



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

January 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

800 Asilomar Blvd.

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

MEMBERS PRESENT

Garff Hathcock
Melody Meyer
Patrick Baur
Steven Sherman
Sandra Schmaier
Bridget Montesanti
Jenny Lester Moffitt
Sean Swezey
Pat Kennelly
Mindee Jeffery
Steve DeMuri
Adele Gemignani
Ione Conlan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stacy Carlsen
Blake Alexandre
Lauree Bradley
David Will
Thomas Chapman
Thomas Azwell
Karen Klonsky

INTERESTED PARTIES

Ray Green, Go Green Consulting
Kim Dietz, Smucker Natural Foods
Graham Hunting, Monterey County
Mark Lipson, USDA OSEC
Gwendolyn Wyard, OTA
John Foster, CCOF

CDFA

Steve Patton
Danny Lee
David Carlson
Scott Renteria
Sarah Cardoni

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Garff Hathcock, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self introductions were made.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations.

MOTION: Ms. Melody Meyer nominated Mr. Steven Sherman as Chairman. Mr. Sean Swezey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Sherman was appointed Chairman of the COPAC.

MOTION: Ms. Melody Meyer nominated Ms. Jenny Lester Moffitt as Vice Chair. Mr. Steve DeMuri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Ms. Lester Moffitt was appointed Vice Chair of the COPAC.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Garff Hathcock moved to approve the September 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Steve DeMuri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) UPDATE

Mr. Pat Kennelly provided a CDPH update. Median annual gross sales revenue for 2013 is \$125,824, which is down from the previous year. Total annual gross sales revenue for 2013 is \$5.4 billion dollars, a big increase from \$3.9 billion dollars the prior year. There are currently 2,242 operations registered with CDPH. Since the last reporting period, CDPH has received 21 complaints. There is a mixture of both unsubstantiated and substantiated complaints. The natures of the complaints are consistent with prior years, and include uncertified operations, unsubstantiated organic claims, and organic claims being made without the certifier being disclosed on the label or website.

Mr. Sherman inquired about the fish products that were listed on the commodity report provided by CDPH. Mr. Kennelly stated that under the California Organic Product Act of 2003, fish products were specifically not allowed to be labeled as organic and will look into why it is on the list.

ITEM 6: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM (SOP) UPDATE

I. Vacancy and Terms

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided a vacancy report. Vacancies include: six producer alternates; two processor alternates; two technical representative alternates; and two consumer representative alternates. Members whose terms will expire on October 31, 2015, and are eligible for reappointment are: Mr. Blake Alexandre; Ms. Ione Conlan; Ms. Jenny Lester Moffitt; Mr. Steve DeMuri; Mr. Thomas Azwell; Mr. Patrick Baur; Mr. Sean Swezey; Mr. Karen Klonsky; and Ms. Sandra Schmaier.

II. Revenue from Registration

Mr. Danny Lee provided an overview of the SOP revenue from registration by month and year. The projection is that the program will collect roughly \$1.35 million dollars in revenue from registration by the end of the fiscal year.

III. New Registrations

Mr. Lee provided an overview of new registrant demographics. From July 2013 through December 2013 there have been 184 new registrants, which is consistent with the prior year.

IV. Complaint Report

Mr. Scott Renteria provided an overview of the Complaint Report. From July 1, 2013, through December 1, 2013, the SOP received a total of 31 complaints. There are currently 17 active complaint reports, with 7 active for over 120 days.

V. Appeals Report

Mr. Lee provided the SOP Appeals Report. These records are from 2007, when the appeals regulations were promulgated until the present. As of July 1, 2013, the SOP has received 11 appeals. Of the 11 appeals received, 9 have been resolved. One of the active appeals is currently being reviewed by CDFA's Hearing Officer and the other was referred to the Department of Justice.

VI. Residue Analysis Report

Mr. Scott Renteria provided the Residue Analysis Report. Since July 1, 2013, there were 88 samples pulled by SOP and county staff. Prohibited substances were detected on 10 samples, which were all part of the same investigation.

Ms. Mindee Jeffery inquired about the ability of the state laboratory to test for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Mr. Steve Patton stated that the Center for Analytical Chemistry does not have the capability to test for GMOs. The National Organic Program (NOP) mandate is for pesticide testing. There are practices for GMOs put in place but no standards have been made. Discussion ensued regarding testing of GMOs.

VII. Database Update

Mr. Renteria discussed the progress of the SOP's transition to the online database accounting system. He stated that the online system went live March 1, 2013. Currently the system is approximately 70% populated with registrant data. As of April 1, 2014, the system will be 100% populated and one full year of data will be available. At that time the SOP will have the capability to provide predetermined reports to the public.

ITEM 7: NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM STANDARDS BOARD (NOSB) UPDATE

Mr. John Foster gave the NOSB update. The next NOSB meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas, and will be held April 29 – May 1, 2014.

ITEM 8: ORGANIC PROGRAM REGISTRATION

This item was not discussed.

ITEM 9: NEW ITEMS

Ms. Lester Moffitt discussed Material Review Organizations (MROs) and the efforts that are being made to create a regulatory framework for MROs under the NOP for material review and uniform enforcement.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in May 7, 2014, in Sacramento.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m. by Mr. Sherman, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator
State Organic Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services