



Veterinary Board of Governors Regular Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2026

Location: Department of Health, TC2, Room 153
111 Isreal Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 and Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

Katherine Bibi, DVM, Chair
Maci Paden, DVM, Vice-Chair
Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, DVM,
Aja Senestraro, DVM
Kathryn Haigh, DVM
Rebecca Knoke, General Member

Board Members Absent:

Kim Morgan, LVT

Staff Members' Present:

Amber Freeberg, Executive Director
Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant
Tara Mackemull, Program Support
Megan Maxey, Policy Analyst
Laura Riordan, Credentialing Supervisor
Lydia Koroma, Staff Attorney
Brielle Matthes, Credentialing Staff
Lilia Lopez, AAG
Katilin Wilbur, Credentialing Staff
Rachel Campbell, Budget Staff
Stephanie Lukjan, Staff Attorney
Nomi Peaks, DOH Staff
Jeff Orwig, Budget Analyst

Other Attendees resent:

Ken Gordon, WSVMA	Colonel Laughlin
Ashley Byrne, LVT, WSAVT	Madeline Brezin
Brittany Benesi	Kelly Semple
Kate Sycamore	Beth Venit
Lisa Woods, LVT	Jeb Mortimer
Colonel Justin Schlanser	Alice Huang
Lacey Thompson	Lori Lutskas
Chelsi Blume	Lori Grassi
Lisa Sanzone	Amber Itle
Bob Nicoloff	Robert Nicoloff
Jen Pedigo, AAVSB Board	Jim Penrod, AAVSB CEO

Notice of this meeting was published on the [Veterinarian | Washington State Department of Health](#) profession website and was sent out through the GovDelivery listserv.

Opening of Public Meeting, Call to Order, Mission, and Board Roll Call – Katherine Bibi, DVM, Chair

Call to Order at 9:02 am

1. Consent Agenda – Katherine Bibi, DVM, Chair

- 1.1. Approval of February 27, 2026, draft meeting agenda, motion made to approve draft agenda, seconded and approved unanimously.
- 1.2. Approval of December 8, 2025, draft business meeting minutes, motion made to approve draft minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Reports

- 2.1. Dr. Katherine Bibi, DVM, Chair – Dr. Bibi had nothing to report at this time.
- 2.2. Amber Freeberg, Executive Director – Ms. Freeberg gave an update on HELMS, the program we use for issuing licenses. Ms. Freeberg let the board know that the final stage of the HELMS roll out is expected to be implemented in March of 2026. Ms. Freeberg let the board and public know that while the final implementation is happening from March 18-March 24 that there will be a total freeze for licensure.
- 2.3. Poppy Budrow, Program Manager – Ms. Budrow informed the board and public that all correspondence needs to go through her, and her email is: poppy.budrow@doh.wa.gov. Interviews for Board vacancies are being scheduled. Ms. Budrow went over HSQA Budget 101, and the GovDelivery included in packet.
- 2.4. Lilia Lopez, AAG – Ms. Lopez said that in the NAVDA case they filed for a ruling. Ms. Lopez let the board know that Ms. Patel will be handling that case.

3. Open Forum (Limit to 10 minutes)

Ken Gordon, WSVMA, heard rumors about middle level practitioners. Their association is setting up a task force to better recognize the LVT skills, and they will invite the Board to participate.

4. Veterinary Internship Research Subcommittee

This subcommittee was developed in response to a petition from Mr. Rybka representing Fountain Veterinary Hospital for a post-DVM, pre-NAVLE internship.

- 4.1. Dr. Bibi opened the floor for Public Comment. – No public comment was given.
- 4.2. Dr. Bibi gave a subcommittee update and possible recommendations: Dr. Bibi reviewed RCW-18.92.060(4)(b) and the letter between Ms. Budrow and JBLM/the Military.
- 4.3. The board voted on opening rules or writing an interpretive statement. There was a motion to open a CR-101 and adopt the interpretive statement as presented, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- 4.4. Dr. Bibi scheduled the next subcommittee meeting with the subcommittee members. The subcommittee consists of Dr. Haigh, Dr. Bibi, and Dr. Paden and they are scheduled to meet on Thursday April 16th at 7:00 am.

5. Professional Fee Review

The Board welcomed DOH Budget Staff, Rachel Campbell.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the professions fund balance, and possible scenarios to properly adjust veterinary professions fees. Ms. Campbell asked the board how they preferred to distribute the funds. The Board asked when the last time fees were increased fees, Ms. Campbell stated they were decreased in 2017 then increased in 2020. There was a board discussion about fees and increases.

Dr. Sanchaz-Chambers asked that we do not increase fees for the Humane Society and asked that the increase be split between Veterinarian and Veterinarian with Specialty License.

6. Rules Update - Animal Healthcare Tasks

The purpose of this rulemaking is to consider updates to Animal Healthcare Tasks WAC 246-935-040, 050, 010, and WAC 246-937-010.

Link to rules in progress: [Rules in Progress | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Katherine Bibi; Dr. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers; Ms. Kim Morgan, LVT

- 6.1. The Board discussed final review of language for animal healthcare tasks from the December 8, 2025 Board meeting.
- 6.2. The Board discussed next-step options. There was a motion to accept the corrected language, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- 6.3. There were no written comments and letters to review as of February 17, 2026.
- 6.4. Animal Healthcare Tasks FAQ review. There was a motion to accept the current language, seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Rules Update – Veterinary Telemedicine (VCPR)

The CR-101 to re-open VCPR rules was filed on October 21, 2025, under WSR 25-21-129 to update and clarify VCPR rules. WAC 246-933-010 and 246-933-200 are open.

Subcommittee Members: Drs. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Aja Senestraro, Katherine Bibi

- 7.1. The Board opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Gordon, WSVMA, made the comment that current bill before the Washington house that his association is remaining neutral.

- 7.2. The subcommittee gave an update, and the update was given by Dr. Senestraro. Dr. Senestraro stated that the subcommittee has met multiple times. March 12, 2026, is the end of the legislative session.
- 7.3. Ms. Budrow gave an update, and the board discussed possible future updates.
- 7.4. VCPR CR-101 document presented.

The next Subcommittee meeting will be on April 15, 2026, at 7:00 am.

8. Rule Workshop – Eligibility for Examination as Veterinary Technician WAC 246-935-060(4)

The CR-101 to open LVT Eligibility for Examination rules was filed on October 17, 2025, under WSR 25-21-093. This rulemaking is in response to petitions from WSVMA and WSVTA to close the “Wisconsin Loophole” in WAC 246-935-060(4). The board will discuss proposed language.

8.1. The Board opened the floor for Public Comment.

Earl commented that he was not 100% sure about the “qualified assistants” verbiage.

Ken Gordon, WSVMA also supports the new language and wanted to thank the Board staff for their continued support.

8.2. The board reviewed proposed language.

Ms. Budrow gave an update, she stated that the policy unit reviewed the language the board had approved at the last meeting and has come concerns. They proposed we create a new section of WAC, as it makes it clearer that this is an alternate pathway for licensure in Washington for people who hold a license in another state and have passed the VTNE.

8.3. The Board reviewed and voted on proposed language. Motion was made to make the new proposed language, the motion was seconded, there was discussion among the Board and moved back to the DOH Staff and AGG for further clarification.

9. AAVSB Connecting the Regulatory Community

Mr. Jim Penrod, CEO, AAVSB presented and reviewed a PowerPoint “AAVSB: Connection regulatory community”.

10. Disciplinary Process Research Subcommittee

This subcommittee has been tasked with researching the disciplinary process, how complaints are assessed, how the board can be more transparent to the public and licensees, and making recommendations to streamline and clarify where possible.

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Katherine Bibi; Dr. Kathryn Haigh; Ms. Becky Knoke

10.1. The Board opened the floor for Public Comment. There were no public comments.

10.2. Dr. Bibi gave an update from the subcommittee, subcommittee discussed and updated the blank case summary report.

10.3. The board reviewed progress made on the Board Review document.

Next subcommittee meeting is on March 27, 2026

11. Legislative Update

Ms. Budrow gave an update on Legislation in process that may affect veterinary practice.

11.1. 5236 Greenhouse Gasses – did not progress

11.2. 2208 Removal of Sales Tax for CE – resurrected.

11.3. Local Excise Tax for Animal Shelters – did not progress

11.4. 5899 Animal Chiropractic –passed senate

11.5. 1904 Prohibiting Declawing of Cats – did not progress

11.6. 2247 & 6072 VCPR – 6072 did not progress 2247 is progressing



12. 1705 Large Animal Veterinarian Recruitment Workgroup

WSU has created a workgroup to research how to train, retain, and attract large animal veterinarians.
Board Representative: Dr. Maci Paden Alternate: Dr. Haigh and Dr. Sellon.

12.1. Ms. Budrow gave an update on the 1705 Large Animal Veterinarian meetings.

13. FAQ Update – Humane Society FAQ Subcommittee

The purpose of this subcommittee is to write an FAQ regarding Humane Societies and guidelines.
Subcommittee Members: Ms. Kim Morgan, LVT, Dr. Maci Paden, Dr. Aja Senestraro

13.1. Open for public comments. – No public comment was given.

13.2. Humane Society Subcommittee will schedule a time via email.

14. Correspondence

Any letters the board has received and have not been addressed above will be reviewed. The board may respond to correspondence.

14.1. Public Disclosure Request – ProvenBase - Request to be approved for Lists and Labels.– Motion to deny request because as outlined in RCW 42.56.070(8), this entity is a commercial business and is not a professional association(s) or educational organization(s) recognized by their professional licensing or examination board and wants the information for commercial purposes. This motion was made; it was seconded and approved unanimously.

14.2. NAVLE retake policy reviewed. No Action

14.3. Additional letters received

Ken Gordon, WSVMA, regarding the PQAC labeling rules and their concerns. Reviewed. No action.

Washington State Association of Veterinary Technicians requests to be approved for Lists and Labels. They were previously an approved entity. These approvals are valid for 5 years, and theirs has expired. There was a motion to approve this request as outlined in RCW 42.56.070(8) because WSAVT is a professional association recognized by the Board and was requesting the information for non-commercial purposes , the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

15. Conferences and Presentations

The board reviewed who will be attending the following conferences and updates were given on past conferences:

15.1. AAVSB ED Summit: April 22/23, 2026

Motion to send Ms. Budrow to the AAVSB ED Summit, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

15.2. AAVSB Board Basics and Beyond: April 24/25, 2026

Attending: Dr. Sanchez-Chambers and Dr. Senestraro as an alternate, if Dr. Sanchez-Chambers cannot attend.

The Board discussed and decided to send Dr. Sanchez-Chambers. There was a motion to send Dr. Sanchez-Chambers, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

15.3. PNW Veterinary Conference, Tacoma. Date: September 25-27, 2026.

Attending: Dr. Haigh, Dr. Sanchez-Chambers, and Ms. Knoke

Motion made for Dr. Sanchez-Chambers, and Ms. Knoke to attend the PNW Veterinary Conference in Tacoma. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion made for the board to have a budget up to \$1,000.00 to purchase conference supplies for the PNW Veterinary Conference in Tacoma. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion to make Subcommittee was made to brochure and media materials for meetings, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Members: Dr. Andrea Sanchez-Chambers, Dr. Maci Paden, and Ms. Becky Knoke. Subcommittee will meet on February 27, 2026.

WSCMA Conference is to be September 24-26, 2027.

15.4. AAVSB Annual Meeting: September 23-26, 2026

Attending: Dr. Bibi as the delegate.

There was a motion to approve sending Dr. Bibi to AAVSB, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion to send Amber Freeberg and Poppy Budrow to AAVASB, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

16. Schedule 2027 Board Meetings

The Board is to schedule 2027 Board Meeting dates. Proposed dates:

03/12/2027

06/04/2027

09/10/2027

12/17/2027

Motion to accept 2027 dates as presented, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Ms. Budrow asked the board if they would be interested in doing a retreat in 2027. The date presented for that retreat would be June 3-4, 2027. Motion was made to add a veterinary retreat on June 3-4, 2027, was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

17. Reminders: Meeting Dates for 2026

These dates have been filed with the code reviser and are posted on the Veterinary Board of Governors Website.

17.1. June 5, 2026

17.2. September 11, 2026

17.3. December 18, 2026

18. Agenda Development

The board reviewed and identified agenda items for the June 5, 2026, business meeting.

18.1. Subcommittee Update: FAQ Animal Health Care Tasks

18.2. Subcommittee Update on VCPR

18.3. Discipline Process



- 18.4. Internship
- 18.5. Humane Society
- 18.6. Chiropractic Task force
- 18.7. AAG Update, as needed if there is any updates to give to the Board.
- 18.8. Review Veterinarian Specialty Licenses and Specialists.

Open Session Meeting Adjournment at 12:06 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Poppy Budrow, Program Manager
 Veterinary Board of Governors

Approved by:

Dr. Katherine Bibi, Chair
 Veterinary Board of Governors

On file

 SIGNATURE

 DATE

On file

 SIGNATURE

 DATE

