



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

September 18, 2013

Meeting Minutes

2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833

MEMBERS PRESENT

Garff Hathcock, Chairman
Melody Meyer, Vice-Chair
Thomas Azwell
Karen Klonsky
Sandra Schmaier
David Will
Mary Anne Hanthorn
Sean Swezey
Pat Kennelly
Mindee Jeffery
Thomas Chapman
Ione Conlan
Jenny Lester Moffitt
Stacy Carlsen
Steven Sherman

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Foster
John Ashby
Michelle Dennis
Blake Alexandre
Steve DeMuri
Lauree Bradley

CDFA

Rick Jensen
Danny Lee
Paul Collins
Scott Renteria
Sarah Cardoni

INTERESTED PARTIES

Ray Green, Go Green Consulting
Henry Grossi, Conlan Ranches
Alexis Randolph, QAI

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Garff Hathcock, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and self introductions were made.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Ms. Melody Meyer moved to approve the May 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Ms. Jenny Lester Moffitt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Mr. Patrick Kennelly provided the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) update. He reported that 2,172 registrants are currently registered with CDPH. Since the last reporting period, CDPH has received several complaints. The natures of the complaints include unregistered and/or uncertified operations and operations making false claims. Most operations were not aware that they were in violation and are promptly correcting the violations. The average time to complete a complaint investigation is 51 days, which is fairly close to the 60 day target.

ITEM 5: STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM REPORTS

I. Vacancy and Terms

Ms. Sarah Cardoni provided a vacancy report. Vacancies include: one producer member; six producer alternates; one wholesale distributor alternate; one processor member; one processor alternate; one environmental representative alternate; one technical representative alternate; one consumer representative member; one consumer representative alternate; and one technical representative alternate. Members whose terms will be expiring October 31, 2013, and are eligible for reappointment are: Mr. Garff Hathcock; Ms. Melody Meyer; Mr. David Will; Mr. John Foster; Mr. John Ashby; Ms. Lauree Bradley; Ms. Mary Anne Hanthorn; Ms. Michelle Dennis; Mr. Steven Sherman; and Ms. Mindee Jeffery.

The Committee discussed teleconferencing options for meetings in order to enhance participation. Teleconference meetings are an option with the caveat that the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act are being adhered to. Locations where members would be calling in from would need to be noticed ten days prior to the meeting and those locations would have to be open for public participation and accessible to persons with disabilities pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

II. Revenue from Registration

Mr. Danny Lee provided an overview of the State Organic Program (SOP) revenue from registration by month and year. The projection for fiscal year (FY) 2012/13 was that the program would collect roughly \$1.2 million dollars in revenue from registration. The actual revenue collected was \$1.275 million dollars. Projections for FY 2013/14 are that the program will collect \$1.35 million dollars.

III. New Registrations

Mr. Scott Renteria provided an overview of new registrant demographics. From July 2012 through June 2013, there were 472 new registrants. For the months of March and April, numbers are higher due to the new database implementation and renewing operations registering as new operations.

IV. Complaints

Mr. Paul Collins provided an overview of the SOP Complaint Activity Report for FY 2012/13. The distribution of complaints is as follows: the SOP retained 17 complaints; four were referred to the National Organic Program (NOP); 26 were assigned to County Agricultural Commissioners; seven were referred to accredited certifying agents; and eleven were referred to the CDPH. Referred complaints remain open with the SOP until the referring agency contacts the SOP with closure to the complaint. The leading issue is labeling violations, followed by false claims, and misrepresentation of organic versus conventional product at certified farmers' markets (CFM).

V. Appeals

Mr. Collins provided the SOP Appeals Status 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, seven have been resolved. One of the active appeals is currently being reviewed by CDFA's Hearing Officer and the other three were referred to the Department of Justice.

VI. Residue Analysis

Mr. Renteria provided the SOP Residue Analysis Report. For FY 2012/13, there were 69 samples pulled by SOP and county staff. Of the 69 samples pulled: twenty were from production sites; two from handling facilities, seven from retail locations; 35 from CFMs; four from wholesale facilities; and one from a packing facility. If prohibited substances were detected on samples they were investigated to determine the source of contamination. Next FY the sample intake target will increase to 200, although there are additional samples that can be pulled if needed for enforcement activities. Discussion ensued regarding how the residue analysis information should be reported.

MOTION: Ms. Meyer motioned to include all information on the SOP Residue Analysis Report. Information shall include separate columns for approved substances and prohibited substances, and under the prohibited substances the US Environmental Protection Agency's tolerance and levels detected will be designated. Mr. Swezey seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

VII. Database Implementation

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 there are 3600 registrants in the system and that the system is approximately 51% populated with registrant data.

ITEM 6: DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION DISCUSSION REGARDING GIBBERELLINS

This agenda item was not discussed.

ITEM 7: STATE REVIEW OF ORGANIC INPUT MATERIALS DISCUSSION

Ms. Jenny Lester Moffitt brought the Committee's attention issues regarding organic input materials (OIM) that are Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) approved OIMs, but have not been approved by the CDFA Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP). The Committee agreed that the listing of products available by OMRI is not full proof and that operations should be checking the FMIP's approved products listing before use. A list of registered products is available on the CDFA website.

ITEM 8: ORGANIC RESEARCH AND PROMOTIONAL ORDER

Ms. Meyer discussed efforts that are being made toward attaining a federal research and promotions program for education and research purposes geared towards organic

commodities. Federal research and promotion programs are industry-funded generic research and marketing programs designed to increase domestic and international demand for the industry's agricultural commodities, thereby increasing the potential long-term economic growth of all sectors of that industry. She stated that the Organic Trade Association is seeking feedback from industry and that could provide that input at unitedformoreorganic.org.

ITEM 9: NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD UPDATE

Mr. David Will gave the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) update. He stated that the next NOSB meeting will be in Louisville, Kentucky, and will be held October 22 - 24, 2013. Public comments are due October 1, 2013. The agenda and notice is posted on the NOSB website. The board will address several petitions pertaining to changes to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, including several substances for use in aquaculture, streptomycin for use to control fire blight in pears and apples, and glycerin.

ITEM 10: STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATES

Mr. Hathcock provided an update on the two standing subcommittees. The Penalty Matrix Subcommittee met once via teleconference. He stated that this subcommittee will wait until the NOP releases their guidelines until moving forward with their work on a penalty matrix for the SOP. The Residue Analysis Subcommittee has not met yet.

ITEM 11: NEW ITEMS

Mr. Hathcock discussed the citrus industry's concerns with Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). The ACP has been found in the San Joaquin Valley. Tulare and Kern counties have quarantine areas. Although the ACP has been found, the disease has not been found in California.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held at the Eco Farm Conference on January 23, 2014, in Asilomar. Agenda items will include a database presentation.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. by Mr. Hathcock, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Branch Chief
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services