

North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

MINUTES

May 21, 2018 9 AM

Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance	Other official attendees
Guy Carpenter	
Chief Tony Godwin	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division
Billy McLawhorn	Anne Brown, NCDOJ
Tom Melton, PhD	Jon Lanier, NCDA&CS
Sheriff Sam Page	Emily Febles, Program Manager
Pat Short	
Alexander Stewart, PhD	
Guochen Yang, PhD	

Call to Order – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Statement Concerning Conflicts of Interest – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Chairman **Melton** read the statement concerning conflicts of interest and asked members to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Commissioner Billy McLawhorn declared a conflict of interest for the application submitted by Donald Blizzard #399 and stated that he would abstain from any discussion of this application and from voting on the application.

Roll Call of Attendees– Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

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.

Chairman **Melton** introduced Kara Malone, administrative specialist for the Research Stations Division, who replaced Lori Pfister.

Program Update – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Chairman **Melton** called on Phil Wilson to provide a program update.

- **Wilson** – Reported that as of today (5/18/18), there are 259 licensed growers, 4,305.71 licensed acres and 589, 862 square feet of licensed greenhouse production.
- Chairman **Melton** commended the Plant Protection Section for their quality work they provide and for ensuring the submitted applications are satisfactory.

Approval of Minutes from the May 3, 2018 meeting– Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 3 2018 meeting. Motion to approve Commissioner **Carpenter**, and Seconded by Commissioner **McLawhorn**. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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New Business

- To review and approve research pilot program applications. **Melton** – Acknowledged the stated potential conflict of interest of Commissioner Billy McLawhorn, related to applicant by Donald Blizzard #399. Commissioner Melton stressed that it's important to allow a few days for submitted applications to be reviewed and approved. For example, if an application was submitted past last Wednesday, more than likely the application won't be included in this group.
- Chairman **Melton** read the names of applications under consideration: Clarence Dean; Stephen Porter; Joseph Evans III; James Griffin Jr.; Michael Gay; Edwin van de Bovenkamp; Lewis Johnson; Joseph Bunting; Robert Martin; Daniel Gray; Phillip Patterson; Patrick Granson; Lewis Lee: Gilbert Warren; Colon Gray; Philip Smith: Michael Ginn; Gregory Hinnant: Andrew Jones; Robert Glover; William Harrell; Kelly Bennett; Steven Griffin; Jason Jacobus; Royce Boyette; Tammy Bridges, Matthew Grady; Clarence McSwain Jr; Terry Thompson; Roy Harrington; Roger Hunt.
- Chairman **Melton** stated he would entertain a motion to either approve or deny the applications listed above with the exception of Donald Blizzard #399 that Commissioner Billy McLawhorn had declared a conflict of interest for the application. Commissioner **Godwin** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Carpenter** seconded the motion to approve. Chairman **Melton** called for discussion.
- Vice-Chairman **Stewart** – Noted that the vast majority of applications were to grow industrial hemp for floral material to produce CBD. H then reiterated several points he made at a previous meeting. North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission's role is to oversee the research pilot program and the agricultural products that come out of that. He felt that the Commission has to be very, very consistent in taking the stance that they do regulate the production of industrial hemp and this research pilot program up until the point that the farmer actually sells the agricultural product. Having made that preface, he reminded the applicants that each applicant intends to market the floral material for CBD extract and some also intend to market the seed and fiber. He further reminded applicants that the Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) still maintains that products marketed to the consumer that include CBD extracts as not being legal or as the FDA states, a "prohibited act" and so the final product here to the consumer is one that there are competing legal views about. He felt the applicants need to know this and to understand this and that as a Commission all applicants and participants in the program need to certainly do their homework because of that market uncertainty and what he called a very gray legal area.
- Chairman **Melton** explained the application only allows you to grow the crop, not market it.
- Sheriff **Page** stated that he forwarded information on previous issues related to this (10:31) to the Guildford Police and Chairman Melton and Dr. Stewart.
- Chairman **Melton**-inquires if there is any additional discussion. Hearing none, he called for a roll call vote. The motion passed with all Commissioners present voting in the affirmative to approve the applications.

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- Chairman **Melton** then stated he would entertain a motion to either approve or deny the applications of Donald Blizzard #399 that Commissioner Billy McLawhorn had declared a conflict of interest for. Commissioner **Short** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Carpenter** seconded the motion to approve. Chairman **Melton** called for discussion.
- Chairman **Melton**-inquires if there is any additional discussion. Hearing none, he called for a roll call vote. . The motion passed with all Commissioners present voting in the affirmative to approve the applications with the exception of Commissioner **McLawhorn** who abstained from the vote due to a declared conflict of interest.
- There was no new business introduced
- The next meeting is proposed to be an in-person meeting in June at the Martin Building at the State Fairgrounds. Ms. Febles stated she would send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best date based on Commissioner's availability.
- Adjourn: Commissioner **Godwin** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Carpenter**.

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