

Montana Hemp Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 7th, 2020 10:30 am via Zoom Meeting

I. Call to order

Director Ben Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the Montana Hemp Advisory Committee at 10:32 am on July 7th, 2020.

II. Introductions

Introductions were made starting with the committee members with department staff following.

Committee Members:

Rob Klingaman, Producer from Harlem MT

Kim Phillips, Producer from Helena MT

Jackee Beck, Producer from Deer Lodge MT

Bart Icopini, Producer from Hysham MT

Arlin Fratzke, Producer from Stevensville MT

Ken Elliott, Ex-Officio representing the Industry from Fort Benton MT

Perry Miller, Ex-Officio representing MSU from Bozeman MT

Ben Thomas, Director of the Department of Agriculture from Helena MT

Absent Member- Jamie Fitterer, Producer from Bozeman MT

Department Staff Present:

Cort Jensen, Department of Agriculture Attorney from Helena MT

Zach Coccoli, Department of Agriculture Attorney from Helena MT

Christy Clark, Department of Agriculture Deputy Director from Helena MT

Andy Fjeseth, Development and Marketing Bureau Chief from Helena MT

Ian Foley, Agriculture Science Division Bureau Chief from Helena MT

Dani Jones, Department of Agriculture from Helena MT

III. Public Comment

Cort Jensen mentioned on behalf of the public that the Blackfeet and Fort Belknap Tribes would like to interact with the committee. Covid-19 has made it difficult.

IV. Board, Council, and Committee Expectations

Cort Jensen briefed about the expectations for the committee, with only having one new member it was more for review for most members. Cort reviewed the rules and duties associated with a commodity advisory committee, powers of the Department, administrative rules; including collection, amount, crop, forms, and refunds, and State Special Revenue Fund. Orientation Handbook link was emailed to all the committee members prior to the meeting.

Dani Jones reviewed Per Diem and Travel reimbursement to the committee. Each advisory committee member is entitled to be paid \$50 for each day the member is engage in advisory committee duties. The committee member may turn down Per Diem if requested in writing. Each member is also entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while the performance of advisory committee duties. Dani Jones will make hotel reservations for the committee member when needed for out of town meetings. The committee members will provide Dani with the information needed to complete the travel reimbursement.

Director Ben Thomas reminded the committee of travel restrictions that the governor has in place at this time. If a committee member wishes to travel out of state on committee business that cannot be done at this time. In State travel is restricted to if it is necessary. When travel restrictions are lifted, all out of State Travel Requests must be approved by the department to follow reimbursement policy.

V. What are the next steps for the Checkoff?

- a) Rulemaking for the assessment and collection followed by the public comment period. Between publishing the rules and the public hearing it is about a 45-day period.
- b) Assessment will be completed at the first point of sale

- c) Assessment for the 2020 crop is voluntary, self-assessed, and refundable
- i) Andy Fjeseth encouraged outreach to growers and processors
- ii) Arlin Fratzke suggested sharing information with new growers in the committee members area, to spread awareness about the assessment and what the committee does. An outreach letter/email to new growers
- iii) Kim Phillips suggested that information be added to the committee members name about the area of Hemp the member is involved in (Fiber, Seed, CBD, Etc.)
- d) Assessment for the 2021 crop will be mandatory, but refundable
- e) After the rules are published the Hemp webpage will be updated to include assessment information

VI. Member Reports

- a) Ken Elliott has about 35-40 growers contracted; a couple of the growers are registered seed growers who will sell seed to Montana growers for the 2021 season. Ken has purchased a fiber processing line, looking towards 2021 fiber sales. He also has a contracted agronomist working with growers who may have had some issues.
- i) Arlin Fratzke worked with him while replanting some crops- crops are looking good.
- b) Ken Elliott has been approached about “Hemp Milk” by a local in the Missoula Area,
- c) Kim Phillips has a small plot of the Chinese fiber variety and a 20-acre plot in the Harlem area. She is working on an efficient method for Hemp Fiber/Crete
- d) Perry Miller spoke with a large wool producer/plant in northern Montana who is looking for High quality Hemp Fiber.
- e) Bart Icopini planted late, towards the end of June. Crops are under a pivot.
- f) Jackee Beck has 66 acres under a pivot, 25 acres under a drip line with mulch tape. She received 10 plus inches of heavy, wet snow and large amounts of moisture.

- g) Rob Klingaman has 160 acres under a pivot, 140 acres of variety X59 (working with Ken Elliott) and has been working with Kim on the Fiber end. Crops are about 6 feet tall with a severe storm warning for this evening. Fiber processor is built, getting small orders. No CBD this year, focused on Fiber and Grain.

VII. Public Comment

Ben Thomas called for Public Comment, no public comment currently

VIII. Next Meeting

- i) Next Hemp Advisory Committee meeting will take place after the 45day comment period. Should be around early September 2020

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am

Minutes submitted by: Dani Jones

Minutes approved by: Andy Fjeseth