

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

February 28, 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
Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chairman	Anne Brown, Department of Justice
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Jayne Kizer, NCSU
Mr. Pat Short	Beth Farrell, Ag Programs Specialist, NCDA&CS
Mr. Fen Rascoe	

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. Five 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 potential conflicts were identified by Commissioners.

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

Chairman **Melton** noted that the purpose of the meetings of the Commission have changed. Early meetings of the Commission were to establish rules. The purpose of this meeting is to approve applications; the Research Pilot Program in North Carolina will continue until changes related to the 2018 Farm Bill are implemented. 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. expressed the necessity of each speaker identifying himself each time they speak on the call. 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 February 27, 2019, North Carolina has 603 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 7,321.27 licensed acres and 3,304,274 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 400 registered processors in the state.

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- Mr. **Wilson** noted that interest and application volume for the N.C. Industrial Hemp Pilot Program is very strong. Based on the high volume of applications being received, it is currently taking approximately 6-8 weeks to review and validate application information before they are reviewed and approved by the Commission. Continued patience with staff and this process is appreciated. Mr. Wilson also requested that applicants not call unless it is absolutely necessary.

Approval of Minutes from the February 15, 2019 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes made by Commissioner **Carpenter** and seconded by Commissioner **Rascoe**. 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: Steven Lee Byrd; Timothy Mark Parton; Martha S. Calderon; Teddy Gerard Wright; Mathew Cunningham; Charles Alexander Fesquet; John Thomas Dalrymple; Troy Allen Slager; Rebecca Vernon Pugh; Mathew Rustin Ponder; Donald Watkins; Paul Skinner; Benjamin Derrick Hobson; William Gregory Hipp; Anthony Blake King; Jay Wayne Pearson; Bundy Howell Lane; Xavier Iglesias; James Thomas Hines; Jamie Leigh Hargitt; Andrew Harding Walker; Clayton David Hinnant; John W. Ervin; Leslee Jane Wooton; West Porter Hunter, III; Karie L. Bradshaw; Steven C. Coombs; Karen Lynn King; Bobby Ray Hope; Christopher Alan Tomsic; Paul Anthony Johnson; Garrett Blake Whitfield; Gerald Alan Broome; Jacob Wade Giddens; Travis Wayne Buchanan; Danny Wilson Hayes, Jr.; Jason Earl Hunter; Olian Riggs Williams, III; Morgan Colby Milne; Joy Bono; Zachary Roland Dail; James Lovette Dail; James Rollings Dail; Henry Graham Knott, Jr.; David Wayne Jenkins; John Franklin Gilmore, Jr.; Timothy Luther Thomas; Steven Walker Thomas; Jeffrey Scott Boykin; Ronnie William Moore; Chad Dustin Miller; Brian Wilson Howard; Johnny Bert Cockerham; Jerry Dean Baldwin; James Hunger Frederick; Carol Walser Jennifer; Jayna Fene Davis; Robert Kuntz Reid; Daniel L. Cecil; Dawn Reynolds; Jimmy Douglas Mitchell; Troy Shawn Hunter; Daniel Colton Phillips; Roderick Tugwell; Shirley Stuart Pierce; David Glenn Hyatt; Michael Eugene Hunter; William Terry Sheffield; Jacob Thad Allen; Jimmy Edward Hill; John Lindsey Nelson; William Gordon Styles; Theodore Van Essendelft; Eric Brian Miller; Justin William Lanasa; David Lee Smith; Joseph Alfred Hauser III; Lemuel Duncan Black, III; Daniel Paul Branciforte; Robert William Harris, Jr.; Bryant Arthur Green; Charles Dickerson King; Rodney Neil Dickerson; Stephen Allen Sanders; Michael Lee Young; Leslie Waddell Merritt, III; Darry Gray Somerset; Timothy Dale Cobb; Jane Alcott Burrell-Griffin; Gregory Wayne Atkinson; Larry Gordon Boyd; Walter Samuel Butler, III; Lori A Porter; Chad Lee Gentry; Randy Bryant Whitt; Michael Scott Woods; William Steven Slade; Bobby Dwayne Chambers; Tommy Smith Kimbro; Katherine (Kay)

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Isabelle Kimler; Adam Garrtt Schwartz; Orville McField Wiggins; Mitchell Blan Bottomley; Gerald Wayne Holcomb, Jr; Timothy William Moser; Danny Wayne Williamson.

- Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications listed above. Commissioner **Short** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **McLawhorn** seconded the motion to approve. After roll call vote, all applications were approved.
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that approved applicants would be receiving an invoice and permit will be sent after it is paid.
 - **Anne Brown**, Department of Justice, will research to see if full names as presented on applications have to be read out loud.
- Warning about the grey areas of existing law – *Mr. Phil Wilson, Director, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS*
 - Mr. **Wilson** warned permit holders and manufacturers about grey areas; questions remain with FDA regarding final products including CBD and other extracts from hemp. NCDA&CS recently 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. North Carolina will continue to operate under the 2014 Farm Bill provisions; It may take several months to develop the State Plan as required in the 2018 Farm Bill.
 - Chairman **Melton** suggested that processors and others consuming product need to be as safe as possible. Existing food safety and supplement regulations may help with this process. Some products still in question and it is illegal to make health claims on products per FDA.
 - Commissioner **Rascoe** suggested that licensed growers don’t plant anything they can’t plow up and advised to be careful if they don’t have a contract or market for hemp.
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that it is an expensive crop to plant and there may be marketing challenges. He also asked that if people have agronomy questions that those be emailed to industrialhemp@ces.ncsu.edu; application questions may be sent to industrialhemprequests@ncagr.gov. Chairman **Melton** also encouraged people to read all rules and website information. He reminded processors that they have to register separate from an application to grow hemp. License issued by the Commission only are until point of market.
 - Commissioner **McLawhorn** noted that greenhouse experience in growing other crops doesn’t translate to hemp greenhouse issues. There is currently a lack of CPAs approved for hemp and suggested getting help from someone experienced in horticultural crop greenhouse production.
 - Chairman **Melton** also noted there is no exception to bona fide farmer status to receive a permit to grow industrial hemp in North Carolina.
 - Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Short**.

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