

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

March 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance:	Other official attendees:
Dr. Tom Melton, Chair	Paul Adams, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Tien Cheng, Department of Justice
Chief Tony Godwin	Janyne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Beth Farrell, General Administration, NCDA&CS
Sheriff Tim Manning	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Pat Short	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
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 and to finalize the Commission's comments to USDA regarding the interim final rules for the domestic hemp production program. 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. There is no public comment period for this meeting.

Recognition of Special Guests – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*

Chairman **Melton** noted there were no special guests at this meeting.

Industrial Hemp Program Update – *Mr. Paul Adams, NC Industrial Hemp Program Manager,
Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS*

Chairman **Melton** called on Paul Adams, NC Industrial Hemp Program Manager, to provide a program update.

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- Mr. **Adams** reported that as of March 16, 2020, North Carolina has 1,443 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 17,444.12 licensed acres and 7,245,443.59 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 1,024 registered processors in the state.

Old Business

- Commission comments to the Federal Register regarding USDA’s interim final rule for the establishment of a domestic hemp production program – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** noted the N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission’s comments were submitted; recommendations are in line with comments from others. North Carolina will stay with its current industrial hemp pilot program authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill until October 2020.

New Business

- Approval of Minutes from the February 14, 2020 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2020, meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Short** and seconded by Commissioner **Carpenter**. Motion passed on a voice vote.
- Review and Approval of Research Pilot Program Applications – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - On behalf of Chairman **Melton**, Commissioner **Carpenter** read the names of the applications under consideration at this time: Grady Hunt; Charlotte Robinson; Timothy Barnard Davis; Sandra Ambrose Tankard; Anthony Iott McVay; Robert E. French; Edward Brian Duncan; David Bryan Williams; Chandler Lee McCullen; Daniel Ryan VanOrden; Kellie Renee Benton; Christian Brock Dobson; Sheri Lynn Spain; Jonathan Wayne Stallings; Virgil Darrell Cannon, Jr.; Vernessa Lashawn Hoffman; Kristalyn Bunyan; Camille Yvette Parham; Quynh T. Ly; James Vincent Villa; Jeffery Robert Jones; David White; Gary Wayne Morgan, Jr.; Ronnie William Moore; Rachel Barrera Arreola; Rodney Andrew Underwood, II; Robert G. Christman; Shari Jill Stowers-Hoffman; Ian Barnett; Jack Williams; Austin Dean Poindexter; Ernest O. Edwards; Mabel Jones Matthews; Richard Johnston White; Brian Scott Darcy; Daniel Nixon Rawls; James Stephen Arrington; Tavoris Phelps; Brian Eugene McFarland; Michael Scott Sanderson; Charles Marvin Tart, Sr.; John Craig Artley; David Ray Everette; Carrie Elaine Coleman; Daniel Algernon Savage; William Martin Jones; Melissa N. Pulkoski; and Hannah Burrack.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications presented. Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Manning** seconded the motion to approve.
 - After roll call vote, all applications were approved.

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- Update on 2019 Farm Act and USDA Interim Final Rule for the establishment of a domestic hemp production program – Mr. Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
 - Mr. **Lanier** reported there is not a lot of new information on either the 2019 Farm Act or the USDA Interim Final Rule. North Carolina will be continuing the pilot program, but it is in a transition phase and will need direction from the N.C. General Assembly to move forward. If possible, the Farm Act would include enabling legislation. As reported earlier, the N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission submitted comments to USDA on the interim rules along with others, including the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. There has also been discussion to extend the pilot program, but no action has been taken by USDA to date.
 - Commissioner **Manning** asked Mr. **Lanier** why the name changed from “industrial hemp” to “domestic hemp”. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. **Lanier** didn’t respond. Ms. **Coite**, NC State University clarified that it is language being used by USDA.
- Warning about the grey areas of existing law - Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** noted that the market may be declining and that a lot of raw and CBD hemp remains unsold. He noted that some growers are electing not to grow as much this year. He suggested that before a license holder spends money for them to know when and how they are going to sale their crop. He also encouraged license holders to have a lawyer review the contract before signing.

Adjourn: Being no further business, Commissioner **Carpenter** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Short**.

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