the week before the meeting.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting please contact the CLLA Administrator, at 1 C Foster Lane, Reserve NM. 87830, phone (505) 787-9652 at least one (1) week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact CLLA Administrator if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed."

Approved _____

Haydn Forward, Chair

Date

7/1/26

