

**Minutes**  
**Public Meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council (NOAC)**  
**November 12 2010**

Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA)  
405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order 1:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Marcia Litsinger, John Davidson (proxy for Sharon Davidson), Rick Lattin, Mark O'Farrell, Bruce Quinlan

Members of the Public: Steve Litsinger, Steve Slusser

NDOA staff: Steve Marty

**3. Introductions**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the November 12, 2010 NOAC meeting was approved as offered.

**5. Approval of Minutes From Previous Meeting**

Marcia Litsinger made a motion to approve the minutes as offered. The motion was seconded by Bruce Quinlan and passed by a vote of 5-0.

**6. Public Participation**

Mark O'Farrell stated that Virginia Johnson had contacted him and urged him to better advertise council vacancies prior to making recommendations to the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

**7. Old Business**

A) Correspondence and Announcements **(Informational)**

Marcia Litsinger stated that she had been contacted by producers regarding the possibility of conducting workshops and trainings in the Southern Nevada area. This correspondence was tabled to be discussed under agenda item 8(C).

**8. New Business**

A) Discussion and action regarding the establishment of a protocol for assessing the need for and/or responding to comment solicitations on National or State organic issues. **(Action)**

Mark O'Farrell noted the lack of comments submitted regarding the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) green waste in compost document, and suggested that the council may need a protocol for responding to USDA NOP comment solicitations. Rick Lattin made a motion to create an actionable item on future OAC agendas to address all NOP solicitation bulletins and take appropriate actions.

B) Discussion and action regarding suggestions for soliciting participation in council activities for 2011. **(Action)**

The council discussed expanding the distribution list for Nevada Organic Advisory Council (NOAC) activity and meeting notices in order to increase attendance. Rick Lattin suggested the potential to use the Nevada Grown email distribution list to locate interested parties and assist in the

development of an NOAC email list. Mark O'Farrell suggested that the council generate interest in council activities by adding informational presentations or topics of interest to potential producers. Mark O'Farrell made a motion to add organic-related informational presentations or sessions to future NOAC meetings and to solicit email addresses of parties interested in receiving council correspondence. The motion was seconded by Marcia Litsinger and passed by a vote of 5-0.

C) Discussion and action regarding assessment of the educational needs of Nevada's organic community. **(Action)**

Rick Lattin stated that the council should realize that there is a demand for organic-related education in Southern Nevada, and rather than conduct an assessment the council should move on to the development of an event. Marcia Litsinger suggested that the council work with cooperators such as the WNC Specialty Crop Institute (SCI) or Whole Foods to overcome the council's lack of funding. Rick Lattin suggested that WNC SCI would likely be interested in acting as a cooperator. The council discussed a general lack of networking ability in Southern Nevada, and UNR Cooperative Extension was cited as another possible collaborator. Bruce Quinlan suggested that the council contact the relevant person at Whole Foods to establish a potential cooperative relationship. Rick Lattin identified Overton, Moapa, Logandale, and Caliente as active and growing small-farm areas with a demand for organic-related educational opportunities. Mark O'Farrell made a motion to create an education sub-committee headed by Marcia Litsinger which is to make contact with the WNC Specialty Crop Institute, the Chef's Collaborative, Whole Foods, UNCE and other potential collaborators to explore funding sources and the possibility of holding an educational organic workshop in Southern Nevada during the Spring of 2011. The motion was seconded by Bruce Quinlan and passed by a vote of 5-0.

D) Discussion and action regarding the reappointment of council members Sharon Davidson, Bruce Quinlan, and Marcia Litsinger. **(Action)**

The council unanimously agreed that council members Sharon Davidson, Marcia Litsinger, and Bruce Quinlan should be recommended for reappointment to the Nevada Organic Advisory Council. All three council members had previously acknowledged their desire to continue serving on the council. Rick Lattin made a motion to recommend that Sharon Davidson, Bruce Quinlan, and Marcia Litsinger be reappointed to the Nevada Organic Advisory Council for terms of two years. The motion was seconded by Mark O'Farrell and passed by a vote of 5-0.

## **9. Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council was tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2010. Marcia Litsinger made a motion to adjourn at 3:45 pm.