

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

May 29, 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
Chief Daniel House	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

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.

Chairman **Melton** welcomed Chief Daniel House, NC State University Police Department, to the Commission. Chief House has served on the Board of Directors of the NC Association of Chiefs of Police for the past 8 years and is the organization’s immediate past president.

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. 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.

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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.

- Mr. **Adams** reported that as of May 29, 2020, North Carolina has 1,489 licensed industrial hemp growers, representing 16,544.73 licensed acres and 7,260,896.59 square feet of licensed greenhouse production. There are currently 1,096 registered processors in the state.

New Business

- Approval of Minutes from the May 1, 2020 meeting – Dr. Tom Melton, Chairman
 - Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2020, meeting. Motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner **Short** and seconded by Commissioner **House**. 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: Sheldon Wayne Smith; Derek Blake Evans; Edwin Kent Hively; Joseph Bateman; Alis Vanessa Araujo; Deyu Xie; Seth Allen Edwards; James Brian DePriest; Gabriel Garcia; Randy Cartland Lassiter; Robert Marion Logan; Lasana Crider; Allen Collson Pickett; Donald G. More, Jr.; Sue Robinson DeFord; Chris Stonbach; James Anthony Smith; Cristy Michele Murell; Jackie Elizabeth Rice; Ron Edwin McDaniel; James Clement Powell; and Jared William Drake.
 - Chairman **Melton** asked if there was a motion to approve the applications presented. Commissioner **Manning** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Short** seconded the motion to approve.
 - After roll call vote, all applications were approved.
- Warning about the grey areas of existing law – Commission Members
 - Chairman **Melton** stated if license holders are not familiar with markets, he encourages you to research how to sell and use your hemp product. If you don't have a contract, you may not have a market. He also encouraged Googling "hemp bankruptcy". An industry contact has indicated that they are not aware of any processors planning to buy additional hemp this season.
 - Vice-Chairman **Stewart** welcomed Chief House to the Commission. He noted that NC is operating under the 2014 Farm Bill Pilot Program until October 2020. If authority is not extended or other federal or state provisions issued, NC will be operating under the USDA Interim Final Rule. At this time, it is not sure if current license holders will be grandfathered. Currently, the legal framework around hemp is not clear past October 30, 2020.

In anticipation of the implementation of USDA rules requiring all hemp to be sampled 15 days prior to harvest, Vice-Chairman **Stewart** noted that guidelines are being developed for field screening by a private entity. NCDA&CS doesn't have the capacity

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to meet these testing requirements, and the current Pilot Program operates sampling with risk-based criteria and random sampling option. Details are being finalized and will be communicated as an option to license holders. There will be a fee associated with the private entity field screening option; currently NCDA&CS charges \$70 per sample for THC compliance testing. Additional information will be available in the next couple of weeks.

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

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