

Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes

September 5, 2001

Convened at 12:00 pm EDT, rather than 11:30 am as scheduled, due to MCI conference call service mistakes.

Present: Carolyn Brickey, Eric Sideman, Jim Riddle, Kim Burton, Steven Harper, Willie Lockeretz, and Keith Jones (NOP).

Absent: Owusu Bandele.

1. Carolyn Brickey – Chair NOSB

- Agenda was reviewed and approved.
- Announcements – Next ExCom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 11:30 am EDT.
- Minutes of 8/7/01 ExCom call approved. To be posted on NOP website.
- June NOSB minutes still being reviewed by NOP. To be circulated to NOSB by end of next week (9/14).
- Barbara Robinson not available due to illness.

2. Keith Jones – Director of Program Development/NOP

- Update about immediate activities and work plans at NOP

A. "Reasonable security" remains undefined.

B. No additional certifier trainings have been scheduled. Bob Pooler and Arthur Neal are working with the State of Delaware. There will likely be a certifier training on technical issues this winter. Beth Hayden is responsible.

- Conflict of Interest – The issue has been elevated to the Secretary's level. USDA has received significant input from Campaign for Sustainable Ag on this issue.
- NOSB Appointments - NOP short on applications. Only 4 received to date (2 producers, 2 handlers). No scientists, environmentalists, or consumer/public interest representatives have applied. **Action:** NOSB members need to contact potential applicants to encourage them to apply. To request an application, call 202-720-3252.
- A letter from NOSB to Secretary Venneman stating priority areas of expertise can be finalized at the October meeting. **Action:** CB to draft letter on expertise priorities for NOSB review.
- Trade News – EU anxious to begin equivalency negotiations. NOP has been assessing the differences between US and EU standards. Most significant differences are in the livestock standards. This would affect imported livestock products. Discussions continue with Japan, but nothing new to report. FAS to make presentation at Oct. meeting.

3. Planning for October Meeting

- Carolyn; Finalize Agenda – KJ reported that some editorial changes were made to the agenda. To be posted on web by this Friday, with press release coming out soon. Federal Register notice for meeting going through final clearance. Robert Post from FSIS to be on agenda. **Action:** Processing Committee to review and finalize questions for FSIS submitted by George Siemon.
- Keith; Logistics; hotel, travel arrangements, etc

A. Meeting to be held in back of cafeteria in USDA South Building.

B. Secretary Venneman and Bill Hock invited.

C. Board members will stay at Radisson Barcelo, Dupont Circle.

D. Katherine Benham to notify Board about travel arrangements.

4. **Reports from Committee chairs** about their roles in October meeting including each action item for the agenda.

- Eric Sideman – Chair Livestock – Items to consider at October meeting;

A. Access to pasture – to be voted as recommendation.

B. Antibiotics in Vaccines and semen – to be voted as recommendation.

C. Apiculture – to be voted as recommendation. Final report from Apiculture Task Force to be submitted to NOSB and NOP by Sept. 15. **Action:** NOP to post Apiculture Standards draft on web.

D. Aquatic Species – Task Force report to be voted as recommendation.

- Kim Burton – Chair Materials;

A. 14 materials to be considered in October. Gelatin deferred due to insufficient information submitted.

B. 4-5 new petitions have been received.

C. Deferred material reviews – All reviews received except for review of triple super phosphate. Reviews to be shared with OMRI. Public access available upon request.

D. FOIA request – Answers to FOIA on boiler chemicals sent to OMRI. **Action:** Processing Committee to review and summarize the 800 page FOIA document. Full document available to all NOSB members upon request.

- Steve Harper – Chair Processing;

A. Committee will have recommendations completed on materials reviewed prior to October meeting.

B. Will have draft recommendations on boiler chemicals completed.

C. No action on guidelines for processing technology at October meeting.

- ES for Owusu Bandele – Chair Crops;

A. Compost and heated pathogen-free manure recommendations to be presented for discussion. Will suggest formation of Compost Task Force. No language yet on compost tea or vermiculture.

B. Greenhouse and mushroom recommendations to be voted on in October.

C. Labeling of transitional products – JR submitted draft language to Crops Committee. ES does not know if the draft is to be voted on or presented for discussion purposes. **Action:** JR to contact OB to determine committee intent.

- Willie Lockeretz – Chair Accreditation;

A. Principles of Organic Production and Handling recommendation to be voted on. **Action:** WL to contact Accreditation Committee members to finalize text.

B. Small farmer exemption – open for comments on web through Sept. 28. To be presented for vote.

C. Certifier outreach – **Action:** WL to poll certifiers prior to October mtg.

D. NOP FAQ web page – New answers well presented. No issues to pursue.

E. Technical corrections – JR asks that technical corrections recommended by NOSB in June, but rejected by NOP as non-technical, be referred back to NOSB for further consideration.

Action: KJ to ask Mark Keating to submit items to Board. Should be done by Sept. 7.

5. **Legislative Update:** CB and KJ report that farm bill likely to be delayed – caught up in larger budget issues. Amendment from Rep. Ron Kind includes organic provisions. Appropriations bills are also hung up. NOP needs to be funded at current levels. **Action:** NOSB members who participate in OTA and Campaign lobby activities should stress the need to retain NOP funding at current level.

6. **Other items** – There will be a reunion of the original NOSB members during Expo East. Many will attend the NOSB meeting.

Adjourned at 1:00 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Riddle