

# North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

## MINUTES

March 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.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 |
| Mr. Pat Short                | Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS |
| Dr. Guochen Yang             | Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS    |
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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. Six 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.

### N.C. Industrial Hemp Commission

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Guy Carpenter      Chief Tony Godwin      Billy McLawhorn  
Sherriff Tim Manning      Fen Rascoe      Pat Short      Dr. Guochen Yang

- Mr. **Adams** reported that as of March 27, 2020, North Carolina has 1,458 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 17,198.19 licensed acres and 7,255,708.59 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 1,051 registered processors in the state.

#### New Business

- Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2020 meeting – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
  - Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 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*
  - Chairman **Melton** read the names of the applications under consideration at this time: Geraldine W. Thompson; Dustin Thomas Wood; Kenneth Earl Ruffin; Jacob Aaron McKinney; Timothy Michael Fortuna; Bobby Glenn Ham; Timothy Sherrill Dellinger; Tammy Watson Collins; Willie James Owens; Brandon Corey Harrell; Christopher Wade Williams; Sharon Childers Roseman; Gregory Sumner McGuffey; Dustin Matthew Grimsley; Gerald Emliss Coggins; April P. Gaster; and Ben David Cerullo.
    - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications presented. Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Carpenter** 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 there is a lot of unknowns regarding hemp. If you receive a license today, the law may change it may no longer be valid. This is an industry with no guarantees. Market reports say that supply is heavy and many have not been able to sale their products. He advised that contracts be reviewed by a lawyer, and to be sure to work with people you know, trust and verify. The NC State hemp portal has information regarding contracts, but still advise legal review of documents prior to signing. This is a buyer beware environment.
- Other - *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
  - Chairman **Melton** noted that Chief Tony Godwin is stepping down from the NCIHC. He thanked him for his service. The NC Senate will name a replacement.
  - Commissioner **Godwin** responded that it has been an honor to serve and that he wishes the best to the Commission and hemp program; he will continue to serve until a replacement is appointed.

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

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