



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

September 15, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeremy Johnson – Chair
Blake Alexandre – Vice Chair
Will Daniels
Jaclyn Bowen
Wendy Reynolds
Sean Feder
Amanda Felder
Matthew Grieshop
Stefan Parnay

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kaley Grimland
David Will
Karen Archipley
Phillip LaRocca
John McKeon
Brandon Nauman

INTERESTED PARTIES

Nick Woodrum, California
Department of Public Health
(CDPH)
Daniel Karavan, CDPH
Jane Reick, CDPH
Mario Gutierrez, Kings County

CDFA

Danny Lee
Marcee Yount
Steve Patton
Jefferson Scott
Vanessa Jivan
Scott Renteria
Mayze Fowler-Riggs
Pamela Rodriguez
Michael Wolff
Sarah Cardoni
Stacey Hughes
Carla Sanchez
Jennifer Leidolf
Karrie Batchelor

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Jeremy Johnson, Chair. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Wolff, Senior Environmental Scientist with the CDFA Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation, serves on the Natural and Working Land Science Team for the development of the Assembly Bill 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan). The Scoping Plan is currently out in draft form and contains a proposed target that 20% of cultivated acres in California will be organic by 2045. Wolff stated that his team would like to track that goal's progress utilizing the State Organic Program (SOP) database and registration system as a tool; however, the data currently allowed for collection by the SOP does not meet the Scoping Plan's reporting needs, as there is potential for double reporting of acres under different uses and it may be difficult to separate different cultivated acres from dairy or livestock.

Wolff proposed a solution for the Scoping Plan's future reporting needs, that in the initial site description tab for land registration, each site be characterized according to its anticipated use for that year. These uses would be defined as cultivated, pasture, fallow, or other. The user would also be asked to estimate which percent of the sites area would be designated for each use. Discussion ensued regarding definitions and what it meant to be fallow for reporting purposes. Wolff requested volunteers to help his

team form a solution to accurately collect the data needed and to define formal definitions.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF MAY 10, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Johnson requested a motion to approve the May 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION: Jaclyn Bowen moved to approve the May 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Amanda Felder seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously, with Vice Chair Blake Alexandre, Will Daniels, and Matthew Grieshop abstaining.

ITEM 4: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

Wendy Reynolds, CDPH, provided a CDPH Organic Program update. For organic complaints received for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22, 18 were completed and 12 remain open. One complaint remains open from previous fiscal years. From January 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, there were 1,772 licenses issued for organic processors.

Daniel Karavan, CDPH, provided an overview of the CDPH Organic Program's revenue reports. The program collected \$1,128,179 for FY 2021/22. Trends are consistent with the previous four fiscal years and there are no anomalies to report.

Karavan also presented the CDPH Organic Program's budget information. For FY 2021/22, total projected salaries and benefits are \$954,504. Total direct costs are \$57,116. Total indirect costs are \$311,957, bringing the total projected program cost to \$1,323,578. Total projected revenue is \$1,128,179. Karavan noted that the salaries and benefits have increased since the previous fiscal year and that FY 2021/22 current expenditures through May 2022 at \$1,213,279 are higher than revenue.

Chair Johnson inquired about CDPH's recent reclassification of its employees and questioned whether funding is being allocated to staff other programs. He brought to attention that salaries and benefits doubled between FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21. Karavan responded that the increase was due to the implementation of a time accounting system where staff's time is allocated more accurately.

Chair Johnson requested that the CDPH Organic Program provide data on the allocation of its employees' salaries at the next COPAC meeting.

ITEM 5: FUND USE RECOMMENDATIONS/STATUS OF STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CONTRACT UPDATE

Danny Lee provided an update on the SOP University of California (UC) contracts. The UC Organic Agriculture Institute (OAI) contract was executed on July 1, 2022, and the process of hiring an academic coordinator to lead the work has begun. Moreover, Dr. Houston Wilson, UC OAI Director, is working to identify parcels of land to be used for demonstrations, training, and research purposes. The UC Agriculture and Natural Resources contract will commence October 1, 2022. Lastly, the SOP is working towards

establishing a contract with the CDFA Office of Civil Rights for translation and interpretation services.

i. Budget Change Proposal Update

Marcee Yount provided an update on the Budget Change Proposal (BCP). The BCP commenced on July 1, 2022, which increases the SOP's spending authority from approximately \$2.2 million to \$2.7 million. This allows for the opportunity to fund the two UC contracts and create an Environmental Scientist position that will assist with education and outreach.

ii. Sliding Registration Fee Schedule Subcommittee

The Sliding Registration Fee Schedule Subcommittee formation was tabled until expenditures and revenues can be examined after full implementation of the UC contracts.

ITEM 6: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM UPDATES

i. Vacancies and Terms

Sarah Cardoni provided the Vacancies and Terms report. Current vacancies include: one wholesale distributor representative; one technical representative; one consumer representative; one producer representative; six producer alternates; one wholesale distributor alternate; one processor alternate; one retail representative alternate; one environmental representative alternate; two technical representative alternates; and one consumer representative alternate. Chair Johnson, Jaclyn Bowen, and Karen Archipley have reached their term limit on October 31, 2022, and will not be eligible for reappointment.

ii. Revenue from Registration/New Registrations

Mayze Fowler-Riggs presented information on organic registration fees collected by month and year. For FY 2021/22, \$1,671,987 in registration fees were collected, a slight increase from the previous fiscal year. A total of 429 new operations registered with the SOP for FY 2021/22; of these 348 are producers, 108 are handlers, and 18 are processors.

iii. Fund Condition Update

Lee provided the Fund Condition update. As of June 30, 2022, the beginning fund balance for FY 2021/22 was \$3,066,471. Total revenue was \$1,670,276, making the available cash \$4,736,747. Total expenditures were \$1,973,700, cash adjustments were \$172,434, with an ending balance of \$2,590,613.

iv. Compliance and Enforcement/Appeals Summary

Scott Renteria provided the Compliance and Enforcement/Appeals Summary. For FY 2021/22, there were 133 total complaints of which 66 were investigated by SOP, CDFA, or county staff; 23 were referred to Accredited Certifying Agents; 35 were referred to CDPH; seven were referred to the National Organic Program; and two were referred to

the Organic Input Materials Program. There were 1,535 total inspections: 1,014 of these were conducted at farmers' markets; 253 were conducted at production sites; 84 at a handling facility; seven at a processing facility; 170 at a retail wholesale facility; and seven at a location not within the above categories. A total of 423 samples were collected of which 403 were surveillance and 20 were investigative. Of the 403 surveillance samples, 40 samples had residues detected with 19 containing residues above tolerance levels and 21 containing residues below tolerance levels. Of the 20 investigative samples, none tested above tolerance levels and nine tested below tolerance levels. Nine appeals were received in which six have been closed and three remain active.

v. Complaint Activity Report

Renteria provided the Complaint Activity Report for FY 2021/22. A total of 27 open complaints were active in which 14 were open for more than 120 days; two were open for between 90 and 120 days; six were open for between 60 and 90 days; and five were open for between 30 and 60 days. An additional 106 complaints were closed.

vi. Complaint Summary Log

Renteria presented the Complaint Summary Log, detailing complaints and investigations that were assigned and closed in FY 2021/22. He noted that open investigations listed will not have company information disclosed.

vii. Surveillance Sampling Summary Update

Renteria provided the Surveillance Sampling Summary update, detailing the results of samples collected by the SOP during routine and investigative efforts. For FY 2021/22, there were 403 surveillance samples: 127 at farmers' markets; 103 at production sites; 20 at a handling facility; 151 at a retail wholesale facility; and two were at a location not within the above categories. Of the 40 samples with residues detected: eight were at farmers' markets; four at production sites; two at a handling facility; and 26 at a retail wholesale facility.

viii. Cost Share Update

Renteria provided an update on the Cost Share Program. The Organic Certification Cost Share Program is open and accepting applications until November 1, 2022. Applications for the Organic and Transitional Education Certification Program, a new program that funds certification costs similar to the Organic Certification Cost Share Program, can be submitted online at the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's website.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held at the EcoFarm Conference on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

Requested agenda items include the formation of a subcommittee to assist in the Scoping Plan data gathering and an update on CDPH's salary data. Agenda items will also include the election of officers.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. by Chair Johnson.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Lee, Supervising Special Investigator
State Organic Program