

**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
April 24, 2014**

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

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Wayne Winslow, Chair, called the SEAC meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by Tony Herrera, Program Supervisor, Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM).

Committee Members Present:

Wayne Winslow, Chair
Michael Sencer, Vice Chair
Steve Mahrt, Petaluma Farms
Gary Foster, Southern California Egg Cooperative
Michael Gemperle, Gemperle Family Farms
Don Brown, Alternate
Gary Caseri, Public Member

Committee Members Absent:

David Will, Chino Valley Ranchers
Richard Jenkins, Alternate
Milton O'Haire, CACASA Representative

Interested Parties:

Debbie Murdock, Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Glenn Hickman, Hickman Eggs
Tim Pelican, Stanislaus County
Neal Rye, Hidden Villa Ranch
Pete Sonstegard, Sonstegard Foods
Richard Christner, Sparboe Foods

CDEA:

Dr. Doug Hepper, Branch Chief
Tony Herrera, Program Supervisor
Dr. Ken Takeshita, Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS) Coordinator
Jenna Celigija, Northern/Coastal District Supervisor
John Ramos, Central District Supervisor
Leronne Wagner, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Teresa Swafford, Staff Services Analyst
Penny Short, Staff Services Analyst
Rosie Martin, Account Clerk II

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2014**

Chair Winslow asked the committee to review the March meeting minutes.

It was noted the minutes had Mr. Sencer listed as the Chair, not Vice Chair, which needs to be amended.

Motion #1: A motion was made by Mr. Foster to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Gemperle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **FORM 700**

Ms. Wagner informed the committee that they had met the criteria to submit the Form 700. The form needs to be completed and submitted as soon as possible. Late notices will be given out at the beginning of May. The committee members were hesitant to submit the form since it has their full name, address, company affiliation, and range of salary included on the form. She also informed the committee that the form is public record. If the form is not filed, committee members may be asked to resign by the Secretary of the Department. It was requested the process be reviewed as to whether SEAC meets requirements to file the form. Ms. Wagner will attend the next SEAC meeting to answer any additional questions that may arise. It was asked to be noted in the minutes that Mr. Mahrt is very uncomfortable with filling out and submitting the form.

(5) **BY-LAW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Sencer provided an update to the committee. He informed them the subcommittee had discussed committee member criteria for out-of-state and small egg handler members. A change was suggested that the draft bylaws state, “SEAC may not have more than one member representative from **the same** shell egg company.” Lastly, in the functions section of the SEAC draft bylaws, SEFS needs to be added. Mr. Sencer will make revisions to the current draft, send it out to the committee before the next SEAC meeting for review, and vote to accept the new language at the May meeting.

(6) **SPECIALTY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

A draft of the terms was provided to the committee. They were asked to review and submit any comments to Mr. Will, as he wants it to be finalized at the next SEAC meeting.

(7) **SEFS INSPECTION**

Dr. Takeshita provided a handout summarizing the current SEFS inspections performed as of April. He informed the committee that all in-state SEFS inspections will be completed within 2014, including any follow up visits that may need to be conducted. Dr. Takeshita continued by pointing out that California Egg Quality Assurance Program (CEQAP) inspections would be performed at the time of SEFS inspections, as needed. At the end of May, Dr. Takeshita will be traveling to Iowa and Ohio to perform SEFS inspections.

(8) **CA SEFS COMPLIANT STATEMENT ON USDA SHIELDED PRODUCTS**

Mr. Herrera informed the committee that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA AMS) confirmed they would allow the CA SEFS compliant statement on shielded products, if affidavits were signed by the company, confirming they are in compliance with 3 CCR Section 1350. Mr. Herrera provided a draft affidavit form for the committee to review. Mr. Winslow has been in contact with USDA and was informed self-certification, such as the affidavit, would not be accepted as a method of verification. A conference call with USDA to agree on a resolution will be held. The committee will be updated at the next meeting.

(9) **WRITTEN POLICY FOR CA SEFS COMPLIANT STATEMENT PRIOR TO 1/1/15**

Mr. Herrera and Dr. Jones met with CDFA's Legal Department and discussed several industry questions regarding the enforcement of 3 CCR Section 1350. Mr. Herrera will provide a further update at the next SEAC meeting.

(10) **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Herrera informed the committee that (Staff Management Auditor), Juan Gonzalez, is currently conducting his first audit for the program at SKS Enterprises located in Manteca, California. Upon completion, his next assignment will be to conduct an audit at Willamette Egg Farm, Canby, Oregon.

Mr. Herrera then provided a handout to explain how the program will initially conduct out-of-state SEFS audits.

(11) **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Herrera provided handouts of the proposed budget for the committee to review. He then informed the committee that in order to increase the mill fee from \$0.10 to \$0.125, which was discussed and approved at the March 11, 2014 SEAC meeting, the Executive Office needed to have the updated budget approved. The committee discussed the amount difference between last fiscal and the upcoming fiscal years. A question was brought up about possibly expanding county contracts for inspection, and if it is possible in the upcoming year. Mr. Herrera answered that we may be able to shift funding from underperforming counties to other counties who are interested in shell egg inspections.

Concerns were discussed about sales declining beginning January 1, 2015, when the confinement area specified in 3 CCR Section 1350 takes effect. Mr. Herrera informed the committee that the possible decline in sales of shell egg cases was taken into consideration when raising the mill fee was first proposed.

Additionally, questions arose as to why program positions were listed as Meat Food Inspector (MFI) and Fruit Vegetable Quality Control (FVQC) Supervisors. Mr. Herrera informed them that the FVQC Supervisor title was carried over from Inspection Services division. MFI is the position title currently used for inspectors in MPES. It was suggested by the committee to

try and possibly change the names of the positions to better describe the work that is being conducted by the ESQM program.

Motion #2: A motion was made by Mr. Gemperle to approve the proposed budget. Mr. Sencer seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

(12) **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2014 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDFA, Gateway Oaks location.

(13) **ADJOURN**

Chair Winslow asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #3: Mr. Mahrt made a motion. Mr. Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rosemerry Martin