

**Minutes**  
**Public Meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council (NOAC)**  
**January 21 2011**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order 1:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Marcia Litsinger, Sharon Davidson, Rick Lattin, Mark O'Farrell, Bruce Quinlan

Members of the Public: Steve Litsinger, Steve Slusser, Jana Vanderhaar, Ray Johnson, Genevieve Morgan, Maggie Cowee

NDOA staff: Peggy McKie, Jamie Greer

**3. Introductions**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Ray Johnson asked that item 8C be moved to item 8A, as Nevada Grown staff were obligated to attend a fundraiser event. A motion was made by Mark O'Farrell to approve the request as well as the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bruce Quinlan and passed by a vote of 5-0.

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

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

**6. Public Participation**

Jana Vanderhaar stated that she would like to see the contact list for the certified organic growers on the NDOA website updated. Peggy McKie suggested that the certification renewal could include an updated contact information line. Peggy will also communicate with Steve Marty to get the website contact list updated.

**7. Old Business**

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

Marcia Litsinger commented on the possibility of commingling of organic and non-organic produce in stores and transport. Marcia suggested to include the topic of commingling of organic and non-organic produce on the next meeting agenda.

Jana Vanderhaar announced that Friends of Nevada Organics would hold a fundraiser event at the Reno Whole Foods store from 5-7 p.m. on January 28, 2011.

Rick Lattin stated that a Small Farm Conference would be held on March 10-12 at the Fallon Specialty Crop Institute.

Peggy McKie stated that she and Steve Marty would attend the National Organic Program training in Portland Oregon February 7-9.

Rick Lattin stated that the Nevada Small Business Center had been awarded a USDA Specialty Crop Block grant to aid in getting a transfer station for the Great Basin Food Co-op so that growers may distribute produce more readily.

B) Update and Discussion concerning USDA NOP document entitled "Green Waste in Compost"  
**(Informational)**

Mark O'Farrell stated that his concern regarding the guidance document was that it created a loophole for producers of compost through which green waste known to be contaminated with prohibited materials could pass. Mark also stated that the council should pay closer attention to requests for comment and submit comment in the future. Peggy McKie cautioned that producers using compost contaminated with prohibited materials could lose certification if residue tests showed contamination of soil or organic crops.

Mark O'Farrell asked if there were any objections to closing out all old business items. No objections were stated.

**8. New Business**

A) Update and action from the education sub-committee concerning the development of an organic-related workshop in Southern Nevada during Spring 2011, including collaboration with Friends of Nevada Organics. **(Action)**

Marcia Litsinger stated that she had organized speakers, the venue, and dates for an educational workshop in Las Vegas. So far, she stated that response suggested high attendance. Marcia stated that the main concern was finding a place to deposit registration fees, and suggested Friends of Nevada Organics as a potential collaborator. However, Friends of Nevada Organics were not willing to accept fees until a workshop budget, schedule, and agenda could be reviewed and a contract could be drafted and signed. A vigorous discussion ensued and Mark O'Farrell moved for recess at 2:40 p.m. The meeting was motioned to order at 2:50 p.m. by Mark O'Farrell. Marcia was recognized by chairman O'Farrell for her diligence in organizing the initial components of the event. The chairman also stated that the concerns of the Friends of Nevada Organics should be discussed further. Rick Lattin suggested that the WNC Specialty Crop Institute could provide limited support in mailing advertisements. Mark O'Farrell requested a motion to establish a meeting between Friends of Nevada Organics, the Nevada Organic Advisory Council, the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the USDA Farm Service Agency, and the WNC Specialty Crop Institute. Rick Lattin moved for the meeting to be held on February 3 at 1:00 at the Reno NDOA office. The motion was seconded by Marcia Litsinger, and passed by a vote of 5-0.

B) Development of a protocol for seeking out and applying for education/outreach grant opportunities **(Action)**

Maggie Cowee gave a short presentation regarding her position at UNR and her ideas concerning the Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) grant. Maggie distributed a handout (available on request) detailing potential grant proposals and requested that the council provide suggestions via email. Mark O'Farrell suggested that the development of a protocol concerning grant opportunities be tabled until the next meeting. Rick Lattin made a motion to table item 8A until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Marcia Litsinger and passed by a vote of 5-0.

C) Review current USDA National Organic Program solicitation bulletins and take appropriate action **(Action)**

Mark O'Farrell discussed the need for the council to closely monitor USDA NOP bulletins in order to be able to provide response. Mark acknowledged Steve Marty for sending out the bulletins. No action was taken.

D) Discussion and action concerning recruitment or reappointment with regard to the Nevada Organic Advisory Council conventional agriculture position. **(Action)**

Mark O'Farrell stated that Dave Hall currently holds the council's conventional agriculture seat, but he has not been able to attend a meeting in some time. Mark opened discussion regarding reappointment or removal of Dave Hall from the council. Rick Lattin made a motion to release Dave Hall of his membership with the Nevada Organic Advisory Council and to have Steve Marty and the council take the proper steps to open the position for a conventional farmer to apply to be on the board with emphasis on recruitment of a Southern Nevada farmer. Marcia Litsinger seconded and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

## **9. Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council was tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2011, and a motion was made by Rick Lattin to authorize Mark O'Farrell to schedule the next meeting at the appropriate time slot during the Las Vega educational workshop, subject to open meeting guidelines. The motion was seconded by Bruce Quinlan and passed by a vote of 5-0. Marcia Litsinger made a motion to adjourn at 3:45 pm.

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