

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

June 7, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance:	Other official attendees:
Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman	Paul Adams, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Anne Brown, Department of Justice
Sheriff Tim Manning	Jayne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Beth Farrell, Ag Programs Specialist, NCDA&CS
Mr. Fen Rascoe	
Mr. Pat Short	
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. Seven 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 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. Paul Adams, Fertilizer Field Supervisor, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS*

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

- Mr. **Adams** reported that as of June 7, 2019, North Carolina has 1,106 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 13,166.51 licensed acres and 5,206,312 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 621 registered processors in the state.

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Approval of Minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Short** 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: Edward Lee Johnson; Samuel Tyler Johnson; Kenneth Harold Foley; George D. Bell; Ronald Lee Simmons; Presley Justin Caudill; Patrick Boddie Edwards; Adam James Steele; Jessica Boyer; Michael Bruce Gray; Natalie Harvey-Fonvil; Jody Ernst Clemmons; Donna Case Herron; Nancy Diane Long; Curtiss Patrick Martin; Mark Alan Bumgarner; Justin Tyler Bingham; John Michael Pridgen; Frank Donald Caudle; Seth R. Williams; Sandy Maurice Alston; L. Karl Deford; Thomas Reggie Ragsdale; Rebecca Rose Burkhead; Robert Dowe Edwards; Trina Holmes Carter; Zachary Paul Smith; Herman Richard Barrow; Barry Sheldon Bohrer; Jeffrey Keith Rector; Sarah Ann Hankerson; Ollie Lee Bowling; Brent Alan Riggs; Kristen Marie Sheckelhoff; Michael Lynn Gay; Willie Earl Tart; Charles Martin Tart, Jr.; Glenn Robert Morris; Conrad Daniel Orth; James Thomas Vinson, Jr.; Brenden Alexander Powell; Wilbert Harvey Roberts; Michael Edward Buffaloe; Gregory Wesley Dooley; and Ronald Edward Waters.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications (listed above). Commissioner **Manning** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **McLawhorn** seconded the motion to approve. After roll call vote, all applications were approved.
- Warning about the grey areas of existing law – – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that the laws and interpretation of laws regarding industrial hemp keep evolving. Once a license is issued, farmers are approved to grow and sale industrial hemp. Grey areas continue around CBD products and urged farmers to be aware; it is a rapidly growing industry. He also advised that contracts need to be reviewed.
 - Commissioner **Rascoe** advised growers not to plant more than they can afford to sit on for a year or have destroyed.
- Discussion regarding response to SBI letter from Commission voted on and approved at last meeting – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that a draft letter was prepared following the last meeting and shared with Commissioners for review. Since the May 23 meeting, there has been discussions with members of the General Assembly to provide additional information. Work has also been done with the NC Industrial Hemp Association who has met with the SBI. The most recent version of the Farm Act

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of 2019 delays the smokable ban to 2020 to allow time for law enforcement to develop protocols.

- Commissioner **Manning** noted that the concern from law enforcement is the testing. The Sheriffs Association is discussing this with SBI, and biggest concern is around THC testing. They want farmers to be successful, but law enforcements needs to be able to properly test products.
 - Commissioner **Rascoe** agreed with Commissioner **Manning**, but wants to ensure that farmers have be involved in discussing testing. He also expressed concern regarding transporting the crop after it is harvested.
 - Commissioner **McLawhorn** stated he doesn't see a downside to sending a letter.
 - Commissioner **Carpenter** expressed that this is a new crop for farmers in the state that is being threatened; he noted his support for the letter.
 - Discussion was held regarding who the letter should be addressed to. Consensus was that it should be addressed to Robert Schurmeier, Director, NC State Bureau of Investigation, with copy to Governor Cooper, primary sponsors of the North Carolina Farm Act of 2019, and Commissioner Troxler.
- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Manning**.

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