

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

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2007

Sacramento, CA

MEMBERS

Blake Alexandre
David Will
Larry Hirahara
James Rickert
Steve DeMuri
Sajeemas Pasakdee
Sean Swezey
Stacy Carlsen
Karen Klonsky
Julie Spandow
Gay Timmons
Jane Pettit for Pat Kennelly

ALTERNATES MEMBERS

Jack Young
Melody Meyer
Dave Martinelli
John Ashby

INTERESTED PARTIES

Cynthia Ortegon, CCOF RSR
Jake Lewin, CCOF
John Armstrong
Savanna Alexandre

CDFA

Liz Houser
Nate Dechoretz
Ray Green
David Carlson
Shastitie Ferris-Miller
Kevin Masuhara
Asif Maan
Larry Bezark
Dave Brown

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: Dr. Karen Klonsky moved to hold verbal nominations for chair and vice- Chair. Mr. John Ashby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sean Swezey nominated Ms. Gay Timmons to chair until January 1, 2008, when officers will be elected.

MOTION: Mr. Larry Hirahara moved to appoint Ms. Timmons. Mr. Ashby seconded. Ms. Timmons abstained. The motion was passed.

Ms. Timmons nominated Mr. Swezey to be vice-chair until January 1, 2008, when officers will be elected.

MOTION: Mr. Dave Martinelli moved to close nominations, Mr. Blake Alexandre seconded. Mr. Swezey abstained. The motion was passed.

ITEM 3: MOTION TO ACCEPT REVISED AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Hirahara moved to accept the revised agenda. Ms. Sajeemas Pasakdee seconded. Ms. Timmons abstained. The motion was passed.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Ashby moved to approve the May Meeting Minutes with discussed changes. Mr. Swezey seconded. Ms. Timmons abstained. The motion was passed.

ITEM 5: ORGANIC PROGRAM REORGANIZATION

The goals and objectives of the Organic Program (Program) include: increase compliance within the industry, increase enforcement, better utilization of resources, and increase industry confidence in the Program.

To track progress, Mr. Swezey suggests the Program develop performance measures to determine the Program's effectiveness, such as evaluating how many complaints are made each year and the number of new registrants, then compare this data year-to-year. Ms. Timmons brought up surveying the industry on how they feel about enforcement issues over a two or three year period.

Mr. Stacy Carlsen discussed the issue counties are having with the certifiers not enforcing organic regulations. Mr. Carlsen indicated certifiers need to report their findings to the counties.

ITEM 6: BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2007/08

MOTION: Dr. Klonsky moved to approve the budget. Mr. Steve DeMuri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: CDFA REPORT – RAY GREEN AND DAVE CARLSON

Mr. David Carlson reminded the committee of COPAC vacancies. Mr. Alexandre suggested some of the appointments be changed to one-year terms to create a three-year rotation.

Mr. Carlson also discussed the number of new registrants and renewal applications and reviewed the status of all complaints made.

ITEM 8: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS) REPORT – PAT KENNELLY

Ms. Jane Pettit, representing Mr. Pat Kennelly, reported that they have received eight complaints, of which, four (4) have been substantiated, and three (3) are still being investigated. They have received about eighty (80) new registration forms and their investigators will be performing those registration inspections.

As of July 1, 2007, DHS split into two (2) new programs: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The Program is affiliated with CDPH.

In addition, they are in the process of checking organic blackberries for diesel fuel contamination.

ITEM 9: UPDATES ON - LEAFY GREEN MARKETING AGREEMENT (LGMA), FERTILIZER PROGRAM, LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH

LGMA – Mr. Nate Dechoretz gave a brief update on this program, which officially began July 23, 2007. CDFA performs audits for LGMA based on Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices guidelines. Audits are industry funded.

FERTILIZER PROGRAM – Mr. Asif Maan with Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs, and Egg Regulatory Services discussed updates regarding the Fertilizer Program. The fertilizer industry is considering the formation of an association. Also, organic and conventional fertilizer manufacturers are working together to create standards. The State will review the recommendations from the fertilizer manufacturers, determine what is needed and continue the process of creating standards.

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH – Mr. Larry Bezark with Plant Health And Pest Prevention Services presented on the light brown apple moth (LBAM). For eradication purposes, the Satera Company created a pheromone that will disrupt the mating pattern of the LBAM. It is produced from organic products; however, Satera does not want to disclose the ingredients without guaranteed confidentiality. They are currently working to get their organic certification with Agricultural Marketing Services. Mr. Ray Green will issue a notice when it is determined whether the pheromone has been certified or not.

If determined non-organic, Satera will work with the counties to locate registered organic fields to avoid during the aerial spraying process.

ITEM 10: WEST NILE VIRUS: DAVE BROWN, SACRAMENTO-YOLO VECTOR CONTROL

Control measures have been taken both in the water and air. Some chemicals for water treatments are organic friendly; however, the chemicals for aerial disbursement are not. Public notices are sent out when treatments are scheduled.

ITEM 11: NEW REGULATIONS FOR APPEALS AND MEDIATION – FILED AUGUST 27, 2007

This new regulation should become law within the next thirty (30) days. The Program will send out a notification to the certification agents once finalized. The regulation allows the Program to establish a list of qualified mediators for appeals. If interested, the counties may obtain mediator certification, and be eligible to add to the list.

Mr. Swezey requested quarterly updates regarding appeals and mediation, including case resolution.

ITEM 12: MEMBER REPORT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS; MELODY MEYER: UPDATE ON 2007 FARM BILL; JOHN ASHBY, NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM (NOP) SECTION, 205.606

Ms. Melody Meyer reported the House of Representatives has passed the bill for funding the Farm Bill. This Bill is \$300 (three hundred) billion dollars over the next five (5) years. For the first time, organic production in market data will receive funds; their allotment is \$3 (three) million dollars. AMS will receive \$5 (five) million for cost share payments in seventeen (17) states. However, California was not selected to be involved in that project.

Mr. John Ashby discussed NOP Section, 205.606. The USDA will add thirty-eight (38) items to the list of approved organic ingredients. Mr. Ashby stated this is an actual tightening of the standard, and not a loosening as most media have portrayed.

ITEM 13: NEW ITEMS

Ms. Timmons discussed the inconsistencies between certifiers regarding cosmetic certification. Mr. Green agreed the enforcement sub-committee could be revived and will work with Ms. Timmons as needed.

The next meeting is set for November 14, 2007 in Sacramento.

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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