Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. Proposals must be voted on by the NOSB, to become recommendations to the USDA. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Policy Development Subcommittee (PDS) Notes
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 3:00 pm ET

Present: Amanda Felder (AF), Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH); Bryan Buchwald (BB)
Absent: Javier Zamora (JZ)
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA); Heather Kumar (HK)

Agenda

- PPM updates
- Member Guide updates
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **July 14, 2026 notes** were approved August 11, 2026 via email
- **Policy & Procedures Manual (PPM) updates.** The group worked through language in the PPM and reviewed the table of potential updates that need to be made.
- **Member Guide updates.** Members discussed the intersection of the PPM and member guide, and will update the member guide after the PPM updates are complete.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

Previous PDS Notes

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 PM ET | 12:00 PM PT, except where noted)

August 11, 2026
September 8, 2026
    PPM updates
    Member Guide updates
October 13, 2026
    PPM updates
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target Meeting
Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) Update: Misc. updates • Update link to webpage on pg. 23 (NOP guidance 3011 no longer exists). • Criteria for new TR? Age (sunsets), need, purpose, scope • Sunset procedure update • SOPs - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings (G. Misc Procedures page 35) • Exit interviews (PDS)	AF	Proposal	Revisions/Updates as needed	9.8.26	TBD
Updates to member guide • Template language for annotation changes • Sunset review templates • Exit interview process	MA/All	NA	Update as needed. Not posted on website	9.8.26	NA

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 21, 2026	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2026 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 11, 2026	~11
NOSB - Fall 2026 proposals due to NOP	Aug 20, 2026	~9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Aug 31, 2026	~8
Public comment closes	Oct 1, 2026	~4
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Oct 7, 2026	~3
Public comment webinars	Oct 20 & 22, 2026	1
Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Virtual	Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. Proposals must be voted on by the NOSB, to become recommendations to the USDA. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Policy Development Subcommittee (PDS) Notes
Tuesday, July 14, 2026 3:00 pm ET

Present: Amanda Felder (AF), Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH)
Absent: Corie Pierce (CP); Javier Zamora (JZ)
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Agenda

- Review June 9, 2026 notes
- Discuss potential exit interview questions/process for outgoing members
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **June 9 2026 notes** were accepted as written.
- **Potential exit interview questions/process for outgoing members.** The group discussed the process for collecting feedback from outgoing members, and where to house the questions and responses. The PDS will update the PDS duties section in the Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) to include exit interviews and then flush out the process in the member guide. The PDS will use the next call or two as a working session.
- **Additional Items.** The PDS expanded the list of items in the "parking lot" below for future work on the PPM.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

Previous PDS Notes

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 PM ET | 12:00 PM PT, except where noted)

June 9, 2026
July 14, 2026
August 11, 2026
    PPM updates
    Member Guide updates
September 8, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target Meeting
Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) Update: Misc. updates • Update link to webpage on pg. 23 (NOP guidance 3011 no longer exists). • Criteria for new TR? Age (sunsets), need, purpose, scope • Sunset procedure update • SOPs - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings (G. Misc Procedures page 35) • Exit interviews (PDS)	AF	Proposal	Revisions/Updates as needed	TBD	TBD
Updates to member guide • Template language for annotation changes • Sunset review templates • Exit interview process	MA/All	NA	Update as needed. Not posted on website	NA	NA

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
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Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Virtual	Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. Proposals must be voted on by the NOSB, to become recommendations to the USDA. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Policy Development Subcommittee (PDS) Notes
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 3:00 pm ET

Present: Amanda Felder (AF), Chair; Corie Pierce (CP); Nate Lewis (NL), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH)
Absent: Javier Zamora (JZ)
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Agenda

- March 10, 2026 notes
- Spring Meeting follow-up discussion (thoughts, notes, etc.)
- Final recommendations from spring meeting due June 14
- Discuss potential exit interview questions/process for outgoing members
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **March 10, 2026 notes** were approved via email.
- **Spring Meeting follow-up discussion (thoughts, notes, etc.)**
    - Board members shared observations about the in-person meeting. The consensus is that in-person meetings are valuable, and bolsters working relationships. Members also mentioned the value of casual conversations that don't usually occur when you are meeting virtually. As for the new schedule of meeting once in person and once virtually each year, members noted that it's better to know ahead of time, and not have that uncertainty. The group also agreed that missing five members is difficult and they hope that they will have replacements soon.
- **Final recommendations from Spring meeting due June 14.** NL will complete the coversheet for the PPM updates and submit it to the NOP.
- **Potential exit interview questions/process for outgoing members.** Members discussed the process and status of exit interviews. A former NOSB member transferred the list of exit questions to the current NOSB Chair when he rotated off the Board. The PDS is interested in offering the opportunity for interviews to the five members that just left.
- **Additional Items.** None.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

Previous PDS Notes

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 PM ET | 12:00 PM PT, except where noted)
June 9, 2026
July 14, 2026
August 11, 2026
September 8, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target Meeting
Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) Update: Misc. updates • Update link to webpage on pg. 23 (NOP guidance 3011 no longer exists). • Criteria for new TR? Age, need, purpose, scope • SOPs - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings (G. Misc Procedures page 35)	AF	Proposal	Revisions/Updates as needed	TBD	TBD
Updates to member guide • Template language for annotation changes • Sunset review template	MA/All	NA	Update as needed. Not posted on website	NA	NA

Spring 2026 Milestones

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
NOP - Draft Spring 2026 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 19, 2026	~ 10
NOSB - Spring 2026 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2026	~ 9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Mar 16, 2026	7.5
Public comment closes	Apr 16, 2026	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting - Omaha, NE	May 12 - 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Jun 14, 2026	30 days post meeting

Fall 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~May 21, 2026	24
NOP - Draft Fall 2026 NOSB meeting agenda	Aug 11, 2026	~11
NOSB - Fall 2026 proposals due to NOP	Aug 20, 2026	~9
NOP - Post proposals/Open comment period	Aug 31, 2026	~8
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Public comment webinars	Oct 20 & 22, 2026	1
Fall 2026 NOSB meeting - Virtual	TBD Oct 27 - 29, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Nov 28, 2026	~30 days post

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. Proposals must be voted on by the NOSB, to become recommendations to the USDA. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Policy Development Subcommittee (PDS) Notes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:00 pm ET

Present: Amanda Felder (AF), Chair; Corie Pierce (CP); Javier Zamora (JZ)
Absent: Nate Lewis (NL), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH)
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Agenda

- February 10, 2026 notes
- Workload reductions ideas
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **February 10, 2026 notes** were approved as written.
- **Workload reductions ideas.**
  The group discussed challenges and solutions regarding workload and time constraints for Board members, especially small farmers. Members discussed how to make it easier for small farmers to participate, given unique challenges. The PDS Chair emphasized that farmers provide an important voice, and their participation is important.
  A member identified a few areas that she found challenging, including finding and formatting documents, and accessing Sharepoint. Another member noted that it would be easier for small farmers if they had assistance writing documents, while they share their ideas and lend their voice to conversations.
  The NOP has implemented many ideas over the years to reduce each members' workload including limiting the number of Subcommittees each members sits on, reducing the number of sunsets each member is assigned, reducing the number of "other projects" outside of sunsets and petitions, and adding full time staff to help the Board members with research.
  The NOP added that having staff write proposals and reviews for Board members could be seen as having an undue influence, and is not advised. And having an outside assistant write proposals violates an NOSB rule about sharing working documents with people who are not Board members. The group will continue to talk more about this.
- **Additional Items.**
  - The PDS will discuss exit interviews on future call.
  - The NOP keeps track of future PPM updates in the work agenda table below. The PDS will talk more about the next iteration of the PPM and/or member guide.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

Previous PDS Notes

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 PM ET | 12:00 PM PT, except where noted)
February 10, 2026
March 10, 2026 - may cancel
April 14, 2026
May 12, 2026 - cancel due to NOSB meeting (tentative)
June 9, 2026
July 14, 2026

August 11, 2026
September 8, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Work Agenda
*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target Meeting
Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) Update: Misc. updates • Update link to webpage on pg. 23 (NOP guidance 3011 no longer exists). • Criteria for new TR? Age, need, purpose, scope • SOPs - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings (G. Misc Procedures page 35)	NL	Proposal	Revisions/Updates as needed	5.13.25 6.10.25 7.8.25 8.12.25 2.10.26	Spr 2026
Sunset review efficiency (aka consent agenda)	NL	Discussion Document		6.10.25 8.12.25 2.10.26	Spr 2026
Updates to member guide • Template language for annotation changes • Sunset review template	MA/All	NA	Update as needed. Not posted on website	NA	NA

Spring 2026 Milestones

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
NOP - Draft Spring 2026 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 19, 2026	~ 10
NOSB - Spring 2026 proposals due to NOP	Feb 26, 2026	~ 9
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Public comment closes	Apr 16, 2026	3.5
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	Apr 22, 2026	3
Public comment webinars	May 5 & 7, 2026	1
Spring 2026 NOSB meeting - Omaha, NE (Tentative)	May 12 - 14, 2026	0
Final recommendations due	Jun 14, 2026	30 days post meeting

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. Proposals must be voted on by the NOSB, to become recommendations to the USDA. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy/regulations or NOSB recommendations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Policy Development Subcommittee (PDS) Notes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:00 pm ET

Present: Amanda Felder (AF), Chair; Nate Lewis (NL), Vice Chair; Andrea Hatziyannis (AH); Corie Pierce (CP); Javier Zamora (JZ)
Absent: None
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA)

Agenda

- December 9, 2025 notes - approved via email 1.8.26
- PPM updates
    - Spring document for posting - as is?
    - Future updates to PPM and Member Guide
        - Update link to webpage on pg. 25 (3011 no longer exists)
        - Criteria for new TR? Age, need, purpose, scope
        - Template for annotation changes
        - Sunset review template - add sentence re: annotation change
        - SOP - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings
- Additional Items
- Adjourn

Discussion

- **December 9, 2025 notes** were approved via email January 8, 2026.
- **PPM updates**
    - The previous version of the PPM proposal (posted in summer 2025 for the Fall meeting) will be posted as is for the Spring 2026 meeting.
    - Future updates:
        - Update link to webpage on pg. 23 (NOP guidance 3011 no longer exists). https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list/filing-petition#NLpetitionGuidelines
        - Criteria for new TR? Age, need, purpose, scope
        - SOPs - inviting speakers to NOSB meetings (G. Misc Procedures page 35)
- **Member Guide updates**
    - Template language for annotation changes
    - Sunset review template - add sentence re: annotation change
- **Additional Items.**
    - Members discussed ideas about how to make the NOSB workload more equitable among members, and would like to explore ideas about workload management, equitable distribution of work, and resources available to support NOSB members. NOP will circulate the list of changes that have already been implemented.
    - Sunset Review Efficiency document. The lead summarized the history of the project that led to this discussion document. The goal was to make the voting process more efficient in order to recoup time at the meetings so Board members would have more time for robust discussions on other topics. Ultimately the Board concluded that it would not save more time, so it will not move forward with this change.
    - The PDS may cancel the March 10 call.
- **The meeting was adjourned**

[Previous PDS Notes]

Future call schedule (2nd Tuesday 3:00 PM ET | 12:00 PM PT, except where noted)

January 13, 2026 - cancelled. NOSB rescheduled meeting.
February 10, 2026
March 10, 2026 - may cancel
April 14, 2026
May 12, 2026 - cancel due to NOSB meeting (tentative)
June 9, 2026
July 14, 2026
August 11, 2026
September 8, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026

Work Agenda

*Highlight indicates discussion. *Highlight indicates action needed. *Highlight indicates review completion and/or vote.

Projects

Project	Contact	Doc Type	Notes*	Scheduled/ status	Target Meeting
Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) Update: Misc. updates Annotation Change procedures (TBD) TR/TAP procedures (TBD) Non-participation (AJ) AI (TBD) - TBD	NL	Proposal	Revisions/Updates as needed	5.13.25 6.10.25 7.8.25 8.12.25 2.10.26	Spr 2026
Sunset review efficiency (aka consent agenda)	NL	Discussion Document		6.10.25 8.12.25 2.10.26	Spr 2026
Update to member guide	MA/All	NA	Update as needed. Not posted on website	NA	NA

Spring 2026 Milestones

Spring 2026 Milestones	Target dates (tentative)	Weeks PTM (prior to meeting)
NOP - Publish FRN, Open public comment	~Jan 24, 2026	16 -20
NOP - Draft Spring 2026 NOSB meeting tentative agenda	Feb 19, 2026	~ 10
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