

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

**February 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.
Telephone / Internet Conference Call**

Commissioners in attendance:	Other official attendees:
Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair	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
Sherriff Tim Manning	Jayne Kizer, NCSU
Dr. Guochen Yang	Beth Farrell, Ag Programs Specialist, NCDA&CS

Call to Order – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*

Statement Concerning Conflicts of Interest – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*

Vice-Chairman **Stewart** read the statement concerning conflicts of interest and asked members to identify any potential conflicts of interest. No potential conflicts were identified by Commissioners.

Recognition of Conference Call – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*

Vice-Chairman **Stewart** expressed the necessity of each speaker identifying himself each time they speak on the call.

Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted the Commission will have an in-person meeting in the next 3-4 weeks in light of the 2018 Farm Bill. Information will be sent to Commissioners to identify a date for this meeting.

Roll Call of Attendees – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*

Vice-Chairman **Stewart** initiated a roll call to determine if a quorum of Commissioners were present. Five Commissioners as listed above were in attendance meeting the requirement of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from the January 30, 2019 meeting – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*

Vice-Chairman **Stewart** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes made by Commissioner **Carpenter** and seconded by Commissioner **Manning**. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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

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

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- **Mr. Wilson** – Reported that as of February 15, 2019, North Carolina has 505 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 6,473 licensed acres and 2,907,590 square feet of licensed greenhouse production.
 - Commissioner **Carpenter** asked how many applications list a residence outside of North Carolina. Mr. **Wilson** responded that he believes there are less than twelve, but will verify.
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** reminded those observing the meeting of the online application process. Additional resources are available on the NCD&CS and NC State hemp websites that answer many questions about the program. Public is encouraged to utilize these resources to avoid slowing down the application review process.

New Business

- Review and Approval of Research Pilot Program Applications – *Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair*
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** read the names of the applications under consideration at this time: Shivawn Broeker Brady; Johnathan Dewayne Webb; Charles Taylor Payne; Penny Sellers McPherson; George Haden Myer;s Randall Caleb Godfrey; Cynthia Butler House; Thomas Charles Saile; Mark A. Turbeville; Ronald Byron Fisher; Donnica Boston, Esq.; Elijah Cole Baker; Robert Rountree Cannon; Matthew Murphy; David John Kilpatrick; James Clayton Rosser; James Hubert Womack; Jason Richard Farmer; David Lee Joyner; Harden Cornelius Brown Jr.; Austin Bryan Douglas; Arthur John Watson; Stephen Leon Wells; John Freddie Cummings; Danny Keith McDonald; Aaron Gregory Bodenhamer; Luther Willard Currin; John Charlie Wallace; Benjamin Ellison Pusser; Dawn Byrd Burlison; Jennifer Warren-Smith; David D. Palmer; Paul Tapley Worth; Anthony Dustin Waters; Earl Timothy Solomon; James Mark Currin; Robert Cary Brandon; Martin Cleve Daniel; Sanford H. Fishel III; Patricia Flowers Nance; Taffy Johnson Aukamp; Timmy Ray Cox; Richard Edgar Canoy Jr.; Raymond Warren Foster; Larry Roger Eason; Robert Louis Lawrence; William Garland Blackard Michael Carson King Wilbur B Congleton Billy Ray Adcock Jr. Rodney Gray Stainback Ronald Ervin Stainback Jr. Jamey Lee Walker
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications listed above. Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Manning** 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-Chair*
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted that a large number of the application approved for the industrial hemp program with this meeting show intent to produce floral parts. There remains some grey area around extracts that were not resolved with the 2018 Farm Bill. Questions remain with FDA regarding final products including CBD and other extracts from hemp. Since the last meeting, NCD&CS has issued a press release regarding CBD containing products and reiterating FDA’s stance regarding adulterated products; other states have been embargoing edible products containing CBD. The NCD&CS remains

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committed to educating before regulating, and warning letters are currently being issued. The main point for program applicants is that the market for end products have grey federal laws and need exists for regulation. While approved applications are receiving a license to grow a product, final market is to be determined. Industrial hemp has the potential to be a viable crop in North Carolina. However, the crop is only two years old and market is still developing and hard to define.

- Commissioner **McLawhorn** reiterated Vice-Chairman **Stewart's** comments, and noted there are over 300 registered processors in the state and wild claims are being made. While optimistic it will be a viable crop, growers need to be careful and know who they are doing business with. There are cases where people are being paid for a small portion of their crop or not receiving payment at all.
- Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted that growers need to do their homework and to proceed with caution.
- Reminder of Statement of Economic Interest – *Mr. Jon Lanier, Assistant General Counsel, NCDA&CS*
 - Mr. **Lanier** reminded Commission members of the requirement to file Statement of Economic Interest to the State Ethics Commission before April 15, 2019. An email was sent to Commissioners with additional details on this process.
- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Carpenter**.

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