

**BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
MINUTES**

March 27, 2020

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met via teleconference on **March 27, 2020**. 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 11:02 a.m.

Members Present

Miranda Leis, Paul Bauer, Patty Edelburg, Kurt Hallstrand, Paul Palmby, Dan Smith and Carla Washington.

**ATCP 134 – Residential Rental Practices
Emergency Rule
Preliminary Public Hearing Notice
Division of Trade and Consumer Protection**

David Woldseth, Policy Analyst from the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection presented the Preliminary Public Hearing Notice for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 134 emergency rule, to the Board. Mr. Woldseth gave a brief overview and requested the Board approve a Preliminary Public Hearing Notice for either April 3, 2020 or April 10, 2020.

Motion

A motion was made by Paul Bauer and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve a Preliminary Public Hearing Notice for April 3, 2020 or April 10, 2020 for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 134 emergency rule. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Secretary's Office Update on the
COVID-19 Emergency Response**

Interim Secretary Randy Romanski stated that as of March 24, 2020 Governor Evers directed a "safer at home" order, which directs all Wisconsin residents to stay home to avoid the spread of COVID-19. In this order, Governor Evers recognized the agriculture and supply chain as an essential, safe and abundant food supply, which means that we are open for business and available as a resource to the public and stakeholders. Mr. Romanski encouraged everyone to check the DATCP website daily because that is where we are rapidly posting documents and the latest guidance from the Agency. We have an important role to play by staying in touch with the industry and consumers, keeping food on the table, and supporting the industry we serve.

Changes in the DATCP office is that many staff members are working remotely at this time. Only essential people are left in the building and they are practicing social distancing. We have also reduced in person inspections and meetings, and instead are checking in with phone calls and e-mails whenever possible.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Angela James stated that she has set up weekly conference calls with stakeholders and is reaching over 100 groups on a weekly basis. These calls are split into the following four groups:

1. Retail, which includes grocers, convenience stores, warehouses, WMC and major food producers.
2. The dairy industry, including producers and processors.
3. Livestock and animal groups.
4. Crops and Agriculture businesses.

On Tuesday, we will participate in our first meeting with the ag lending insurance groups to focus on the immediate needs and recovery efforts for farmers. We feel that it is important to keep the lines of communication open in our virtual work world. As you hear things, please get in touch with us so we can follow up with groups as quickly as possible.

Adjournment

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at approximately 11:33 a.m.

All reports and any associated documents presented during a Board meeting can be accessed by contacting the Office the Secretary, Legal Counsel at (608) 224-5029.