

Montana Organic Commodity Advisory Council Meeting

December 1, 2016

Great Falls, Montana

MOCAC Members present: Alison Harmon, Catherine Odden, Karl Sutton, Mark Smith, Sam Schmidt , Matt Johnson, Ty O'Connor

Staff Members: Ron deYong, Greg Ames, Georgana Webster

Guests: Ed Hofer, Milford Colony

The conference began at 8:30 AM.

Introductions were made and the meeting was called to order by Ron de Yong

Review December 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Georgana Webster went over the major areas of the minutes:

There were no corrections or comments to the previous minutes.

Catherine Odden motioned to accept the minutes, Mark Smith seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Program Summary

A slide show of the program summary was presented by Georgana Webster.

There were a few questions regarding increases work load do to the increase in numbers.

2016/Inspectors- Department of Ag. Inspectors 5 with one new for 2017 and Contract inspectors 6 -1 to retirement. Remote Reviewers 1 +1 new reviewer for 2017.

Policy manual update was briefly covered.

Info requests- USDA Economic Survey, Private, Integrity 2014 & 2015.

Cost Share w/apps(\$118,172 paid to date, most checks out 45 day improvement)

Website updated.

It was asked if an electronic signature could be provided on the Cost Share form. It was discussed that protected documents could no longer be changed which is necessary for the accounting additions.

Producer losses due to fee increase. Two in the less than\$5,000 category surrendered.

Questions:

Sam Schmidt inquired as to the types of question asked and if there were any patterns, especially regarding new applicants.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding poultry production in Montana and what opportunities might be present to further grow the MTDA program.

Internal Audit Results 2016 for 2015(\$3,000)- slides
GW explained the various Internal Audits by MTDA staff, outside consultants and the MOCAC board members.

Reaccreditation 2017-\$500

Upcoming USDA NOP audit 2017-\$14,000+-

GW explained the audit process and length of time for the audit, 4-5+ days.

Budget Review 2015-2016/Fee Schedule Review -slide

MOCAC's program review responsibility and direction-SOP

GW discussed the system of number of files as a percentage, form to use as a check off system. Some information may be removed for confidentiality.

Open Discussion:

The possibility of a specialty grant to obtain information regarding the percentage of organic produce sales vs non-organic sales in the state was discussed. This information would help to determine what produce fees are actually organic. Jim Auer of MTDA was the suggested contact person.

12:00 Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt Johnson, Mark Smith seconded the motion and adjournment was approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Ed Tyanich