

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

May 23, 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	Tien Cheng, 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. Commissioner **McLawhorn** noted conflict with Application #1379, Donald Rudolph Blizzard, Sr.

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 May 23, 2019, North Carolina has 1,017 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 12,635.92 licensed acres and 4,946,965 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 601 registered processors in the state.

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Approval of Minutes from the May 3, 2019 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Short** and seconded by Commissioner **Carpenter**. 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: Beverly Buckler Roberts; Jessica Brook Martin; Jeremy Scott Allen; Dennis Lee Costner; Tyler Scott Leviner; Joshua Leon Biddix; William Dakota Sprouse; Jonathan Andrew Paquette; Shane Highsmith; Jared Andrew Penny; Donovan Bryan Jeffreys; Michael David McKinney; Robert Glenn Harper; Frederick Alexander Cameron; Jesse Jerame Brown; Charles Eugene Tucker; Brooks Barnes; Douglas Irwin Torn; Cecil Strother Dunn, II; Adam Coy Summers; Rosa Michelle Cupp; Matthew Wayne Grissom; Jonathan McCoy Renn; David Jeremy Stewart; Julie Amanda Sizemore; Ray Davis Watson; Nichole Natasha Fenner; Gary Askew; Roger Dale Snow; Patrice D. Draughn; Robert Harold Gentry II; Janet Lee Webster; Marion Pridgen Jr.; Christopher James Taylor; Jimmy L. Thomas; Matthew Thomas Hurley; Levi Bazemore; John Franklin Browning; Mathew Rhodes; Brian Kent Warren; Timothy John Kuhls; Claire Hampton King Parrish; Jill Euvane Rolfes; Cabot Lee Crawley; Todd McPhetridge; Michael Kenneth Sigmon; Mark Anthony Garrett; David Robert Osborne; Sydney Edwards Dunn; Moses David Frazier; Meredith Taylor Leight; Craig Alan DeLay; John Cessil Pierrard; Jeremiah Taylor; Barry Steven Coe; Carl Glenn Kirby; James Ronald Ford; Lynne Hewiit Fortman; Bradley Michael Dollins; Eric Lane Waldrop; David C. Welling; Chad Spencer Davis; D. Scott Deans; Elva Daniel Elliott; William Hildreth Manning; Alvin Ray Casstevens; Thomas Ulice Elliott; Roger Beck Cross; Billy Kyle Osborne; Edward Monrow Pruitt; Joseph James Yurigan, Jr.; William Allen Bailey; Richard Vance McNeill; Jimmy Dean Barefoot; Jason Michael Barbour; Eric Lynn Lucas; Grady Eddie Johnson; James Howard Inscoe; Robert Dale Reese; John Gerry Huffines; Dale Brent McKinney; Jeffrey Lee Vuncannon; Darren Mack Joines; Christopher Deshawn Totton; Jeffrey J. Smith; Michael Kevin Revels; Daniel Westely Williams; Terry Wayne Falls; James Samule Latorre; Justin Emery Schmidt; Charles Olive Whitley Jr.; William Robert McLeod; Mary Ann Harris; James E. Craver; Courtney C. Alston Wilson; Randy David Tucker; James Stevens Thompson; Matt Hobgood Adcock, Jr.; Charles J. Sheffield; Robert Carl Cassata; Maricoma Steele; and Billy Joe Hatfield.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications (listed above). Commissioner **Manning** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Carpenter** seconded the motion to approve. After roll call vote, all applications were approved.

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- Application #1379, Donald Rudolph Blizzard, Sr.: Commissioner **Rascoe** moved to approve Application #1379 and Commissioner **Short** seconded. Chairman **Melton** did a roll call vote; Commissioner **McLawhorn** abstained from voting. Application was approved.
 - Commissioners Discussion of SBI Letter— *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that industry had made him aware of a letter recently circulated by the State Bureau of Investigation outlining industrial hemp/CBD issues. Chairman **Melton** asked that people contact the N.C. Industrial Hemp Association if they have questions. Commissioners discussed the negative impacts that the proposal would have on the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp, and especially hemp farmers, in North Carolina. **ACTION:** Commissioner **Carpenter** moved for the N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission write a letter to the SBI stating that the Commission disagrees with the solutions and premise of the letter; this was seconded by Commissioner **Rascoe** and it was approved. Commissioner **Melton** noted that a letter will be prepared unless legal counsel to the Commission says it isn't permissible.
 - Warning about the grey areas of existing law — — *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that some of the challenges regarding grey areas of the law were outlined earlier in the meeting; there is a lot of risk in growing industrial hemp and it is an expensive commodity to produce. There is currently no insurance available and the crop has agronomic challenge; if the THC is above 0.3%, a crop will be destroyed. He advised that a contract be reviewed by legal counsel and that buyers and sellers both need to be aware.
 - Commissioner **Rascoe** noted that there is a gold rush mentality and industrial hemp is a hard plant to farm. He advised growers to be careful who they are doing business with and to not plant more than you can afford to have destroyed. He also encouraged having a market established before planting a crop.
 - Commissioner **Manning** asked about a farmer with an industrial hemp license buying industrial hemp from another licensed grower and transporting to their farm; Chairman **Melton** noted that the Commission cannot give legal advice, but it is currently legal to transport industrial hemp in state with a license.
 - Commissioner **McLawhorn** noted that with over 600 licensed processors in the state, there may be some practices that do not make agronomic sense. The high number of processors leads to increased need of being careful and aware of who you re doing business with.
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that people may be consuming these products and it is important to adhere to manufacturing standards.
- Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Carpenter**.

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