

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

**Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2007
Sacramento, CA**

MEMBERS

Blake Alexandre
David Will
Larry Hirahara
James Rickert
Lauree Bradley
Sajeemas Pasakdee
Sean Swezey
Stacy Carlsen
Karen Klonsky
John Ashby, voting
alternate

ALTERNATES MEMBERS

Jack Young
Melody Meyer
Martin Guereña

CDFA

Liz Houser
Ray Green
David Carlson
Carol Roberts

INTERESTED PARTIES

Cynthia Ortegon, CCOF RSR
Hector Pedraza
Kim Dietz, Smucker Quality
Beverage
Kirk Sparks, Eco-Nutrients
Jake Evans

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was established.

In the absence of the committee chair and vice-chair, Dr. Sean Swezey was appointed to conduct the meeting. Introductions were made and new members were welcomed.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Blake Alexandre moved to approve the February 21, 2006 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. John Ashby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: CDFA REPORT

Mr. Dave Carlson distributed the CDFA organic report to the committee. From January 1, 2007 to May 22, 2007 there have been 161 new registrants and 479 renewals. A chart showing the yearly count of new registrants and renewals from 1999 through May 22, 2007 was presented. During the period of February 16, 2007 through May 22, 2007 CDFA received 123 new registrations and 190 renewals.

Mr. Ray Green reminded the committee the proposed regulation on appeals and mediation was still open for comments. Mr. Green also announced the formation of a commissioners deputy group to discuss enforcement issues.

Ms. Liz Houser provided an update on Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), Leafy Green Voluntary Program, Trade Mission of Canada, Joint Powers Authority, and Governors Tri Accord meeting. She also announced the appointment of the new Under Secretary, Mr. George Gomes.

ITEM 4: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS) REPORT – PAT KENNELLY

Mr. Pat Kennelly was not present. No report given.

ITEM 5: PROCEDURES ADOPTION: DIANE COONER

Held over until next meeting, Ms. Diane Cooner was not in attendance.

ITEM 6: NEW REGULATIONS FOR APPEALS AND MEDIATION

MOTION: Dr. Karen Klonsky moved to take no action on the regulation, and to revisit the topic at the next meeting. Ms. Lauree Bradley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: MEMBERS REPORTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Klonsky announced her latest report would be available soon. The report will be available for viewing at: www.aic.ucdavis.edu.

Mr. David Will stated a task force is being formed for the US Poultry and Layer Industry. They are looking for someone at UC Davis to perform testing. They are also conducting a literature review for research being done around the world.

Mr. Ashby expressed concern about the marketing and labeling of product already in the production process, but which will not be completely ready for distribution until after the new materials list becomes regulation. The procedure regarding 'stream of commerce' has been changed. If the product is retail ready on the new effective regulation date, it is in the 'stream of commerce' and okay to be sold as organic.

Ms. Bradley noted the new raw almond regulation requires pasteurization. She wanted clarification regarding if almonds could still be considered raw after pasteurization.

Mr. Jack Young brought to the committee's attention a letter posted at the USDA Organic Program website regarding Walmart's marketing of organic products.

Mr. Stacy Carlsen discussed the issues counties are having enforcing organic regulations.

ITEM 8: NEW ITEMS.

The next meeting is set for August 15, 2007 in Sacramento.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ray Green, Supervisor
California Organic Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services