

The American Pecan Council gathered for its first in-person meeting on November 16-17, 2016. Below are general points Council members accomplished during the meeting. The Agricultural Marketing Service is preparing more detailed minutes of the Council's actions for the public's awareness:

1. Elected a Chair (Mike Adams from Texas), Vice Chair (Bruce Caris from Arizona), Treasurer (G.L. Straley from New Mexico) and Secretary (Trent Mason from Georgia). The marketing order's three regions are represented on the Council's "executive committee."
2. Adopted a budget of \$6,000,000 for the current fiscal year (October 1-September 30).
3. Recommended to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (informal rulemaking) an assessment rate for 2016-17 of \$.03 per pound for improved varieties, \$.02 per pound for native and seedling varieties, and \$.02 per pound for substandard pecans.
4. Appointed committees of the Council that will work on Governance, Finance, Personnel, Compliance/Grades/Standards, Marketing and Research, and Communications. Each committee generally corresponds to an area of the budget (Administration, Marketing, Research, Reserve, Grades and Standards).
5. Established the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas metropolitan area as the headquarters location of the Council.
6. Authorized the Executive Committee to open a bank account and to retain an accounting firm to temporarily administer the collection of advance assessments and manage disbursements with two signature from the Treasurer and another officer. (Many handlers are eager to remit advance payments on their assessments to provide immediate operating funds for the Council. This will allow the Council to collect and spend money within 30 days.)
7. Established the next in-person Council meeting to take place on February 23, 2017 in Biloxi, Mississippi, in conjunction with another industry meeting being held that week. This meeting will be executed and funded by the Council. Teleconference meetings of the Council will occur during the interim as needed to act on any urgent committee recommendations.
8. Approved a motion directing the chair to sign a letter to Secretary Vilsak thanking him for his service and for his support of the pecan marketing order, and also commending Marketing Order and Agreement Division for its hard work and contributions toward developing and implementing the new marketing order.

December 6, 2016