



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (COPAC)**

January 24, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Archipley – Chair
Jeremy Johnson – Vice-Chair
Vernon Peterson
Garff Hathcock
Steve Beck
Jennifer Shawgo
Mindee Jeffery
Jaclyn Bowen Ratkowski
Michael Menes
Jane Reick
Benjamin Diesl
Kaley Grimland
Phillip LaRocca
John McKeon
Chad Sokol
Zen Honeycutt
Stacy Carlsen
Alexis Randolph

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Will
Randy Skidgel

INTERESTED PARTIES

Shayla Newfield – Monterey County
Nora Carlton – Monterey County
Rob Milner – Monterey County
Yvonne Perez – Monterey County
Ward Burroughs – Western Organic Dairy Producers Association (WODPA)
Jennifer Beretta – WODPA
April Crittenden – California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)
Laetitia Benador – CCOF
Kelly Damewood - CCOF
Jane Sooby – CCOF
Mark McAfee – Organic Pastures Dairy Co.
Blake Alexandre – Alexandre Family Farm
Melody Meyer

CDFA

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Danny Lee
Scott Renteria
Thomas Osborn
Mayze Fowler-Riggs
Andrea Cano
Leslie Fernandez
Pam Rodriguez
Charlene Graham
Javid Iqbal
Annie Kim

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Mindee Jeffery, Chairperson, and self-introductions were made. Roll was called by Thomas Osborn, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: JAKE LEWIN RESOLUTION

Jake Lewin was not present, so the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mindee Jeffery opened up the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion: Jennifer Shawgo nominated Jeremy Johnson for Chair. Garff Hathcock seconded the motion.

Motion: Mindee Jeffery nominated Karen Archipley for Chair. Phil LaRocca seconded the motion.

The election was conducted via roll call. Vernon Peterson, Karen Archipley, Steve Beck, Michael Menes, Philip LaRocca, Zen Honeycutt, and Alexis Randolph voted for Karen Archipley. Garff Hathcock, Jeremy Johnson, and Jennifer Shawgo voted for Jeremy Johnson. There were no abstentions, and Karen Archipley was elected Chair.

Motion: Mindee Jeffery nominated Jeremy Johnson for Vice-Chair. Jennifer Shawgo seconded the motion.

Motion: Karen Archipley nominated Phil LaRocca for Vice-Chair. Alexis Randolph seconded the motion.

The election was conducted via roll call. Vernon Peterson, Karen Archipley, Steve Beck, Michael Menes, Philip LaRocca, Zen Honeycutt, and Alexis Randolph voted for Philip LaRocca. Garff Hathcock, Jeremy Johnson, and Jennifer Shawgo voted for Jeremy Johnson. Phil LaRocca received the majority of votes, but was determined to be ineligible for office as an Alternate member. Due to this, Jeremy Johnson assumed the office of Vice-Chair.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kelly Damewood, California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), had a public comment for the Committee. Kelly Damewood requested that COPAC encourage the State Organic Program (SOP) to conduct periodic, proactive inspections of restaurants claiming to be organic.

Laetitia Benador, CCOF, also had a public comment for the Committee. She stated that the CCOF Foundation has completed a report, titled "The Road Map to An Organic California", which will be released to the public in February of 2019.

ITEM 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Karen Archipley requested a motion to approve the September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

MOTION: Jeremy Johnson moved to approve the September 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Steve Beck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Alexis Randolph and Vernon Peterson abstaining.

ITEM 5: NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM UPDATE

The speaker scheduled to speak on this topic was absent from the meeting. Thus, it was decided to proceed to the next agenda item. Danny Lee referred members to a PowerPoint document from the National Organic Program (NOP).

ITEM 6: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

Jane Reick of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Food and Drug Branch, Organic Program, provided the CDPH update. Jane Reick presented data pertaining to CDPH organic complaints for 2018. She went on to present data on the CDPH Food and Drug Branch, Organic Program Fund Condition. The Program has projected revenue of \$1,110,375, and projected expenditures of \$556,795. She explained that excess revenue is deposited in the Food Safety Fund Reserve, the balance of which is used to cover future operating expenses for all Food Safety programs. Jane Reick also stated that the CDPH is in the process of developing a system for electronic billing, registration, and licensing for processors.

A period of discussion ensued, pertaining to the CDPH Organic Program budgeting and registration procedures.

MOTION: Vernon Peterson moved to form a Processor Subcommittee to facilitate communication with organic processors and the State, in order to streamline the application process between a certifier, the California Department of Public Health, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Jeremy Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Jennifer Shawgo, Jeremy Johnson, and Alexis Randolph volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee.

ITEM 7: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM UPDATES

i. Vacancies and Terms

Thomas Osborn provided the Vacancies and Terms Report. Current vacancies include: one processor; one technical representative; one consumer representative; one accredited certifier representative; two producer alternates; one wholesale distributor alternate; two processor alternates; one environmental representative alternate; and two technical representative alternates.

ii. Training/Orientation for New COPAC Members

Thomas Osborn provided the Committee with an overview of COPAC procedures, composition, and policies. Thomas Osborn also provided the Committee with information pertaining to Advisory Committee member travel reimbursement policy.

iii. Communications Update

Danny Lee provided those in attendance with an update on Organic Stakeholder Working Group Recommendations. Danny Lee went on to state that COPAC had requested that meeting dates be scheduled in advance, and invited Thomas Osborn to share possible meeting dates for the May and September 2019 COPAC meetings with the Committee members.

Thomas Osborn provided those in attendance with potential meeting dates in May and September. He stated that COPAC could decide upon their preferred date via online poll, or by voting on a particular date at this meeting. It was decided by the Committee that the meeting dates would be selected via online poll.

Danny Lee presented a sample report on Commodity Acreage by County for 2018. He invited those in attendance to share feedback on the sample report with State Organic Program (SOP) staff. A period of discussion ensued, pertaining to the sharing of commodity acreage data between county agricultural commissioners and CDFA. There was also a period of discussion regarding the methodology of selecting the 29 commodities represented in the Commodity Acreage Report.

Danny Lee went on to provide an update on the CDFA CalCannabis Licensing Division. Danny Lee reported that CalCannabis has issued 6,960 active licenses for cannabis growers. He went on to explain that the CalCannabis Licensing Division is developing an organic equivalency program for cannabis, which is scheduled to come into effect by 2021.

Danny Lee also provided an update on SOP outreach and communication. He explained that the SOP has established a communications contract with JP Marketing to provide fact-based information, focused on growth and accomplishments, in order to reinforce and promote consumer trust in the organic label. He went on to state that there is an ongoing redesign of the SOP website, which will incorporate and highlight enforcement actions taken.

iv. Certifiers Registering on Behalf of Clients

Scott Renteria explained to those in attendance that accredited certifiers are able to register on behalf of clients individually. Accredited certifiers also have the ability to renew organic registration for clients individually. He went on to state that facilitating the ability of certifiers to register on behalf of clients remains an ongoing goal of the SOP.

v. Compliance and Enforcement/Appeals Summary

Scott Renteria provided an overview of the complaint activity for the 2018/19 Fiscal Year (FY). During that time, the SOP received 61 complaints in total. Of the complaints that the SOP received: 37 were investigated by CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioner staff, 15 were referred to CDPH; six were referred to Accredited Certifying Agents; zero were referred to the National Organic Program (NOP), and three were referred to the Organic Input Material Program.

Scott Renteria also presented an inspection and sampling summary. There were a total of 604 inspections in the 2018/19 FY, with the majority of them conducted at Certified Farmers' Markets. During the 2018/19 FY, there were a total of 132 samples collected; 114 of those samples were from routine surveillance inspections conducted by contracted counties and CDFA. Of the 114 routine samples, nine samples detected residues within tolerance levels, and four were above tolerance levels. There were 18

investigative samples collected during the 2018/19 FY, three samples detected residue within tolerance levels, and zero samples detected residue above tolerance levels.

vi. Revenue from Registration/New Registrations

Scott Renteria referred the Committee to a handout containing a summary of SOP revenue collected. For the 2018/19 FY, \$711,557 has been collected in registration fees.

The Committee was also referred to a handout for an overview of new registrant demographics. The total number of new registrations for the 2018/19 FY was 505. The majority of the new registrants are producers, followed by handlers, and then processors. The SOP had a total of 4,263 total registrants in 2018.

vii. Complaints Detailed Report

Scott Renteria encouraged individuals interested in a detailed breakdown of complaint activity and general complaint categories to refer to the Agenda Item 8 (vii) handout.

viii. SOP Fund Condition

The Committee was referred to a handout for the FY 2018/19 Fund Condition. As of October 31, 2018, the beginning balance was \$3,357,946 and total revenue was \$470,896. Total expenditures were \$420,074 and the ending balance was \$3,408,767.

ix. Pesticide Residue Report/Updates

Scott Renteria reiterated data pertaining to pesticide residue detected on surveillance samples and investigative samples collected by SOP staff.

ITEM 9: GLYPHOSATE TESTING

Zen Honeycutt provided those in attendance with a handout pertaining to glyphosate testing. She proposed that COPAC recommend to the Secretary of CDFA to incorporate glyphosate testing into the California organic standards process. Danny Lee clarified that the CDFA SOP does not have statutory authority to perform glyphosate testing on water and fertilizer samples. He went on to state that the CDFA Center for Analytical Chemistry can test produce for glyphosate at a cost of \$550 per sample. Dr. Michael Menes and Jaclyn Bowen Ratkowski provided COPAC with information regarding the technical aspects of glyphosate testing methodology.

Steve Patton, CDFA Inspection and Compliance Branch Chief, explained that recommendations on funding allocation are made by COPAC at the May meeting of each year, at which time they review the SOP's Proposed Budget for the next FY.

MOTION: Jenifer Shawgo moved to form a Subcommittee for the purpose of building COPAC's understanding of glyphosate, in order to move forward with a potential glyphosate testing pilot project. Karen Archipley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions. Zen Honeycutt, Kaley Grimland, Mindee Jeffery, Karen Archipley, Michael Menes, Phil LaRocca, Jennifer Shawgo, Stacy Carlsen, Jaclyn Bowen, Benjamin Diesl, John McKeon, and Steve Beck volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee.

ITEM 10: IMPACTS OF THE FARM BILL

Melody Meyer provided an update on the 2018 Farm Bill. She informed those in attendance that the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law on December 21, 2018. She went on to inform the Committee that the 2018 Farm Bill includes increased funding for National Organic Program (NOP) enforcement, organic agriculture research, and technological systems upgrades.

ITEM 11: GMO TEST PILOT PROGRAM

This item was tabled by the Committee until the next meeting, due to time limitations.

ITEM 12: ENFORCEMENT OF PASTURE RULE

Danny Lee informed those in attendance that SOP staff have been in communication with the NOP regarding pasture rule enforcement in California. He went on to state that CDFA is conducting spot inspections of California organic dairies.

Mark McAfee, Organic Pastures Dairy Company, expressed concerns regarding enforcement of the Pasture Rule for out-of-state organic dairies.

Blake Alexandre, Alexandre Family Farms, encouraged CDFA to continue proactive enforcement of the Pasture Rule for California Organic Dairies. He went on to explain the importance of holding organic dairies in other states to the same high standards which are enforced in California.

Alexis Randolph stated that accredited certifying agents are in communication to ensure a uniform and consistent interpretation of the regulations pertaining to organic dairies and the Pasture Rule.

MOTION: Vernon Peterson moved to recommend to the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture that she send a letter to the National Organic Program, requesting reactivation of the Origin of Livestock Rule, and enforcement of the Pasture Rule. Philip LaRocca seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 13: PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF RESTAURANTS

Kelly Damewood, CCOF, encouraged the SOP to prioritize periodic inspections on restaurants using organic in their title or making organic claims.

MOTION: Jeremy Johnson moved to recommend to the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture that the State Organic Program continue to proactively prioritize investigation of restaurants that use organic in their title according to National Organic Program Standards. Philip LaRocca seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 14: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional public comments.

ITEM 15: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will take place in May 2019, in Sacramento. The Fall meeting will be held in September 2019, in Sonoma. Karen Archipley stated that COPAC members may submit items to be considered for inclusion on the next meeting agenda to Thomas Osborn.

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. by Karen Archipley, Chair.

Respectfully submitted by:



Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator
State Organic Program