

Minutes
North Dakota Organic Advisory Board
Bismarck Doublewood Inn
January 12, 2010

Chairman Brad Brummond called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Roll Call was taken:

Advisory Board members present: Commissioner Doug Goehring, Brad Brummond, Chuck Gustafson, Grayson Hoberg, Britt Jacobson, Lowell Kaul, Anne Ongstad, Dennis Schill, Scott Sinner and Marlene Ells representing Christina Dockter .

Advisory Board members absent: Ernie Hoffert, Keith Kadrmas, Betsy Perkins, David Podoll, Kevin Kvamme, Kayla Pulvermacher.

Others present: Pat Caar, Tom Silbernagel, Joanna Drennen, and Chuck Fleming

Scott Sinner moved the approval of the printed agenda. Seconded by Lowell Kaul. Motion carried.

Scott Sinner moved that the minutes of the October 26, 2009 Board meeting as printed be approved. Seconded by Lowell Kaul. Motion carried.

Chuck Fleming gave an updated financial report. He reported expenditures of \$1,499 since the October 26th meeting bringing a total of \$5,979 in total expenditures for the 2009-11 biennium. The budget for the biennium is \$30,000. **Anne Ongstad moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Marlene Ells. Motion carried.**

Reports:

Pat Carr gave a report on activities at the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center. A copy of his report is attached. He said he felt the Organic Field Day held last summer was a great success. He was grateful for the financial support that was provided by the Department of Agriculture for the event. He indicated there are some hurdles to overcome to be organic certified because of the unique nature of university research activities, but he was working through those problems.

Tom Silbernagel of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture gave a report on the organic certification cost share reimbursement program. He indicated that 137 applications have been process for fiscal year 2008 and 124 applications for fiscal year 2009. A copy of his report is attached.

Lowell Kaul gave an update on the Bowdon Locker Plant project. The Advisory Board had contributed \$1,000 to the feasibility study to determine the feasibility of having the plant be organically certified. Lowell is a member of the Steering Committee for the proposed plant. He reported the following:

- New Name: Bowdon Meat Processing
- Steering Committee toured local plants Enderlin, Oakes, Wyndmere. Going to pattern the plant after Oakes.

- 23 responses for Manager position. 9 phone interviews and narrowed it down to 3 candidates.
- January 11, 2010 had Status Meeting with a good turn out from organic and grass fed beef producers and ND Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society.
- Bowdon Meat Processing will tailor itself to whatever our customer wants (with the customer being the producer).
- They have reopened positions on the Steering Committee.
- Questions brought-up at Status Meeting:
 1. State inspection and Federal inspection recognizing each other.
 2. Mobile processing unit (in-use in Washington State).
- Bowdon Meat Processing is looking at any source of funds and value all input.
- Received a call from North Dakota Stockmen's Association and they are for anything that helps the beef producer; therefore are in support of Bowdon Meat Processing.

SBARE Update.

Brad Brummond reported that he had attended the SBARE meeting in Minot and made a presentation. Dennis Schill was unable to attend. He said the reaction was a mixed bag- there were some positive comments. They are openings to serve on the SBARE Board and he said it would be helpful to find people interested in organics to serve on it.

Chuck Fleming reported that Janet Jacobson had a list of things that needed to be updated on the web site. One of the priorities is to get the classified ad section completed.

New Business

Chuck Fleming handed out a proposed rule that appeared in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would amend the National List that identifies the synthetic substances that may be used in organic production to include either form of oxytetracycline for fire blight control. It further provides that tetracycline would be removed from the National List in October 2012. **It was moved and seconded that the Board support this amendment. Motion carried.**

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring arrived at the meeting. He expressed appreciation to the Board for serving on the Advisory Board. A discussion followed and various Committees of the Board reported on their activities. A discussion was held on having enough resources to promote organic activities in the Department of Agriculture. The Commissioner said he would be willing to look at recommending more support from the legislature if a report could be compiled showing a significant impact of the organic industry to the state's economy. That report would need to include the number and size of producers, employment numbers of organic processors, and a measure of the economic impact.

Old Business

The mapping of organic lands for commercial and non-commercial spray applicators was discussed. Chuck Fleming indicated that NDDA would get that done this spring and it would be put on the web site.

The date of the next Board meeting was tentatively set for March 9th at Medina.

**Grayson Hoberg moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Marlene Ells.
Motion carried.**