

## North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

### MINUTES

May 1, 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
Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair	Tien Cheng, Department of Justice
Mr. Guy Carpenter	Janyne Kizer, EIT, NCSU
Chief Tony Godwin	Beth Farrell, General Administration, NCDA&CS
Mr. Billy McLawhorn	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division, NCDA&CS
Mr. Fen Rascoe	Jon Lanier, Asst. General Counsel, NCDA&CS
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. 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 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 May 1, 2020, North Carolina has 1,481 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 23,235.55 licensed acres and 7,262,454.59 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 1,061 registered processors in the state.

### New Business

- Approval of Minutes from the March 27, 2020 meeting – *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
  - Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2020, meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Short** and seconded by Commissioner **Rascoe**. 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: Titia Long-Nickens; Garey Neal Futrell; Marcus Earl Johnson; Austin Tony Shuler; Leonard Lamont Williams; Robert W. Blount; Christopher Dwayne McKee; Anderson Hall Blanton; David Scott Berthel; Rowena Asignacion Lineberger; Jonathan Garrett Davis; David Atlas Boger; Jonathan Scot Carpenter; Ida Ruth Cameron; Katherine Showers; Duane Drinkwine; Eileen M. Conz; Robert Earl Bruce; Erik Peter Miller; Robert L. Greene; Marlisa Harrison; Christopher Neal Walls; Shawn Kent Poe; Donald Lawrence White; Ivan Miller Lawson; Jerry Wayne Beachum; Jimmy Dale Keith; Steven Michael Crowell; Lisa Marie Osborne; April Nicole Durham; Marika Long; William T. Minor; Anna Hite Overby; Dayton Joseph Pfenning; Cindy D. Davis-Bryant; Richard Allen Connell; Wendell Scott Weathington; Sonia Marie Swain; and Kenneth Andrew Wright.
    - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications presented. Commissioner **Carpenter** 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 – *Commission Members*
  - Commissioner **Rascoe** noted there is currently a lot of inventory in storage from last year. He encouraged applicants to list who they are selling product to on their application. There is much misinformation circulating regarding how profitable hemp can be; anticipates there will be a lot of inventory this year and prices of the CBD market have about bottomed out. He reiterated the need for growers to have a contract in place prior to planting.
  - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted that North Carolina’s ability to operate a pilot program is authorized by both state and federal legislation. Currently, the state’s pilot program will expire in October 2020 and the future is uncertain at this time. In looking at the proposed federal guidelines, resources don’t currently exist for North Carolina to administer the USDA Domestic Hemp Production Program; COVID-19 complicates this further. Discussion is being held at the national level to allow states to continue operating under pilot programs until the interim rule ends in two years and NC is advocating for this approach; the hemp regulatory space is also grey at this time.

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- Chairman **Melton** reiterated 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 after October 2020. 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.
- Other - *Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman*
  - Commissioner **Rascoe** thanked Commissioner Troxler, Dr. Stewart and NCDA&CS staff for their efforts regarding COVID-19 in addition to normal duties.
  - Chairman **Melton** noted that Chief Tony Godwin's replacement has not been named and thanked Commissioner **Godwin** for his continued participation.
  - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** thanked Commissioner **Godwin** for his service to law enforcement and to the NC Industrial Hemp Commission.

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

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