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Veterinary Services Commission

Chair

Dr. Allan Preston, Hamiota

Board Members

Ramona Blyth, MacGregor
Gerond Davidson, Neepawa
Dr. Helen Jerney, Ashern
Kenneth Lucko, Ste. Genevieve

Mandate:

The primary purpose of the VSC is to oversee the Veterinary Services District Program, which provides annual grant funding to assist with maintenance and operating expenses of the 27 Veterinary Services Districts Clinics. It also oversees the Veterinary Recruitment Initiative, a fund established on behalf of the veterinary services districts to increase awareness of employment opportunities available in the Province of Manitoba.

Authority:

The Veterinary Services Act (Section 14.1)

Responsibilities:

- Approve the establishment of veterinary services districts
- Hear appeals from municipalities concerning the amount they are required to pay to the veterinary services district board
- Hold public hearings in the event a rural municipality wishes to withdraw from a veterinary services district or rural municipalities wish to dissolve a veterinary services district
- Negotiate with the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association and set the maximum fee schedules and the amount of professional liability insurance for incorporation into all Form 2 agreements to be entered into by the boards and veterinarians or veterinary partnerships in the following year
- Receive from veterinary services district boards:
 - Case load reports
 - Inventory of hospital equipment
 - Hospital maintenance and operation budget proposals

Membership:

The Veterinary Services Commission, consists of not more than seven members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Board members can resign or be removed by Lieutenant Governor in Council. If a Board member ceases to be a member before their term expires, the replacement will hold office for the remainder of the term the person is replacing and thereafter until successor named.

Length of Terms:

Three years from date of appointment and thereafter until successor named; can be re-appointed.

Desirable Experience:

While there are no formal educational requirements, Board members are expected to have knowledge of agriculture, rural issues, and rural veterinary service (not necessarily a veterinarian but understand the needs of livestock producers/clients) as well as veterinary services and vet districts as it pertains to the needs of livestock producers.

Strong verbal and written communication skills, analytical ability, experience conducting hearings, etc.

Time Commitment:

Approximately 6-10 meetings per year plus travel, to approximately 5 conferences / conventions annually. Meeting times are variable. (Refer to Meetings section)

Note: The Chair deals with issues/communications - their time is double that of regular board members

Meetings:

Location
& Frequency:

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) convention to discuss issues with municipal officials (one full day meeting).
- One annual meeting with veterinary service district board chairs/secretaries; four hours (plus travel). (Meeting will be in Neepawa area for next three years);
- One meeting to discuss the technical enhancement grant; five hours (plus travel) to Winnipeg;
- One annual recruitment trip to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine located at the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Meeting four to six hours with an overnight stay in Saskatoon with travel time of six to eight hours each way; and
- The remainder of the meetings are usually via conference call. Approximately four per year at less than two hours held at a mutually agreeable time.

In summary, there is one meeting in Winnipeg, one in Saskatoon, one in Neepawa, and the rest are via teleconference call.

Remuneration:

Chair: \$138.00 per half day; \$243.00 per full day

Members: \$79.00 per half day; \$138.00 per full da