

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time:	Wednesday, August 20, 2025 *4:30PM
Location:	Saginaw County Animal Care & Control Resource Center 5615 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48604
Council Members Present:	Dr. Mielke, Tracey Slodowski, Cynthia Winiecke, Kelli Scorson, Carol Pickelmann, Laureen Lutenski, Sharon Maher, Jonna Godley, Demetrios Scott (arrived at 4:45)
Council Members Absent:	Tom McIntyre, Emilie Lyday
Others in Attendance:	Alycia Norton, Jen Speckhard, Mary Catherine Hannah, Jack Tany, Mark Piotrowski, Pam Goddeyne, Dolores Kellett, Suzy Koepplinger

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slodowski called the meeting to order at 4:30PM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Winiecke made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 18, 2025.
Member Pickelmann supported. Motion passed (8-0).

III. AGENDA

1. **Administrator Update** – Mary Catherine Hannah stated that the Board or Commissioners held a public hearing on August 19 for approval of the budget in September. This includes some movement of positions at SCACC, including adding a Volunteer Coordinator. SCACC is highly dependent on volunteers and recruiting, training and thanking them in meaningful ways is extremely important. Using the Commission on Aging as a model, they have a huge volunteer base, and it makes a world of difference in their retention. It has been determined that management is too heavy on top and there needs to be some middle management. Team Leads; Animal Care Techs will blend some of the existing positions. Anyone currently employed with SCACC will be able to still be employed. After a complete operations review is done, a final org chart will be sent out. The report will look at what's being done well, what needs improvement and how to best achieve the goals of SCACC. Best Friends Network is a national group that works on a volunteer basis. The County has heard all the concerns and is working to move forward. We need to be clear about what we can and cannot do at Animal Control. The only legal requirement Animal Control has is to pick up stray dogs according to the Dog Law of 1919. Expectations of SCACC have changed and we look at pets as family vs. property. What do our volunteers and employees believe the mission is? Member Pickelmann asked when these changes would be implemented and are there any payout's due. Mary Catherine stated after October 1st when the new budget starts and nobody is due to be paid out. Member Lutenski asked if money is available for new positions and if the PR firm is still contracted for FY26. Mary Catherine stated that there is money available and the PR firm is still contracted for FY26. The County is also looking at adding a 5th ACO as a supervisor, eliminating the full-time veterinarian and looking at using contract veterinarians. The idea is to lower costs because of salary/benefit costs,

fewer people w/ more hours. Member Winiecke asked if a committee made these decisions. Mary Catherine stated no, it was herself, Koren and Rachel.

2. **Educational Outreach Program** – Vice Chair Kelli Scorsone stated that the council wants to start with elementary schools first, delivering age-appropriate information that changes depending on the age group. This is still in the very beginning stages. We need volunteers for specific schools and outreach to principals while getting the program down pat. Need to determine if schools prefer in their building or at SCACC. Chair Slodowski asked if we can legally take animals into schools. Mary Catherine stated that there is a liability, and schools may require signing a waiver. This should also go to the County Legal Counsel. If the council is looking at tours at SCACC, this is most likely unnecessary. Vice Chair Scorsone has purchased books. Chair Slodowski has contacted schools and is looking to partner with Thomas Township Nature Center. There will be a meeting next Friday at 2:00PM to work on programming.
3. **Other** – N/A

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Alycia Norton stated that a best practice is talking to other non-profits. A volunteer coordinator will help a lot, and staff will appreciate the internal strategy to address concerns.
2. Pam Goddeyne asked how many hours the team leads would work, and how many part time vets would be there. Mary Catherine stated 30 hrs/week for team leads and unknown at this time for contract veterinarians.
3. Dolores Kellett asked if there will be spay/neuter clinics. Mary Catherine stated yes, as well as vaccine clinics. Dr. Mielke stated there are 400 waiting right now with 50% of those animals in foster care.
4. Member Lutenski asked will vets be paid the same rate of pay. Mary Catherine stated it will depend on whether they supply their own staff or use ours. There is \$100K in the FY26 budget for contracted veterinarians.
5. Jennifer Speckhard asked how many BOC members and Council members would come or have come to volunteer. Not very many; it changes your attitude. Would also like to see fundraising. SCACC has lost half their staff in the last month, they do not like some of the leadership. Without a full-time vet will the surgical center be closed? Also questioning the paint, was it not primed, it is peeling in multiple spots. Mary Catherine stated that the power washing and change in paint color caused the peeling, it was primed.
6. Mary Catherine stated that she would like to see the MDARD reports published for all animal controls, there was nothing in the report that was out of the ordinary or problematic. The issue surrounding the small kennels was because those animals were just taken in and not assessed yet to be out in the general population.
7. BOC Chairman Jack Tany thanked those that spoke at the BOC meeting last night, very helpful and passionate.
8. BOC Commissioner Mark Piotrowski thanked Animal Control for catching a dog that was loose for 3 weeks.
9. Alycia Norton stated that it's hard to find black and white documents with MDARD.

V. NEXT MEETING

1. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 4:30PM.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Member Maher made a motion to adjourn. Member Winiecke supported. The meeting adjourned at 5:34PM.