

Minutes
Public Meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council (NOAC)
April 5, 2013

Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
405 South 21st Street
Sparks, NV 89431

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order 1:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Rick Lattin, Mark O'Farrell, Kunall Patel, Rob Holley

Members of the Public: Nicole Sallaberry, Cody Lester, Marialice Galt, Lindsay Dixon

NDA staff: Steve Marty

3. Introductions

4. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rob Holley to approve the agenda as offered. The motion was seconded by Kunall Patel and passed by a vote of 4-0.

5. Approval of Minutes From Previous Meeting

Rick Lattin made a motion to approve the minutes as offered. The motion was seconded by Rob Holley and passed by a vote of 4-0.

6. Public Participation

There were no items addressed under public participation.

7. Old Business

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

Kunall Patel stated that he had attended a legislative session related to a bill which would mandate labeling of foods containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), and stated that the session had gone well.

Steve Marty stated that Sharon Davidson had announced her resignation from the Nevada Organic Advisory Council, effective immediately. The group discussed providing a memento of appreciation to Sharon.

8. New Business

A) Discussion and action regarding council input on a new NDA organic program policy relevant to organic export equivalence arrangements **(Action)**

Steve Marty distributed copies of a draft document entitled *NDA Policy Regarding Organic Equivalence Arrangements*. Upon reviewing the draft, Lindsay Dixon suggested that the burden of supplying a certifier (in this case NDA) with documentation verifying compliance with an equivalency arrangement should be placed on the relevant exporter or importer rather than the certifier. A motion to accept the draft document as NDA organic program policy was made by Rick Lattin, seconded by Rob Holley, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

B) Discussion and action regarding recruitment advertising strategy for a new seasonal position in the NDA organic and seed programs **(Action)**

Steve Marty stated that there is currently potential for funding a seasonal position at NDA which would be dedicated to assisting the NDA seed certification and organic certification programs. Rick Lattin suggested that NDA undertake a broad, long-term search for qualified candidates in order to hire an individual who could contribute to the program as an already knowledgeable organic resource and therefore get the greatest possible benefit from the position. Rick suggested numerous potential sources for advertising, including UC Davis, the Agroecology program at UC Santa Cruz, the University of Kentucky, Growing for Market, and Career Track. A motion to support NDA in the creation and continuation of a seasonal position within NDA to support the organic program was made by Kunall Patel. The motion was seconded by Rick Lattin, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

C) Discussion and action regarding the "Sound and Sensible" organic certification model presently being considered by USDA, organic certification agencies, and certified operations **(Action)** Steve Marty stated that the organic industry had been developing policies, procedures, and practices aimed at streamlining the organic certification process while ensuring organic integrity, and that the movement is being called "Sound and Sensible". Steve stated that some of the principles which had been or may be adopted by the USDA National Organic Program were available on the program website (www.ams.usda.gov/NOP). A motion to support the "Sound and Sensible" model and be informed of any new developments in the process was made by Rick Lattin and seconded by Kunall Patel. The motion was passed by a vote of 4-0.

D) Discussion and action regarding the recruitment of new council members to fill vacant producer/handler and consumer positions on the Nevada Organic Advisory Council **(Action)** Nicole Sallaberry of the Great Basin Community Food Co-op and Lindsay Dixon of Peri and Sons Farms announced their willingness to serve on the Nevada Organic Advisory Council. A motion to recommend that the Nevada Board of Agriculture nominate Nicole Sallaberry and Lindsay Dixon to fill the vacant consumer and producer/handler positions on the council was offered by Rick Lattin. The motion was seconded by Mark O'Farrell and passed by a vote of 4-0. The council also requested that Lindsay and Nicole provide a brief biography/resume to be presented to the Nevada Board of Agriculture.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Nevada Organic Advisory Council was tentatively scheduled for Friday June 21, 2013, and a motion was made by Rick Lattin to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kunall Patel and passed by a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.