

**North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission
Emergency Meeting**

**MINUTES
July 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.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	Paul Adams, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Tien Cheng, Department of Justice
Chief Tony Godwin	Janyne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Sheriff Tim Manning	Beth Farrell, Ag Programs Specialist, NCDA&CS
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Mr. Fen Rascoe	
Mr. Pat Short	

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. Eight 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 of interest were identified.

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

Chairman **Melton** noted that the purpose of this meeting is for the Commission to consider a resolution in response to the House Finance and Judiciary Committee reclassifying smokable hemp as a class six controlled substance, marijuana, before the Farm Act is considered Wednesday morning. Since this is an emergency meeting, no other items will be discussed. There is no public comment period for this meeting.

New Business

Commission consideration of a resolution in response to the House Finance and Judiciary Committee reclassifying smokable hemp as a class six controlled substance, marijuana, before the Farm Act is considered Wednesday morning (July 24).

- Discussion was held regarding the authority of the Commission to submit resolutions to the N.C. General Assembly.

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- Tien **Cheng**, Assistant Attorney General, noted that he had investigated this issue. Since the Commission was created by the N.C. General Assembly, it has the authority to provide information to the body that may be helpful and address misconceptions.
- Chairman **Melton** read the proposed resolution.
- Commissioner **Rascoe** moved to adopt the resolution; this was seconded by Commissioner **Short**.
- The Commissioners discussed the resolution. Commissioners representing the law enforcement community indicated they would have to vote no because of concerns, but that they support farmers. Commissioners also expressed appreciation to law enforcement, and noted concerns of farmers and industry who have made tremendous investment in this year's crop.
- Commissioner **Stewart** shared language from the 2018 Farm Bill that differentiates industrial hemp from marijuana via federal law.
- Chairman **Melton** conducted a roll call vote. Commissioners **Stewart, Carpenter, McLawhorn, Rascoe, and Short** voted in favor of the resolution. Commissioners **Godwin** and **Manning** voted against the resolution. Chairman **Melton** noted that this was the first split vote for the Commission.
- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Short**.

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