

**Minutes**  
**Public Meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council (NOAC)**  
**May 11, 2012**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order 1:15 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Sharon Davidson, Rick Lattin, Mark O'Farrell

Members of the Public: Steve Slusser, Rob Holley, Loni Holley

NDOA staff: Dawn Rafferty, Peggy McKie, Steve Marty

**3. Introductions**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Rick Lattin to approve the agenda as offered, and the motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0.

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

Rick Lattin made a motion to approve the minutes as offered. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0.

**6. Public Participation**

There were no items addressed under public participation.

**7. Old Business**

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

Steve Marty gave a brief update concerning the status of the Nevada Department of Agriculture organic certification program, stating that the bulk of currently certified operations had renewed their certifications as of the March 31 due date, and that revenue was thus far roughly on par with projections.

Dawn Rafferty provided a budgetary update concerning the feasibility of the council generating revenue through fundraising events and/or donations. Dawn stated that fundraising events and donations could be used to generate revenue, though the decision to do so would be an internal policy decision that would be subject to approval by the Budget Division and Executive Branch.

**8. New Business**

A) Provide a forum for public review of the Nevada Department of Agriculture Organic Certification Program and provide recommendations and/or guidance concerning the program's future direction. **(Action)**

Steve Marty discussed the results of a survey intended to gather feedback regarding the NDA organic certification program. Survey results indicated that crop and handling certification still represents the largest certification-demand, but that interest in livestock certification was expressed by a number of those surveyed. Additionally, the survey indicated strong competition for organic products from local products, as those surveyed put a stronger emphasis on the importance of local agricultural products. A motion was made by Rick Lattin to request that NDA

allocate funds for staff training in order to pursue organic livestock accreditation. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0.

B) Overview of Nevada Department of Agriculture budget process, followed by discussion and action concerning potential sources of revenue for council activities. **(Action)**

Mark O'Farrell initiated the dialogue by asking if the council should attempt to generate revenue or maintain a strictly advisory role with council members not receiving compensation. Dawn Rafferty suggested that the council and organic industry make contact with Legislators in order to pursue restoration of general funds for council activities. Rick Lattin stated that substantial funding for similar functions already exists, and that the council should consider partnering with other agencies with similar goals who have received funding. Sharon Davidson stressed the importance of the educational and outreach component of the council's stated purpose, and suggested that these activities continue either solely through the council or through partnerships with other agencies. Peggy McKie questioned the feasibility of the restoration of general funds in the current economic climate. Steve Marty stated that a small amount of start-up money generated through fundraisers or donations may help to fund council activities aimed at obtaining more substantial funding. A motion was made by Rick Lattin to direct NDA to create a budget line item to house Organic Advisory Council revenue, from which funds could be dispersed for council activities. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0. An additional motion was made by Rick Lattin to draft a letter to NDA in support of the restoration of general funds relevant to the NDA Organic Certification Program and the Nevada Organic Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0.

C) Discussion and action concerning recruitment for the Nevada Organic Advisory Council organic producer and organic industry representative position vacancies. **(Action)**

Steve Marty stated that Bruce Quinlan had submitted a letter of resignation effective May 11, 2012, and that the council subsequently needed to fill two position vacancies. Steve stated that Bryan Gardner of Global Sterilization and Kunall Patel of Davidson's Organics had expressed interest in the producer/handler vacancy. Rick Lattin made a motion to accept Bruce Quinlan's resignation effective May 11, 2012. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0. Mark O'Farrell stated that he felt a presence from the Great Basin Community Food Coop would be beneficial to the council, and suggested Nicole Sallaberry as a potential candidate. Mark inquired as to the ability of a council member to designate proxy representation, and Steve Marty stated that proxy designation is addressed in the council bylaws and is possible. A motion was made by Rick Lattin to nominate Nicole Sallaberry to fill the open industry representative position on the council, pending approval from Ms. Sallaberry. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0. An additional motion was made by Rick Lattin to nominate Kunall Patel of Davidson's Organics to fill the vacant producer/handler vacancy on the council. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0. Steve Marty stated that the nominations would be presented to the State Board of Agriculture at its August 2012 meeting for approval. Mark O'Farrell and Rick Lattin expressed their willingness to serve the council for an additional 3 year term, and Steve Marty stated that Mr. O'Farrell and Mr. Lattin would be nominated to the State Board of Agriculture for renewal at the Board's August 2012 meeting.

## **9. Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council was tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2012, and a motion was made by Rick Lattin to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon Davidson and passed by a vote of 3-0.