

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

MINUTES

January 25, 2018

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (“Board”) met on January 25, 2018 at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (“Department”), 2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room, Madison, WI. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. § 19.84.

Call to Order

Board Chair Miranda Leis called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Members Present

Miranda Leis, Nicole Hansen, Andy Diercks, Dennis Badtke, Paul Palmby, Greg Zwald, Dean Strauss, Kurt Hallstrand, Paul Bauer.

Minutes

Motion

Nicole Hansen moved, and Dean Strauss seconded, a motion to approve the December 21, 2017, Board minutes. Motion approved.

2018 Election of Board Officers

Election of Board Chair

Paul Palmby nominated Miranda Leis for Board Chair, and Dennis Badtke seconded the nomination. Miranda Leis was elected Board Chair by unanimous selection.

Election of Board Vice-Chair

Dean Strauss nominated Andy Dierks for Board Vice-Chair, and Nicole Hansen seconded the nomination. Andy Dierks was elected Board Vice-Chair by unanimous selection.

Election of Board Secretary

Nicole Hansen nominated Paul Palmby for Board Secretary, and Kurt Hallstrand seconded the nomination. Paul Palmby was elected Board Secretary by unanimous selection.

Public Appearances

Bobbi Wilson, representing the Wisconsin Farmers Union, appeared before the Board regarding livestock siting standards. Ms. Wilson discussed her desire for livestock siting standards to be opened up for public comment.

Susan Quam and Ed Lump, representing the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, appeared before the Board regarding ATCP 75. Ms. Quam and Mr. Lump expressed their support for ATCP 75. Mr. Lump provided an overview of the history of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. Ms. Quam expressed her concerns regarding scoring programs for restaurants, stating that these scoring programs, which propose handing out letter grades, do not accurately depict the “food culture” in the restaurant business. Ms. Quam mentioned that a proposed scoring system (currently being advocated in one area of the state) could ultimately create poor relationships between health inspectors and restaurant owners.

Brad Legreid, representing the Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, did not appear before the Board. However, Mr. Legreid filed an appearance card whereby he registered his support for the rBST Affidavit proposal.

Lean Government Initiative (Report)

Ashley Andre, Policy Initiatives Advisor for the Office of the Secretary, provided the DATCP Board with a presentation about the Lean Government Initiative (“Lean”). Ms. Andre provided an overview of Lean’s history, projects, activities, and goals. Included in the report was a summary of how Lean projects have improved productivity, reduced inefficiencies, and saved the Department money and resources.

Agricultural Statistics Services (Report)

Greg Bussler, State Statistician, updated the Board on the recent production and price reports.

ATCP 55 - Meat and Meat Food Products (Final Draft)

Dr. Steve Ingham, Administrator for the Division of Food and Recreational Safety, along with Mr. Paul Pierce, Director of Regulatory Services for the Bureau of Meat & Poultry Businesses, presented a Final Draft related to Wis. Admin. Code Ch. ATCP 55 to the DATCP Board.

Motion

Board Director Nicole Hansen moved, and Board Secretary Paul Palmby seconded, a motion to approve the Final Draft of Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 55. Motion approved unanimously.

ATCP 70 – Food Processing Plants (Final Draft)

Dr. Steve Ingham, Administrator for the Division of Food and Recreational Safety, along with Mr. Arthur Ness, Environmental Health Specialist for the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, presented the Final Draft of Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 70 to the DATCP Board.

Motion

Board Director Dennis Badtke moved, and Board Director Dean Strauss seconded, a motion to approve the Final Draft of Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 70. Motion approved unanimously.

ATCP 75 – Retail Food Establishments (Final Draft)

Dr. Steve Ingham, Administrator for the Division of Food and Recreational Safety, along with Mr. Arthur Ness, Environmental Health Specialist for the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, presented the Final Draft of Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 75 to the DATCP Board.

Motion

Board Secretary Paul Palmby moved, and Board Director Paul Bauer seconded, a motion to approve the Final Draft of Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 75. Motion approved unanimously.

Dairy Product Advertising (Update)

Dr. Steve Ingham, Administrator for the Division of Food and Recreational Safety, along with Mr. Tim Anderson, Chief Regulatory Specialist for the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, provided an update on the status of rBST affidavit requirements for dairy product advertising.

Motion

Board Director Paul Bauer moved, and Board Vice-Chair Andy Dierks seconded, a motion requesting the Department develop a Scope Statement to update requirements for affidavit renewals with regard to dairy product advertising. Motion approved unanimously.

DATCP History and Summary Documents (Report)

Bill Cosh, Communications Director for the Office of the Secretary, reported to the Board about the recent update to DATCP's summary document, which provides a brief history and overview of the agency. Board members thanked Mr. Cosh for providing the Board with this information.

Public Records (Report)

Paul Dedinsky, Chief Legal Counsel, provided an update regarding public records requests. Mr. Dedinsky presented information regarding calendar year 2017 statistics and trends for open records requests that the agency received.

Board Member Reports

Board Director Kurt Hallstrand – Mr. Hallstrand reported on weather conditions in the north woods of Wisconsin, especially pertaining to snowfall and the positive impact upon state tourism. Mr. Hallstrand also noted that the timber industry is doing well.

Board Director Greg Zwald – Mr. Zwald provided some sentiments to the DATCP Board about the convention for apple berry growers that he recently attended. Mr. Zwald also indicated that the winter snowfalls thus far should have a positive impact upon the alfalfa crop and strawberries.

Board Director Dennis Badtke – Given the rather quick turnaround time between the December 2017 Board meeting and the January 2018 Board meeting, Mr. Badtke noted no additional items of pressing concern.

Board Vice-Chair Andy Diercks – Mr. Diercks provided a report to the Board about the National Potato Expo that he attended in Orlando, Florida a couple weeks prior.

Board Director Paul Bauer – Mr. Bauer addressed the economic issues pertaining to the current milk market, addressing his desire for some departmental and industry solutions and alternatives for developing markets for producers with “homeless” milk.

Board Secretary Paul Palmby – Mr. Palmby noted that, in his position in the processing industry, he has been working steadily to finalize contract pricing for the upcoming year.

Board Director Dean Strauss – Mr. Strauss indicated that he is currently working out figures for budget purposes in the upcoming year. Mr. Strauss also mentioned the major transition into robotic-milking in the dairy industry.

Board Director Nicole Hansen – Ms. Hansen indicated how encouraged cranberry-growers have been about the current ice cover this winter. Ms. Hansen also mentioned recent cranberry education efforts.

Board Chair Miranda Leis – Ms. Leis provided an update on the Organic Industry. Ms. Leis expressed concern about a decline in the farming population, and noted the urgency in beginning to plan for how to protect rural communities for the future.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Sheila Harsdorf provided an update to the DATCP Board on the status of the Department. Secretary Harsdorf reported her presence at several Agriculture events that she recently attended. For example, Secretary Harsdorf was in attendance at the Dairy Exchange where Secretary Harsdorf heard directly from farmers about what challenges they currently face. Secretary Harsdorf stated that she would like for Wisconsin farmers to experience an expansion in markets for their agricultural products this year. Secretary Harsdorf explained the importance of maintaining optimism in the agricultural industry.

Secretary Harsdorf then introduced Keith Ripp, Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Department, to the DATCP Board. The DATCP Board welcomed Assistant Deputy Secretary Keith Ripp to the Department.

Future Schedule and Agenda Items

The DATCP Board is scheduled to meet for its next Board meeting on February 27, 2018 in Madison, Wisconsin at the Department's Headquarters, following a 9:00 am tour of the state lab.

Adjournment

The DATCP Board adjourned at approximately 12:03 PM on January 25, 2018.

Miranda Leis, Board Chair

Sheila Harsdorf, Secretary