

# North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission

## MINUTES

June 7, 2018 9 AM

### Telephone / Internet Conference Call

Commissioners in attendance	Other official attendees
Chief Tony Godwin	Phil Wilson, Plant Industry Division
Billy McLawhorn	
Tom Melton, PhD	Jon Lanier, NCDA&CS
	Emily Febles, Program Manager
Fen Rascoe	
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. No conflicts of interest were identified by Commissioners.

#### Roll Call of Attendees– Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

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.

#### Program Update – Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

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

- **Wilson** – Reported that as of today (6/7/18), there are 306 licensed growers, 4548 licensed acres and 672,274 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 21, 2018 meeting– Dr. Tom Melton, Chair

Chairman **Melton** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21 2018 meeting. Motion to approve Commissioner **Rascoe**, and Seconded by Commissioner **Short**. Motion passed on a voice vote.

#### New Business

- To review and approve 23 research pilot program applications. **Melton** -

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Sherriff Sam Page    Fen Rascoe    Pat Short    Dr. Guochen Yang

Dr. Sandy Stewart, Vice-Chair

- Chairman **Melton** read the names of applications under consideration: Grigg Sheffield; Andrew Naylor; Ashley White; Randall Watkins; Jason Dixon; Mark Davis; Alex Watkins; Christopher Smith; Leon Alphin; Karl Schmidt, III; Brent Scott; Roy Rogers; Christopher Pettit; Charles Williamson; Andrew Davis IV; Henry Brothers; Justin Price; Bo Gilliam; Jonathan Shackelford; Billy Warren; Michael Beal; Matthew Dean; Casey Glover
- Chairman **Melton** stated he would entertain a motion to either approve or deny the applications listed above. Commissioner **McLawhorn** made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner **Rascoe** seconded the motion to approve. Chairman **Melton** called for discussion.
- Vice -Chairman **Stewart** – Noted that all 23 of the applications were to grow industrial hemp for floral material to produce CBD. The Industrial Hemp Commission’s role is to regulate the program from the cultivation all the way through the point of sale. 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. NC law mirrors federal law when it comes to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The FDA is not exactly clear when it comes to its position on products containing CBD. The commission can’t provide legal advice. The unclear legality of CBD provides affects the market, marketability and the crop they are licensing. This is especially true if they are producing from foreign material from where the extract comes. Applicants need to see legal counsel for legality questions and to do their research concerning the marketability of CBD.
- Chairman **Melton** requested that Ms. Febles add Vice-Chairman **Stewart’s** statement to the agenda for future meetings to ensure that it be communicated at each meeting if Vice-Chairman **Stewart** was absent. Chairman **Melton** reiterated that it’s legal for farmers to sell the crop and its flower parts to outlets. After the sales transaction, there is gray area on the legal side. He thanked Dr. Stewart for bringing it up each meeting.
- Chairman **Rascoe** explained that this is not a ‘get rich quick’ scheme and applicants need to do their research not only on the legal side but the marketability of the crops. Applicants must remember to consider the sources from which they receive their information. There is a lot of false information about the program and its requirements. It’s important for people to realize that this is program is not for everyone.
- Chair **Melton** explained how this program is not for those in ‘financial strains’. Melton advises applicants to not invest more money than you can afford to lose. This is a great program and they are excited about it.
- 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.
- There was no new business introduced.

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- Adjourn: Commissioner **Rascoe** made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner **Short**.

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