



Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

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The
Cattleman



Law Enforcement Committee

June 16, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Hotel Galvez

Galveston, Texas

Dennis Braden, Chair

Heath Hemphill – Vice Chair

MINUTES

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Heath Hemphill, vice chair at 8:10 a.m. Dennis Braden, chair, was unable to attend.

Speakers

TSCRA Director Ben Love

Austin Brister, McGinnis Lochridge Law Firm, Houston, Texas

J.R. Gibbens- Trumbull Unmanned, Houston, Texas

The meeting was opened by Heath Hemphill who asked for a motion that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be waved. Austin Brown made the motion and Dave Scott seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the committee by acclamation vote.

Heath Hemphill announced that H.B.2817, dealing with increasing the penalty for the shooting of livestock (which included an amendment protecting TSCRA's Market Inspection Program), passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor. Hemphill thanked Jason Skaggs and his staff as well as all the voluntary leadership who assisted in getting the bill passed and signed into law.

TSCRA Director Ben Love commented in regards to drone usage in the ranching industry and related that McGinnis Lochridge Law Firm was the first firms to establish a drone law section within their law firm.

J.R. Gibbens, Trumbull Unmanned, briefed the committee on how the company "Trumbull Unmanned" was founded due to his extensive experience with drones in the U.S. Air Force. Gibbens explained that it was a family owned and operated company and that his wife Diane was the C.E.O. Gibbens went into the history of drone utilization by the military and how drone utilization was currently being used by private industry.

Gibbens gave an overview of the definition of what is considered a drone or unmanned aircraft in accordance to the F.A.A. regulations. Gibbens explained that the oil and gas industry was currently the largest private industry user of drones at this time.

Austin Brister, McGinnis Lochridge Law Firm, explained that drones need to be registered with the F.A.A. Also that any drone used for commercial purpose was required to be registered. Austin then comprehensively covered the F.A.A. Regulatory Rules in regards to the use of drones and unmanned aircraft. Austin covered some case law that had already been established in regards to drones.

There were several liability and privacy questions asked by the committee members in regards to drone usage and their legal rights.

After Austin Brister's presentation, the committee was asked to move to the lawn of the Hotel Galvez where J.R. Gibbens gave a live demonstration of a drone and explained its capabilities and limitations.

Policy

There was no consideration of committee policy at this meeting.

Adjourn

With no other business being brought before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Larry Gray, TSCRA staff liaison for the committee.