

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

Minutes

April 17, 2017 2:30 PM

Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commission attendees	Other official attendees
Guy Carpenter	Vernon Cox, Plant Industry Division
Chief Tony Godwin	Jon Lanier, NCDA&CS
Billy McLawhorn	Anne Brown, NCDOJ
Tom Melton, PhD	Lori Pfister, Research Stations Division
Sheriff Sam Page - absent	
Fen Rascoe	
Pat Short	
Sandy Stewart, PhD	
Guochen Yang, PhD	

Call to Order – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Statement Concerning Conflicts of Interest – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Opening Statement – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Recognition of Special Guests – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

- **Vernon Cox** – has information for commission. There are a total of 5 import application permits with the DEA. All five have been approved and this has been confirmed with the DEA. Previous information was that the permits were to be shipped last week. As of today, with use of a FedEx tracking number that confirms that they have not been shipped. There is a communication between the offices. **Melton** – Summarizes, the permits have been approved but someone or something is holding them up from being mailed. **Cox**- agrees. Noted that we have to have a hard copy of the permit to be able to use. **Melton** – is the Dept. of Ag Commissioner aware of this? **Cox**- This information is up to date as of today and no discussion with the DAG Commissioner as of today. **Melton** – expresses the disappointment of the news and gratitude for Vernon’s efforts.

Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2017 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2017 meeting? (Technical difficulties discussed for Dr. Yang) *McLawhorn make the motion, Godwin seconds it.*

Calls to identify attendance with Vote of those in favor: *Godwin, McLawhorn, Rascoe, Short, Stewart*
Motion is approved with five votes. (Carpenter, Page & Yang not online yet) (Technical difficulties discussed for Short’s phone and Dr. Yang’s ability to be heard.)

Business At Hand

- Consideration of new license applications: Melton requests updated information from Vernon Cox about the application packets. **Cox**- offers an update on the attempts made to contact the tabled applications to change their seed source.
- 1. Separation of the packet to remove the application for William McLawhorn to collectively review and vote on the remained of this group of applications. Melton reads the applicants: Chase Francis Werner, Gregory Roy Swain, Travis Jason Hooper, Jeannette Martin Horn, Larry Edward Martin, Christopher C. Cobb, Keith Lynn Edmisten, Lynne Marie Holtkamp. Melton calls for a motion: *Godwin makes*

Industrial Hemp Commission

Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair

Guy Carpenter Chief Tony Godwin Billy McLawhorn

Sheriff Sam Page Fen Rascoe Pat Short Dr. Guochen Yang

the motion. Rascoe seconds. Call for questions or discussion, none. Votes in favor: Godwin, McLawhorn, Rascoe, Short, Stewart, Yang.

2. **Melton** – call to review application for William Mangum McLawhorn, with Billy McLawhorn abstaining. *Call for motion: Rascoe makes the motion, Godwin seconds. Votes in favor: Godwin, Rascoe, Short, Stewart, Yang.*
 - **Melton** – update on the program manager, full-time position. Interviews a rescheduled for tomorrow. Five candidates all agreed to be interviewed before the narrowing down can be done to hold face to face interviews.
 - **Rascoe** – can we get an update on where we are with the contact to be made with the AG office? **Stewart** – couple of things to share. First requests that Anne Brown mention the answer to his question. **Brown** – she has inquired up her chain of command and has no information. **Stewart** – DAG Commissioner traveled to Washington DC last week, met with others including several members of our congressional delegation as well as Ray Starling the new agricultural advisor on the council of economic advisors to President Trump. This is an issue that they are aware of, receiving a full briefing. Situation is still the same. The only legal way to bring seed into NC is through the DEAs import process.
 - **Stewart** – also reports that the funds of the IHC that remain. Several expenses have been paid, including the secured seed storage containers that have been purchased and located at the Upper Coastal Research Station in Rocky Mount. The current available balance is \$194,030.00 in the fund as of last Thursday.
 - **Rascoe** – addresses concern with moving ahead with the full-time program manager position with the seeds being held up. Questions if there is a need. Holds contest with the DEA being farming experts. **Cox** – it is not clear what the DEA is up to. **Rascoe** – “It’s clear to me.” Continues that there is urgent resolution needed. Otherwise there is no utility in bringing on a program manager if we don’t have a program yet. **Melton** – agrees about not hiring someone to run a program that doesn’t exist. Shares that he knows that Founder’s Hemp has told their farmers to pack it up and can’t take a chance of going into contract. **Melton** – understandable that farmers might want to use their land on something else until we can be sure of what’s going to happen. From the perspective of hiring someone he will hold the preliminary interviews and let them know are going to wait to see any progress. Can Vernon weigh on that? **Cox** – agrees with Rascoe that it’s going to be difficult to get seed in within reasonable planting time.
 - **Rascoe** – what’s next? If trip to DC didn’t bare any fruit, what are we going to consider now? **Melton** – NC is taking the stance of the interpretation of the DEA that it would be against the law to bring seed between states. **Stewart** – that is a good summation. The situation is as it has been for the past weeks. The interpretation of the law is the only way to legally bring seed into NC is to import it. **Rascoe** – question how states like Kentucky are handling it. **Melton** – asks Cox if Kentucky is being treated differently or interpreting it otherwise. **Cox** – Kentucky has no dissimilar information than we do, but they seem to have made a different decision of how to move ahead. **Rascoe** – the state of KY, Doris Hamilton the manager of their program is “hanging their hat” on the Federal law with the Section 7606, allowing seed to go from Dept. of Ag to Dept. Ag. He states she is relaying they haven’t had any problems. The amount of money at risk discussed. **Melton** – asks if Anne is still on the call. Janyne answers she doesn’t appear to be on the call. **McLawhorn** – wants to share Fen’s concerns. **Brown** – back on the line. She will certainly double her efforts to follow up on this and make it clear that the IHC is anxious to hear a response. Still advises litigation is only discussed in a closed session.

Industrial Hemp Commission

Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair

Guy Carpenter Chief Tony Godwin Billy McLawhorn

Sheriff Sam Page Fen Rascoe Pat Short Dr. Guochen Yang

