

Montana Organic Commodity Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Prepared by; Ed Tyanich

December 6, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Mansfield Center-Great Falls

Missouri Room

MOCAC board members in attendance Mark Smith, Matt Johnson, Ty O'Connor, Cathy Odden, Sam Schmidt, Karl Sutton. Absent, Alison Harmon.

MTDA Staff in attendance: Ben Thomas, Mark Nechodom, Cort Jensen, Georgana Webster, Laurie Neuman

Guests: Sarina O'Connor, Margaret Scoles

Meeting called to order by Ben Thomas

Introductions

Old Business: None

2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. Cathy Odden made the motion to accept, seconded by Mark Smith. Approved unanimously.

Ben, Cort and Mark Nechodom provided information on legislative updates.

Georgana presented the program summary. And review of the program budget. 18.64% growth for the past year. The organic program has focused on efficiencies through forms, information requests and data management to help compensate for the increased work load.

Ed gave a brief update on the Cost Share program.

The need for Federal Agencies to share information was discussed, especially in how it relates to crop insurance.

Georgana gave a briefing on the NOP audit form this past summer.

The audit was estimated to cost \$27,888, while actual was \$13,888.

Eliminating the \$200 late fee and use APR% was discussed and recommended to be retained.

Hemp was discussed. Hemp legislation, Montana #1 in hemp acreage last year.

Mark Nechodom discussed the importance of 5 and 10 year focused strategic outlooks for organic agriculture. Mark also spoke of the possible use of Block Chain to ensure integrity.

Cultured meat, and the potential effect that could have on livestock productions was discussed and requested to be discussed further at future meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sam Schmidt and seconded by Mark Smith. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.