

## LA Board of Veterinary Medicine – Board Meeting Agenda – June 5, 2025

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Dr. Larry Findley, Sr., called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

### II. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Board Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Jesse Brandon, as follows:

Those present:

Larry L. Findley, Sr, DVM	Board President
Christine D. Barr, DVM	Board Vice President
Jesse S. Brandon, DVM	Board Secretary-Treasurer
Christopher B. Morris, DVM	Board Member
Trisha C. Marullo, DVM	Board Member
Jared B. Granier	Board Executive Director
Stephen H. Vogt	Board General Counsel

The Board's Statement of Obligations (below) was read aloud by Dr. Brandon to all present for the meeting. There were over 20 attendees who were given the opportunity to introduce themselves (if desired) and to make general public comments to the Board. Dr. Oliver Garden, Dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, along with Dr. Bonnie Boudreaux, Senior Associate Dean for Student Success at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, gave an update on the LSU SVM's activities. Ms. Melanie Talley, Executive Director of the LA Veterinary Medical Association, gave an update on the LVMA. Felix Vanderlick from the Louisiana Healthcare Professionals' Foundation of LA spoke on HPFLA services available to licensees.

No written comments were received prior to April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

***Statement of Obligations*** – *The LA Board of Veterinary Medicine (being a state regulatory agency within the LA Department of Agriculture and Forestry) is a governmental entity whose mandate is to protect the public/animals by enforcing its jurisdiction of interpreting and implementing applicable laws, and the rules it promulgates, regarding the acceptable standard of veterinary care in LA. The Board has sole and sovereign authority in Louisiana over the practice of veterinary medicine as granted to it by the Legislature. The Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and take an Oath of Office. The Board members in discharge of their duties are also held to the ethical standards of state government officials. By statute, candidates for the Governor's consideration for appointment to the Board are made by the state professional association. While a Board member may hold general membership in a professional association, he is legally and ethically bound to his Oath of Office and will discharge his duties without any considerations or goals beyond his lawful obligations on the Board. A Board member does not represent the interests of the practitioners of veterinary medicine or a professional association while he serves on the Board, nor will he use his office to engage in any conduct which may constitute restraint of lawful trade.*

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. Board Minutes for April 3, 2025

The Board reviewed minutes from April 3, 2025. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes as given. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

### IV. FINANCIAL MATTERS & CONTRACTS

**A. Financial Reports – March & April ‘25**

Mr. Granier presented the financial reports for the months of March and April ‘25 for review by the Board. Mr. Granier informed the Board that all financial matters are in order, with no unexpected expenditures, and are within budgetary expectations. There were no questions regarding financial reports reviewed by the Board members. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the financial reports as presented. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**B. Investments, CDs – FY 2025; Request to Purchase Additional CD**

Mr. Granier reviewed figures for accrued interest amounts and total investments for current certificates of deposit (CDs) for FY2025. CDs will continue to roll over as they mature unless withdrawal is requested from the Board by Mr Granier. It was reported that the capitalized interest earned continue to be reinvested into new CDs. CPA will account for total capitalized interest in the final report at the end of FY2025. Mr. Granier also requested approval to purchase an additional CD in the amount of \$50,000. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the financial reports as presented and to approve the purchase of the CD in the amount of \$50,000. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**C. Contract Review – Thibaut, Thibaut, & Vogt (Legal Counsel)**

Mr. Granier presented a renewed contract with Thibaut, Thibaut, & Vogt, LLC for legal services for FY2026 as annual review and approval by the Board from the Louisiana Office of State Procurement. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the FY2026 contract for Thibaut, Thibaut, & Vogt. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

**D. Election of Officers (Effective 8/1/2025) - Review of Board Member Positions**

Motion was made, and seconded, to nominate Dr. Barr as President. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Another motion was made, and seconded, to nominate Dr. Brandon as Vice-President. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. A final motion was made, and seconded, to nominate Dr. Morris as Secretary-Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Election for the nominations was held, with unanimous roll call votes all in favor of the nominations.

Motion was made, and seconded, to install, by acclamation, Dr. Christine Barr, as Board President, Dr. Jessee Brandon as Board Vice-President, and Dr. Christopher Morris, as Board Secretary-Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2026. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote, effective August 1, 2025.

**E. Contract, Check & CD Authority (President, Secretary-Treasurer, Director)**

Authorization to sign checks drawn on the Board’s account was given to Dr. Christine Barr, Board President-elect, Dr. Christopher Morris, Board Secretary-Treasurer-elect, and Mr. Jared Granier, Executive Director, effective August 1, 2025. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the authorizations as given. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**F. Status of New Board Member Appointments**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that the LVMA submitted its nominations to the Governor’s Office. The Board now awaits the appointment for the replacement of Dr. Marullo, who will remain on the Board until such appointment is made. The end date

of Dr. Marullo's current appointment is supposed to be July 31, 2025. No motion made or action taken on this matter.

## **V. STATUTES, RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **A. Rulemaking Projects, Proposals, & Discussions**

#### **1. LAC 46LXXXV.301, 801, & 1201 - Licensing Procedures**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that a favorable opinion was received on April 23, 2025 from the LA Department of Justice's Occupational Licensing Review Program. The Summary Report was submitted to the Senate and House Legislative Oversight Committees for the Board, and subsequently received approval on May 28, 2025. The final rule is scheduled for promulgation in the 2025 Louisiana Register, Volume 51, June edition - effective 06/20/25. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

#### **2. LAC 46LXXXV.Chapter 13 - Zoo Personnel**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that notification has been sent to all veterinarians employed at zoo facilities in the state of Louisiana with instructions for reporting compliance as required by Chapter 13. All reports received will be presented to the Board at its October meeting for further review. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

#### **3. LAC 46LXXXV.106, 108, 401, 407, 805, 807, 809, 815 - Continued Rule Reviews for Administrative Code Review**

In accordance with the 2022 Louisiana Administrative Code Review, after a review of rules 106, 108, 401, 407, 805, 807, 809 and 815, the Board intends to repromulgate all rules listed except for rule 407. All rules will be re-promulgated in the Louisiana Register July '25 edition, effective July 20, 2025. Mr. Granier will present rule 407 to the Board at a later meeting with suggested modifications for further discussion. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

#### **4. Administrative Code Review Update**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the 2022 Louisiana Administrative Code Review and Executive Order Number 25-038, the Board continues to comprehensively review all rules of LAC 46LXXXV. No motion made, and no further action was taken or needed on this matter.

### **B. Policies and Procedures**

#### **1. None at this time**

Mr. Vogt explained the Board's policy on responses to informal practice queries and formal declaratory statements to those in attendance.

### **C. Declaratory Statements**

#### **1. None at this time**

## **D. General Agenda**

### **1. How can one use a certification for equine massage therapy in the state of Louisiana if one is not a veterinarian**

A veterinarian requested information for the benefit of a student enrolled in an equine massage therapy course. The sponsors of the course, according to the student, had given assurances that she would be certified upon passage of the course study and once so certified, could “legally” provide equine massage therapy services to equines at rodeos and homes and only needed a licensed veterinarian to “sign off on her paper” to attain regulatory legitimacy. The inquiring veterinarian asked the board how the student could attain certification in Louisiana in her field of study and whether what had been told the student was accurate. The board answered the query as follows: equine massage therapy comes within the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine. Under the Practice Act and Board Rules, a “lay person”, one who is not certified or licensed by the board may provide equine massage therapy services to Louisiana patients as an employee of a veterinarian or, as was applicable in the scenario inquired of, as an independent provider if the board approves the educational of the provider, who works under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian who has established the VCPR and who must keep medical records and obtain the informed, written consent of the client before services are provided. The board need not approve the education of an employee of a veterinarian working under direct supervision or where a non-employee is regulated by a board in Louisiana in the field (La. does not have a board of equine massage therapy).

### **2. What are the state requirements in certification for equine massage therapy in Louisiana**

A prospective student in the field of equine massage therapy inquired of the board the requirements to obtain certification in the field in Louisiana. He was advised that the board does not issue certifications or licenses except to veterinarian, registered veterinary technicians, certified animal euthanasia technicians and registered equine dentists and was provided the guidance of the above decision to answer all questions.

### **3. Can a veterinary technician be provided with "standing orders" to collect blood samples and give an injection according to a written protocol the first time an animal is “met” for testing of heartworm**

A veterinarian engaged in a study of heartworm preventatives and treatments employed by an academic and non-profit organizations asked the board of the propriety of “standing orders” given to RVTs for new patient intakes where the veterinarian was not present when the new patient was enrolled in the program. Additional information was sought of the veterinarian posing the query. None was received and under the circumstances the board declined to respond to the query.

## **E. Consent Agenda Opinions - Answered**

### **1. Would a telemedicine veterinarian be considered a consultant if recommendation would be to follow up with the primary veterinarian. What are VCPR requirements for telemedicine**

A licensed veterinarian was considering employment through a company providing telemedicine services where there would be no in person visit with new patients. Noting that this was a requirement to establish the VCPR in Louisiana, but that a consultant need not establish the VCPR, the veterinarian asked if consult status would attach where there would be a referral to the regular veterinarian after the virtual visit. The board stated that a consultation occurs when the regular

veterinarian has established the VCPR and then refers to another veterinarian, not the opposite, and answered the query in the negative. See also the AVMA's Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics and the definitions therein.

**2. Isn't it law that a pharmacy and or pharmacist provide credentials if requested just as we are**

The board declined to address this query as it does not come under any regulatory authority given the board. The person presenting the query was referred to the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

**3. Do I need any particular license with the state to start/operate a mobile veterinary practice**

A licensee asked the board the preceding question. The board responded that a specific license governing a practice through a vehicle is not required. However, the definitions of "mobile clinic" and "mobile practice vehicle" provided in Rule 711, the equipment required for both, written agreements with local veterinary hospitals and clinics and the duties of veterinarians practicing apart from brick and mortar practices, and related requirements, were cited to the licensee. See the comprehensive Rule 711, Board Rules, Louisiana Administrative Code, 49:LXXXV, available for review under the "practice act" tab on the board's website at [www.lsbvm.org](http://www.lsbvm.org).

**4. What are the requirements for length of controlled documentation for Animal Shelter**

The board declined to answer the above query as it does not arise from a regulation given to the board by law. While the Board Rules require compliance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations, in that regard the board is a secondary regulator and does not make findings on matters which have a primary regulator.

**5. Is it a violation for a "lay person" to ultrasound a mare for artificial insemination and/or breeding purposes**

The Board Rules prohibit certain delegation of duties to employees of veterinarians, even under the direct supervision of the delegating veterinarian. Those include duties involving surgery, prognosis, diagnosis and prescribing medication and devices. Citing an extensive board opinion regarding duties that can be delegated to unlicensed veterinarian with a degree from a foreign university, the board stated that ultrasound guided palpations are considered diagnostic measures and can only be performed by a Louisiana licensed veterinarian. Interpreting ultrasound images is also illegal for laypersons.

**6. Can my licensed vet tech perform in clinic euthanasia once she obtains her certification**

The board rules recognize that RVTs are allowed to perform in clinic euthanasia under the direct supervision of the delegating veterinarian.

**7. Can a veterinarian provide heartworm medicine to a dog based on a negative heart worm test from an animal shelters vaccine clinic**

A veterinarian acquiring a patient from a client who had adopted the patient from an animal shelter where it had recently received a negative heart worm test asked about the propriety of a reliance on that test in providing heartworm preventatives after establishing the VCPR. The board stated this is permissible just as it is permissible to rely on medical records from a practice that saw the patient prior to the establishment of the new VCPR.

**8. What is the latest update about telehealth in Louisiana**

The board has not published a rule concerning telehealth except to clarify that a virtual visit cannot be used to establish the VCPR. Updates concerning board decisions involving the use of telemedicine can be obtained by reviewing the published minutes following board meetings.

**9. What is the protocol for prescribing medication requested for a non-client**

A veterinarian was asked to order legend drugs for a non-client who is raising cattle, goats, chicken, pigs and rabbits. He asked about the propriety of so doing and was advised that board rules do not allow a licensee to administer, dispense, deliver to or order a legend drug without establishing the VCPR.

**10. Is there any legality with charging a "prescription fee" for our time**

A licensee asked to provide a written prescription to a client and asked if it was permissible to charge a minimum fee for the time required to review the record and respond to the request for a written prescription. He was advised of when such a request need not be honored (Rule 705) and when issued: The AVMA's Principles and ratifying, prior board decisions provide under Principle 8:

a. A veterinarian may charge a fee for the services the veterinarian provides in conjunction with the use of third-party providers, including, but not limited to, laboratories, pharmacies, and consultants.

b. A veterinarian shall honor a client's request for a prescription or veterinary feed directive in lieu of dispensing, but may charge a fee, pursuant to state regulations, for this service.

The Board has consistently held that the fee charged for consultation or providing the client with a written prescription must be commensurate with the work performed to fulfill this obligation, when appropriate. No specific amount has been approved as appropriate by the board.

**F. Consent Agenda Opinions – Proposed**

1. None at this time

**G. Consent Agenda Opinions - Expedited / Emergency Opinions**

1. None at this time

**H. Relevant Legislation Enacted - Requires Board Action**

1. None at this time

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

**A. New Licenses and Certificates Issued**

Mr. Granier reported all new licenses and certificates issued - 24 total listed below - from 03/25/25 to 05/13/25. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept and ratify all issued licenses, registrations, and certificates as given. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance. *{List of all new licenses and certificates issued can be found at the end of this document.}*

**B. Office Updates – Applications, Renewals, Active Licensees, Complaints**

Mr. Granier reported to the Board statistics on applications, complaints, continuing education review requests, and the current renewal cycle from 03/25/25 to 05/13/25. The Board was also informed of the results from the NAVLE spring '25 testing window. The Board received from current or future applicants a total of 24 NAVLE scores, out of which 13 were failing scores (54.2%). No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter. *{All statistics on office updates reported can be found at the end of this document.}*

**C. Web Accessibility Compliance—PPM Number 74**

The Board was informed of the web accessibility compliance requirements in accordance with PPM Number 74. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter.

**D. HPFLA – Mid-Year Report of Services**

Mr. Vanderlick and Dr. Hammond presented HPFLA's 2025 Annual Report to the Board. The report included statistics on referrals, monitoring, relapses, and work data for 2025. Board expressed their pleasure in the partnership between the Board and HPFLA, reiterating the importance of the revival of the Peer Assistance Program in 2021. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter.

**E. Possible Changes to CAET Training Design**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that he is developing a new online training course for CAET certification. More details will be provided to the Board as it is developed. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter.

**F. 2025 FARB Annual Meeting, July 23-26, 2025 in Denver, CO**

Mr. Granier informed the Board that he will not request approval for attendance since the full agenda has not yet been posted by FARB. No motion made and no further action was taken on this matter.

**G. 2025 AAVSB Annual Conference, Sept. 17-20, 2025 in Cincinnati, OH**

Mr. Granier reminded the Board of the AAVSB's 2025 Annual conference being held in Cincinnati, OH on September 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Mr. Granier's attendance is funded by the AAVSB as he is a committee member on the AAVSB Student Outreach Task Force, and the AAVSB will fund at least one other attendee for the Board. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve Mr. Granier's conference attendance as well as the attendance of the new Board member, should the Governor's Office make the appointment in adequate time. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**VII. CONTINUING EDUCATION ISSUES**

**A. None at this time**

Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session to discuss confidential matters regarding licensees, applicants, and administrative hearings not subject to public disclosure in accordance with Louisiana open meetings law. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote from all members in attendance. All votes noted for the following agenda items in executive session were made at the end of discussions and out of executive session.

## VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

- A. None at this time

## IX. LICENSING ISSUES

- A. None at this time

## X. APPLICANT ISSUES

### A. **Angela Butler, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Butler. Motion made outside of executive session, and seconded, to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

### B. **Michelle Schisa, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Schisa. Motion made outside of executive session, and seconded, to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

### C. **Susanna Charland, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Charland. Motion made outside of executive session, and seconded, to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

### D. **Rachel Pool, DVM – Waiver Request of NAVLE Retake**

The Board reviewed supplemental documentation submitted with the application for licensure from Dr. Pool. Motion made outside of executive session, and seconded, to approve the requested waiver of the national exam retake requirement as the documents provided supported the waiver criteria for the required period of time immediately. With no further discussion and with no public comments, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance.

## XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### A. ***Update: Civil Litigation, LBVM vs. O. Nyzhnyk (Suit No. 2021-9164 A)***

The Board was briefed on the status of its suit against an individual practicing equine dentistry without a license as a veterinarian and outside the employment of a veterinarian by general counsel.

### B. ***Update: Civil Litigation, Pelican Institute vs. LBVM (Suit No. C-735730)***

The Board was briefed on the status of a civil suit filed against it on behalf of three DVMs who are/were licensed out of state and who either applied for a waiver of the requirement to retake the NAVLE or did not apply for licensure due to the Rule language adopted by the Board.



**C. Legal Strategy Discussion on Potential Litigations Against Non-Licensee Practice of Veterinary Medicine**

The board was briefed on the progress of several investigations of individuals alleging the practice of veterinary medicine without a license.

**D. Annual Review – Board Office Staff**

Administrative Assistant Annual Review – Mr. Granier presented to the Board his favourable performance review along with the merit increase proposed for Ms. Mackenzie Mayers. The approved merit increase will be awarded to Ms. Mayers effective July 1, 2025.

Executive Director Annual Review – Annual review was performed of Mr. Jared Granier, and a copy of the favourable evaluation was given to Mr. Granier. The approved merit increase will be awarded to Mr. Granier effective July 1, 2025.

All votes and action taken related to administrative hearings (VIII.), licensing issues (IX.), and applicant issues (X.) as noted above for each item were made out of executive session.

Upon conclusion of all administrative, licensing, and applicant discussions in executive session as well as discussions related to current and potential civil litigations, motion made and seconded to return to regular session. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote from all members in attendance.

**XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board, motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote from all members in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27pm.

Minutes reviewed and approved by the full board on August 5, 2025.



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Christopher Morris, DVM, Board Secretary-Treasurer

**New Licenses Issued** from 03/25/25 to 05/13/25*24 total issued*

License No.	Name	Type	Issued On
10344	Paige Coody	DVM	04/04/2025
10345	Alexandre Nascimento Rocha F	DVM	04/04/2025
10346	Georgia Hansen	DVM	04/15/2025
10347	Abigail DeRouen	DVM	04/30/2025
10348	Michelle Schisa	DVM	05/01/2025
10349	Jensen Liljeberg	DVM	05/06/2025
FAC-1204	Saba Morsali	DVM - Faculty	03/28/2025
FAC-1205	Claudia Blanco	DVM - Faculty	04/04/2025
FAC-1206	Zahrea Lewis	DVM - Faculty	04/10/2025
FAC-1207	Gregor Boot	DVM - Faculty	04/10/2025
FAC-1208	Mackenzie Janzen	DVM - Faculty	04/15/2025
FAC-1209	Fotios Vergopoulos	DVM - Faculty	04/15/2025
FAC-1210	Missael Garcia	DVM - Faculty	04/15/2025
FAC-1211	Paulina Samaniego	DVM - Faculty	04/15/2025
FAC-1212	Jose Fuentes Rodriguez	DVM - Faculty	04/17/2025
FAC-1213	Kaustubh Dongaonkar	DVM - Faculty	04/23/2025
FAC-1214	Shebl Salem	DVM - Faculty	05/01/2025
FAC-1215	Emma Carr	DVM - Faculty	05/08/2025
FAC-1216	Ashton Berger	DVM - Faculty	05/08/2025
FAC-1217	Raquel Lorenzo Logrosan	DVM - Faculty	05/09/2025
20150	Kirstin Wade	RVT	04/04/2025
20151	Brandi Wilson	RVT	04/04/2025
20152	Brooke Marsh	RVT	04/07/2025
20153	Aubrica Robins	RVT	05/13/2025

NEW APPLICATIONS from 03/25/25 to 05/13/25			
Submitted Applications		Approved Applications	
Animal Euthanasia Technician	10	Animal Euthanasia Technician	0
Veterinarian	26	Veterinarian	4
Veterinarian - Faculty	17	Veterinarian - Faculty	14
Veterinary Technician	9	Veterinary Technician	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23</b>

Current Licensee Count	(as of 05/13)	Total # of <u>ACTIVE</u>
<b>CAETs</b>		<b>195</b>
CAET - Active - Full		173
CAET - Active - Lead		22
<b>DVMs</b>		<b>1,799</b>
DVM - Active		1,785
DVM - Active - Conditional		2
DVM - Inactive - Disabled		1
DVM - Inactive - Retired		11
DVM - Military - Active Status		0
<b>DVMs - Faculty</b>		<b>146</b>
DVM - Faculty - Active		146
<b>RVTs</b>		<b>377</b>
RVT - Active		377
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,517</b>

COMPLAINTS			
<i>From 03/25/25 to 05/13/25</i>		<i>Still On-Going / Active</i>	
Complaints Received	12	Pending Cases (licensees)	21
Complaints Closed	6	Pending Cases (non-licensees)	7
Consent Orders Issued	1	Consent Orders	0
Consent Orders Closed	0	HPFLA Referrals (new & on-going)	7
Other Negative Actions *	0	Other Negative Actions *	0
* Other negative actions include, formal reprimands, informal reprimands, cease and desist notices, etc.			

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEWS & APPROVALS

***From 03/25/25 to 05/13/25***

*30 CE activity requests were approved for the '24-'25 and '25-'26 CE periods.*