

-APPROVED-

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services
Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch
Rendering Industry Advisory Board
November 12, 2013**

**Location: 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833**

Meeting Minutes

Item
No.

(1) **Call To Order**

Chairman Mike Koewler called the Rendering Industry Advisory Board (RIAB) meeting to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at approximately 10:00 a.m.

(2) **Roll Call**

Roll call taken by Chairman Koewler and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present:

Mike Koewler
Daniel Stonesifer
Donald DeSmet
Gerardo Garza
D.O. "Spike" Helmick Jr.
Chris Ottone

Committee Members Not Present:

James Andreoli Jr.

Interested Parties:

Sandy Stonesifer
Doug Smith
Tina Caperella
Dr. Ross Hamilton
Dennis Albiani
Carlo Luri
Jared Trawich
Ryan Koewler
Gary Edgington
Kumar Plocher

CDFAs:

Dr. Annette Jones
Dr. Doug Hepper
Dr. Jan Hershenhouse
Paul Roos
Paul San Gregorio
Louie Lucero
Norma Schroeder
Rachel Andrade
Irene Sanchez

(3) **Approval of Minutes- May 14, 2013**

Chairman Koewler asked RIAB to review the May 14, 2013 meeting minutes and asked that a motion be made to accept the minutes.

Motion #1: Mr. Stonesifer made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Mr. Ottone seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

(4) **RIAB Member Selection**

Dr. Hepper announced that Mr. Ottone and Mr. Stonesifer have been appointed to the board for three additional years. Dr. Hepper advised RIAB that they can make member recommendations, however ultimately, member selection is determined by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Secretary, Karen Ross.

(5) **CopLogic Proposal for Consistent Theft Reporting and Analysis**

A presentation on CopLogic software was given to RIAB. CopLogic is reporting software that law enforcement agencies use to obtain and report information. This software can be used to report Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG) theft and the information can be shared by law enforcement agencies. Initial cost to set up the software is \$12,500 and then an annual maintenance cost of \$10,000.

Consensus from RIAB is that more research is needed on other vendors and resources within CDFA before RIAB can make a decision.

(6) **Report on Rendering Research Partnership with UC Davis**

UC Davis will be assisting CDFA with the evaluation of research study designs in regards to rendering and will provide recommendation on approval of acceptable research results to REP. Dr. Bart Weimer, a Veterinary Medicine Professor at UC Davis, will review proposals, analyze research data, and provide his opinion on efficacy of process at eliminating pathogenic microorganisms. If, after review, the State Veterinarian and Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) deem the process adequate, the process will be considered to meet requirements and the processor may apply for a renderer license.

(7) **Discussion of Current Data Analysis and Mapping of IKG Theft Activity**

Dr. Hershenhouse discussed REP's current IKG theft reporting system and advised that a violators list will be added to the IKG theft webpage. Mr. San Gregorio then demonstrated how REP has been compiling IKG theft reports from the IKG theft reporting webpage and has created ArcGIS mapping of IKG theft activity. ArcGIS mapping will allow the program to see where target enforcement is needed and MPES will use the information to provide important statistical information to law enforcement agencies.

In order for the IKG theft reporting system to be successful, it is vital that industry members and the public use this reporting system to report IKG theft. In an effort to raise awareness of the IKG theft webpage, REP will work with Public Information Officer on issuing a press release from CDFA's Secretary, Karen Ross.

(8) **Discussion on IKG Container Issues and Possible Solutions**

Mr. Lucero discussed IKG container management issues with RIAB and provided possible solutions. Discussion centered on ownership of containers when an account has been changed, possession of IKG within containers, and what should be done when a transporter does not pick up their container. Mr. Lucero advised that with current regulations, REP has limited authority. The following was discussed:

- Should the IKG generator refer to Landlord/Tenant Law to enforce change of service;
- Is it feasible for industry members to file a small claims case for Breach of Service Agreement when a generator changes service providers;
- Should regulation be proposed to resolve the issue; and
- Would the Department of Public Health be able to assist in this issue since there are environmental health hazards when the IKG containers are left behind and overflow into drains?

Consensus is that current regulations are vague and further clarification is needed. REP will consult with CDFA's Legal Office regarding the ownership of on-site IKG.

(9) **Report on Criminal Prosecution of IKG Theft and Training for District Attorneys**

Mr. Roos discussed how enforcement grants have been useful to REP. In particular, the grant with Orange County District Attorney's office has been successful in training other agencies how to prosecute IKG theft cases.

Consensus from RIAB is that REP efforts should focus their resources on outreach and training, rather than pursuing further enforcement grants. Discussion ensued about how information on manifest regulations from REP should be given to county health inspectors, so that when the inspectors perform their routine inspections at restaurants they can check for a manifest.

Motion #2: Mr. Stonesifer made a motion for REP to investigate working with Food Establishment Wastewater Discharge (FEWD) and local county health departments in a resolution of container management. Mr. Ottone seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

(10) **California Border Station IKG Movement Survey**

REP has been made aware of illegal IKG coming into California, therefore REP has provided training to border stations on IKG transporting. In addition, REP has created an IKG data collection survey for border stations. The survey will help track IKG coming into California, and stop some of the illegal transporters. Border stations will be able to issue citations, and share information with REP so that, if necessary, enforcement action can be taken. RIAB then discussed the issue of IKG that is being transported out of state illegally and about possible solutions, such as working with bordering state border stations.

(11) **Additional Outreach and Enforcement Updates**

Dr. Hershenhouse provided program updates and discussed REP's continuing outreach efforts. The following was discussed:

- REP has reached out to the Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training, in order to send outreach material in regards to IKG theft and to see if police academies will add training material regarding IKG to their training.
- REP has provided a training webinar to border stations.
- Dr. Hershenhouse advised RIAB that Ms. Debbie Murdock is working with UC Davis to evaluate composting as a disposal solution of spent hens.
- Dr. Hershenhouse discussed updates to the IKG website and demonstrated that IKG administrative penalties and denials of registrants will be posted on the website.
- Additional IKG container decals have been ordered and are available for distribution, which will raise awareness of the IKG theft reporting website.
- A presentation was given to MPES staff regarding IKG to remind them what inspectors should be looking for during their routine inspections.
- RIAB discussed concerns of IKG transporters that transport illegal IKG into the state to sell to renderers in California and inquired with REP about what enforcement actions will be taken.
- Mr. San Gregorio updated RIAB on the progress of enforcing the manifest regulations and discussed, through performing several audits, he has discovered that many industry members are not clear on the requirements of the manifest regulations, thus further manifest training sessions are needed.

(12) **Proposed Vehicle Code and Food and Agricultural Code (FAC)**

Dr. Hepper discussed proposed legislative and regulation changes. The following proposals have been submitted:

- Legislation is being proposed to deny a renewal if unpaid penalties exist.
- Legislation is being proposed that will allow informal hearings for appeals to administrative actions.
- Legislation is also being proposed to enable REP to suspend, deny or revoke a license up to three years.
- Wording to FAC section 19303.5 (a) that allows CDFA to deny or revoke a registration certificate is being changed to state that CDFA may suspend or revoke a renderer license or collection center license.
- Regulations regarding informal hearings have been changed to include sections of the FAC pertaining to IKG and went into effect on October 1, 2013.
- Legislation is being proposed to change Section 19313.8 of the FAC to include that no person should take possession of IKG from an unregistered transporter, an unlicensed collection center or an unlicensed renderer
- Proposed changes to the Vehicle Code increase the fines for failure to keep or produce records pertaining to IKG.
- Vehicle Code is also being added to allow a peace officer to impound a vehicle if it is involved in the theft or movement of stolen IKG or is not a registered transporter with CDFA.

RIAB will review proposed legislations and regulations and will submit comments or suggestions to REP.

(13) **Budget Discussion**

Dr. Hepper discussed REP's fund condition and advised the board that an increase in fees will be required soon to keep the program going at its current capacity. Dr. Hepper also discussed four possible program options for the future and the budget required to operate each option. Dr. Hepper provided the following suggestions to increase revenue:

- Remove the maximum enforcement of \$3,000, so that there is no longer a cap on the revenue from the number of trucks registered to transport
- Raise the maximum enforcement fee and registration fee

Both suggestions would require legislation, therefore RIAB should start to evaluate the options.

(14) **Other Business**

Chairman Koewler recapped items RIAB would like REP to work on before the next meeting. They are as follows:

- Request a statement from the CDFA Secretary in regards to the IKG theft webpage
- Obtain legal opinion of onsite grease containers and where the ownership lies
- Arrange additional manifest training sessions
- Work with health departments to see if their inspectors can check for manifest requirements during their routine inspection process
- A response from REP of what penalties will be issued to out-of-state transporters delivering illegal IKG product to renderers

(15) **Next Meeting**

Chairman Koewler suggested establishing a date to meet in the middle of January 2014 and before the week of January 20, 2014.

(16) **Adjourn**

Motion #3: Mr. DeSmet made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ottone seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rachel Andrade