

Draft Minutes  
North Dakota Organic Advisory Board  
Ft Totten Room  
State Capitol Building  
Bismarck ND  
September 30, 2010

Chairman Brad Brummond called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Roll Call was taken:

**Advisory Board members present:** Commissioner Doug Goehring, Brad Brummond, Patrick Frank, Ernie Hoffert, Britt Jacobson, Lowell Kaul, Keith Kadrmas, Anne Ongstad, Betsy Perkins, Marlene Ells representing Christina Dockter, Tim Harlow representing Dennis Schill, Ron Schlecht representing Jennifer Tesch.

**Advisory Board members absent:**, Grayson Hoberg, Kevin Kvamme, David Podoll, Kayla Pulvermacher,

**Others present:**, Chuck Fleming, Chelsea Watterud

A quorum was declared.

Chairman Brummond welcomed the new people who have previously not attended a meeting of the Advisory Board. New Board members appointed by the Commissioner included Patrick Frank and Jennifer Tesch replacing Board members Chuck Gustafson and Scott Sinner. Patrick Frank was present; Ron Schlecht was representing Jennifer Tesch and Tim Harlow was representing Dennis Schill.

Chairman Brummond asked for approval of the draft agenda. There were no objections or additions.

**Ernie Hoffert moved that the minutes of the June 2, 2010 Board meeting as printed be amended on page 2, first line of the Chairman's Report, with the word "in" being replaced by the word "is", and when so amended be approved. Seconded by Lowell Kaul. Motion carried.**

Chuck Fleming gave an updated financial report. He reported expenditures of \$5,827.00 since the June 2nd meeting bringing a total of \$16,385 in total expenditures for the 2009-11 biennium. The budget for the biennium is \$30,000. **Betsy Perkins moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Keith Kadrmas. Motion carried.**

**Reports:**

**Report from Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring**

Commissioner Doug Goehring reported that he has asked the Governor for several enhancements for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture budget for the 2011-13 biennium. Included in that request is funding for a person to spend ½ time on organic activities. He also discussed the Sustainable Ag Working group that is working on legislation passed by the 2009 Legislature session. The Commissioner indicated they will meet again by the end of the year to make recommendations on how to proceed. The

Commissioner indicated he had cautioned the group on the potential cost of the promotion that would be required to create and market a sustainable brand in the market place. The Commissioner discussed efforts farmers are making to reduce their carbon footprint and indicated more would be done in the future in that regard because of both economic and environmental concerns.

### **Report from Chuck Fleming -North Dakota Department of Agriculture**

Chuck Fleming reported on implementing the 2010 organic reimbursement program. The Department has a contract with USDA for \$140,000 for that program. ICS and OCIA Chapter #1 and Chapter #2 have a contract with the Department to administer the program for their clients, which had the support of the Advisory Board in discussions at previous meetings. Fleming indicated that this should result in more people applying for the program than in previous years.

Fleming showed the mapping of organic lands on the [www.ndorganics.nd.gov](http://www.ndorganics.nd.gov) web site. It got on the website too late to really help for the 2010 farming season, but it will be used as a base to create a map for the 2011 crop year.

Fleming supplied a copy of a draft letter to producers that was written by Janet Jacobson outlining how they could access the classified ad section on the website. Fleming indicated that it would be going out soon.

The events page has not been updated in a long time. Board members are encouraged to send items to the Department so that part of the website becomes more functional.

Fleming reported that the organic reimbursement program gives the Department a good opportunity to update the online directory on the website and that will be a continuing process.

Fleming informed the group that David Podoll was unable to make the meeting. He has been ill for some time and was recently diagnosed with Lymes Disease. A get well card was passed around for members to sign.

Fleming announced that the Department now owns a 24 foot mobile food processing unit (commercial kitchen on wheels). It will be used to promote North Dakota agriculture and also be available for lease to fruit and vegetable growers wanting to process their products or to Pride of Dakota and other companies wishing to use it. Rental rates will be \$125 per day plus cost of transportation.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Brummond reported that it has been a busy summer in his shop with personnel shortages. He shared his concern about the sustainable ag legislation that passed last session. He indicated that the Extension Service is becoming more involved in organic and sustainable activities.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Discussion was held regarding committee assignments for new members. After much discussion it was decided to rename the Weed Committee to the Weed and Pest Control

Committee and affirmed an earlier decision of the Board to eliminate the Livestock Committee. It was decided to combine the Professional Development Committee with the Consumer, Retail and Education Committee.

The following Committees and their members are:

**Consumer, Retail, Education and Professional Development Committee**

Brad Brummond, Britt Jacobson, Betsy Perkins, Christina Dockter, Kayla Pulvermacher (Non board member) – Frank Kutka

**Processor, Producer, Marketing Committee**

Grayson Hoberg, Ernie Hoffert, Lowell Kaul, Kevin Kvamme, Dennis Schill, Ann Ongstad, Jennifer Tesch,

**Weed and Pest Control Committee**

David Podoll, Keith Kadrmas, Patrick Frank  
(Non board member) – Blake Schaan – ND Dept. of Agriculture

It was a general consensus that at the next meeting of the Committees that they work from the document that was prepared a couple of years ago to help define what work projects the Board and the new person at the ND Department of Agriculture (if one is granted) should be working on to advance the organic industry in North Dakota.

Commissioner Goehring indicated that he thought we should continue to have a booth at the North Dakota Farm Bureau Convention on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. He indicated he would try to spend some time at it.

Volunteers were sought to help at both the ND Farm Bureau and the KMOT Ag Expo. Lowell Kaul and Marlene Ells indicated they would work the KMOT show again this year. Ann Ongstad and Tim Harlow each indicated they would see if their schedule permitted them to help at the ND Farm Bureau Convention.

Fleming indicated that he had received a couple of complaints from people accusing others of selling grains that were not organic as organic grains. Board members indicated those complaints needed to be handled at the National level; there is no state government enforcement provisions in North Dakota.

Lowell Kaul reported on the Bowdon Locker Plant project. He indicated that an equity drive of \$500,000 was required, with shares selling at \$5,000. There is mixed reactions in the community as to whether they can raise that amount of capital.

Kaul also indicated that he was working with the ND State Mill and looking at other possibilities in an effort to find processing of organic grains to be sold at Sam's Clubs.

No decision was made for the date of the next meeting.

Being no other business, Chairman Brummond declared the meeting adjourned.