

Organics Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present in person: Daryl Rott, Lowell Kaul, Glenn Muske, and Theresa Podoll.

Other Present: Jamie Good, NDDA

Board Members on Conference Call: Christine Dockter, Kay Kirsch, Clair Keene, Glen Philbrick, and Stephanie Blumehagen.

Board Members Absent: Daneen Dressler, Jose Franco, Chris Weigert, Wayne Mittleider, and Annie Carlson

Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Jamie Good.
- There were some changes to the agenda. Friends and neighbors day was added under new Business as well as the NDSU Organic In-service and Sustainable food Lab Project. Motion made by Lowell and Seconded by Glenn to approve the agenda as changed. Motion passed.

Minutes

- Minutes from the March meeting was reviewed by members. Motion made by Daryl and seconded by Lowell to approve minutes as presented, motion passed.

Presidents Report

- None was given

NDDA Marketing Report

- Jamie reported that Brad Brummond and himself were invited to speak to a group of Serbian fellows about organic agriculture in North Dakota in Fargo. As part of Jamie's presentation, he presented NASS organic production data in North Dakota to the group. Jamie presented that same data to the Organics Advisory Board at this meeting.
- Jamie also updated the board that the department is preparing for session and working on budgets. Jamie shared with the board that the NDDA is being asked to make some tough decisions about program and funding. Jamie told the board that if individual members see value in any programs the department offers to contact the commissioner and tell him that.

Old Business

- none

New Business

- Jamie read the list of board members who's terms are expiring. Members include: Annie Carlson, Christine Dockter, Daryl Rott, Chris Weigert, Daneen Dressler, Jose Franco, Glenn Muske, and Stephanie Blumehagen.
- Member who said they would serve another term at the meeting were: Christine Dockter, Glenn Muske and Stephanie Blumehagen.
- Daryl Rott said maybe but indicated he would be willing to step down and let another transitioning organic farmer be in the board.
 - o The board discussed the farmer that is currently in the Organic Education and Transition Cost Share Program. Jamie will contact that individual and see if he is interested.
 - o The board expressed their approval of having a transitioning producer on the board because they bring in new ideas and share challenges they are currently facing.
- Theresa made a motion that all producer seats must be certified organic farmers/ranchers or producers that are transitioning to certified organic and working with a certifier. Motion seconded by Christine. Motion passed.
- Jamie updated the board that the NDDA is now accepting applications for the USDA Organic Cost Share Program.
- Clair updated the board that NDSU will be hosting another organic in-service for extension agents at Carrington on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.
- Clair also reported that she was contacted by the Sustainable Food Lab to review a transition to organic decision tool. She did not have much information at this point.
 - o The board discussed the need for the tool to be realistic and provide real world scenarios and data to those using it.
 - o The board discussed sharing of the tool publicly but only if it is ready for public consumption, If it still needs some development it is not a good idea just to push it out.
 - o Clair will keep the board updated on its progress.
- The board also discussed three topics to present to the commissioner as current issues going on in the organic industry. They are:
 - o Voluntary Flagging of Land, Is there enough understanding in the community what it is and how it works to be an effective solution.
 - o Supporting organic research
 - o Organic import fraud

Next Meeting

- Jamie will send out an email asking for dates that work. The consensus was to look at dates around the end of October.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55.