

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)  
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)  
SHELL EGG ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 5, 2019**

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item

No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. David Will, Chair, called the SEAC meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and a quorum was established.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Mr. Tony Herrera, Egg Quality Manager, Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM). Alternate Member, Mr. Hilliker will be voting.  
Introductions were made. New staff, Holly Chang was introduced.

**Committee Members Present:**

David Will, Chair  
Mike Gemperle, Vice Chair  
Michael Sencer, Hidden Villa Ranch  
Steve Mahrt, Petaluma Farms  
Kaliko Orian, Kaliko Farms  
Andrew Demler, Demler Brothers  
Glenn Hickman, Hickman Family Farms  
Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, Public Member  
Frank Hilliker, Alternate

**Interested Parties:**

Debbie Murdock  
Lupe Gutierrez  
Stan Foster  
Breq Bedell

**CDFA:**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Dr. Annette Jones | Kim Ellis   |
| Dr. Stephen Beam  | Holly Chang |
| Tony Herrera      |             |
| Paula Batarseh    |             |
| Jenna Celigija    |             |
| Alan Pham         |             |

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Will asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from May 1, 2019.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Sencer made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Hickman seconded the motion. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

**(4) PROPOSITION (PROP) 12 DISCUSSION**

Dr. Stephen Beam presented an overview of the process of implementing and enforcing Prop 12, and jointly promulgating regulations with the Department of Public Health, who has deferred implementation to CDFA. The plan is to move forward with separate regulation packages for each of the three species included to accommodate varying issues unique to each.

The plan is to enter the formal rulemaking process by that deadline. The period of receiving comments prior to formal comment period closed on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The overall approach will include registration requirements, verifying compliance and a labeling or certifying requirement. Draft regulations are almost complete. There are questions on whether to amend CCR 1350/SEFS or use a separate program. Clarification of definitions of product are needed and being worked on.

A question and answer session continued with further discussions, concerns, and suggestions from the committee members. Dr. Beam explained that the three things most needed at this time are resources, authority, and clarity of approach. Mr. Herrera stated that ESQM is ready to help.

There was more discussion on amending CCR 1350 to accommodate Prop 12, “cleaning up” or a technical adjustment to the current regulation. There was a discussion on timelines and deadlines in anticipation of new regulation. Dr. Breitmeyer expressed concern about the difference between an animal care proposition and health and food safety regulation. There was discussion on the labeling transitions and emergency regulation change criteria.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Gemperle made a motion to work on “clean-up” language of CCR 1350 now. Mr. Hilliker and Mr. Sencer seconded the motion. Dr. Breitmeyer asked that language be included that it is a technical amendment to be consistent with Prop. 12 and not a Health and Safety issue. All members in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.

Dr. Beam was invited to attend the next SEAC meeting.

**(5) REGULATION REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sencer shared sub-committee comments and questions on the definitions used in the violations reports. They would like to see the same classifications on the matrix, minor, moderate, serious on tracking reports.

**(6) BORDER STATION ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Pham provided a presentation on the current pilot program of enhanced Border Station enforcement activities including up-to-date violation numbers and types found at the Needles and Mountain Pass stations. Data provided was through May, 2019. Mr. Pham pointed out a drop in the number of hold notices, as was expected by the program.

Mr. Will mentioned that these reports should also be provided to Dr. Beam for his future reference. Mr. Foster asked Mr. Herrera if the numbers that are reflected from Border Stations are consistent with cases reported. Mr. Herrera stated that they were consistent the last time they were checked.

Mr. Pham shared that the pilot program will be expanding, and trainings will start happening in a few weeks at other stations. Mr. Herrera brought up the additional patrols at other entries and that ESQM will also participate in those in the future.

**(8) SEAC MEMBERS TERMS AND VACANCIES**

Mr. Herrera discussed upcoming vacancies and term expirations. He suggested that members who want to renew their terms should talk to Mr. Herrera and Ms. Murdock and submit applications.

**(7) ESQM/DIRECT MARKETING UPDATE**

Ms. Celigija provided an update on the Certified Farmers Market (CFM) project and provided the members with handouts from the process sections of a mini manual that is being created. She reviewed the training opportunities that have been set up and shared information on a meeting she organized with the Program Supervisor from CFM to review the training materials and go over the MOU and review the program plan.

There was discussion around the “overly uniform eggs” item on the list as a red flag for possible purchasing of eggs and then selling at markets. There was also a discussion on labeling and nutritional claims, and seeing used packaging. It was suggested that pictures are included on the instructional packets. Ms. Celigija stated she would add these additional items to the manuals and share tracking of violations that are found.

**(9) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Herrera stated that ESQM inspectors attended National Egg Quality School (NEQS) in May and did very well. ESQM section leaders also did very well. Tony shared future

dates and locations for NEQS school. Mr. Will asked about the waiting list and if there will be any dates added. Mr. Herrera said that is not an option at this time. Border station training dates were shared. Mr. Will asked if the trainings are open for members to attend.

Mr. Herrera shared that there will be a FDA hearing for a CA Egg Producer for significant deviations from the Egg Rule on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**(10) BRANCH UPDATE**

Mrs. Batarseh discussed the branch meeting from last month. She shared that she attended the CACASA meeting and learned a lot about the work of the Agriculture Commissioners.

She provided a brief update on the staff that are deployed to VND currently. There was a discussion on some of the protest activities happening.

**(11) DIVISION UPDATE AND VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE (vND) UPDATE**

Dr. Jones shared the current vND data and statistics and a chart of the epidemiologic curve that shows progress being made towards eradication. There was some discussion on how the vaccines are affecting the numbers. She shared information about infected zones.

Overall the teams are making good progress and keeping morale up. Ms. Murdock expressed concerns from producers about the surveillance activities, gate inspections, etc. There was further discussion on concerns about the surveillance. There was also a discussion about the Secure Food Supply (SFS), biosecurity plans, and National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

There was additional discussion on protest group activities, though Dr. Jones pointed out, the vast majority of people are supportive of CDFA efforts. Social media has been spreading a lot of misinformation so CDFA is using new public relations strategies to get accurate information out.

**(13) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Gemperle would like a discussion about certificates of movement on the next agenda.

**(14) FUTURE SEAC AGENDA ITEMS**

- Invite Dr. Beam back for updates
- Budget allocation for regulation amendments and readiness verifications
- Questionnaires for producers about compliance & outreach on Prop 12

**(15) UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES**

The next SEAC meeting will be on August 27, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks room 267 location.

**(16) ADJOURN**

Chair Will asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #3:** Mr. Sencer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mahrt seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kim Ellis