

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

May 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance:	Other official attendees:
Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Anne Brown, Department of Justice
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Mr. Pat Short	Jayne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chairman	Beth Farrell, Ag Programs Specialist, NCDA&CS
Dr. Guochen Yang	

Call to Order – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Roll Call of Attendees – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** initiated a roll call to determine if a quorum of Commissioners were present. Six Commissioners as listed above were in attendance, meeting the requirement of a quorum.

Statement Concerning Conflicts of Interest – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** read the statement concerning conflicts of interest and asked members to identify any potential conflicts of interest. No conflicts were identified.

Recognition of Conference Call – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** noted that the purpose of this meeting is to approve applications to cultivate industrial hemp in North Carolina. Under state and federal laws, individuals must be issued a license to participate in the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Pilot Program. Growers in the state who wish to cultivate industrial hemp must submit an application for a license to the Industrial Hemp Commission. Applications that have been vetted seriously by N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff will be reviewed at this meeting.

Industrial Hemp Program Update – *Mr. Phil Wilson, Director, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS*

Chairman **Melton** called on Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to provide a program update.

- **Mr. Wilson** – Reported that as of May 3, 2019, North Carolina has 933 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 11,572.85 licensed acres and 4,540,926 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 545 registered processors in the state.

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Approval of Minutes from the April 16, 2019 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Carpenter** and seconded by Commissioner **Short**. Motion passed on a voice vote.

New Business

- Review and Approval of Research Pilot Program Applications – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** read the names of the applications under consideration at this time: Joel Merle Pace; Jason Michael Yale; William David Brauns; Emma Lee Locklear; Justin Scott Bissette; Bill Dew; Floyd Wayne Harrell; Rex Allen Oxendine; Timothy Shaw Sloan; Katherine Yeakel Berezny; Cale Webb Hines; William Craig Buchanan; Derek Bissette; Kelly Neil Smith; Allison Sharp James; Bryan Vaughn Rogers; Matthew Matthew Leonard; Joseph Warren Dixon; Edwin Darrell Sanders; Bobby L. Cecil; Samuel Neal Johnson; Jeffrey Oliver Preddy; Jacob Alexander Shugart; Derek Lee Smith; Edward Peyton Locke; Brian Christopher Raynor; Roger Lewis Jones; Dwayne Lawrence Carrigo; Katherine Renee Macrellis; Bradley Saunders Gerstmyer; David Michael Hight; Christopher Robert Rouse; Michele Helene Cox; Waylon Dale Barefoot; James N. Poovey, Jr.; Eric Ray Taylor; Jack Jones Allen, Jr.; William Simon Edwards; Derrick G. Hobson; Randy Darren Riggs; Thomas Nelson Blalock; Zachary Ryan Lawson; Gail Allen Lake; Jonathan Dallis Lowe; Newton Coke Marion; Thomas Andrew Watt; Jennifer Wilson Thompson; Kelby Brian Harris; John Mark Picton; Cindy Conti Shore; Randall Sigmond Shapiro; Jonathan Brian Whitfield; Kendall T. Hocutt; Noah James Sharpe; Kenneth Earl Squires; Daniel Lee Waldroup; Richard H. Layne; Joseph Steven Evans, Jr.; Nailah Ali; John Little Clay Skinner; Jullie Ann Nugent-Head; Becky Rochelle Raynor; Julie Denise Laramie; Stephen Bruce Matlack; Richard Cutchin Anderson; Tommy V. Castelow; Michael Wayne Oakes; John Timothy Smith; David S. Burt; Bobby J. Roberts; Timothy Wayne Kallam; Dianne Lape Boswell; Calvin Eugene Nelson; Samuel Thomas Lawson; James Keith Smith; Bruce William Curtis; William Freeman; Wallace Elisha McKinney; Carl Bush McKinney; Darrell Ray Merritt; Darrin Wayne Smitherman; Robert David Wray; B. Preston Batten; Billy A. Batten; David L. McKinney; Oliver Eric Allen; and Leon Elias Spears.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications (listed above). Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Short** seconded the motion to approve. After roll call vote, all applications were approved.
- Warning about the grey areas of existing law – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chairman*
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted that the legal situation regarding industrial hemp have not changed since the last meeting. The Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act is still in place and state law mirrors federal law; North Carolina will continue to follow U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidance. Edible products containing

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CBD are considered a prohibited act; grey areas still exist for other industrial hemp products. New license holders need to understand that while there is no legal dispute regarding cultivation of industrial hemp, the marketplace for end products continues to have grey legal areas. Dr. Stewart noted that NCDA&CS continues to be in communication with FDA and is asking for guidance on these products. All program participants are encouraged to do their homework with buyers, and make sure they understand the legality of final products.

- Chairman **Melton** noted that industrial hemp is a rapidly expanding market and buyers and sellers must beware. He encouraged those cultivating to have a contract in place and to have legal counsel review to fully understand all terms and conditions.
 - Chairman **Melton** addressed several questions from the Zoom chat function. The next Commission meeting will be posted at www.ncagr.gov and <https://industrialhemp.ces.ncsu.edu/>. Both websites also include great information regarding cultivating industrial hemp in North Carolina. If there are questions, please send via email to industrialhemprequests@ncagr.gov.
- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Carpenter** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **McLawhorn**.

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