

ORGANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 18, 2024

Call meeting to order

OAC Chair Harriet called meeting to order at noon.

Organic Advisory Council Admin

Roll call

18 present:

OAC members: Harriet Behar, Kat Becker, Steve Pincus, Mark Doudlah, Wayne Wells, Paul Maggio, Kris Olson, Chris Delong, Kristen Adams, Adam Warthesen, Emily Fowell, Andrew Bernhardt,

Agency Partners: Allison Walent, Erin Silva, Ariana Abbrescia, Tom Manley

Guests: Val Dantoin, Bradford Steine,

No public attended.

Motion: Harriet requested that a motion be made to approve the January 2024 minutes and the March 2024 agenda. Wayne moved to approve agenda and minutes, Kristin 2nd

Nominations review subcommittee (4 open seats, 7 nominations)

Kat, Steve, Mark – will review new nominations.

OAC leadership roles and discussion (co-chair positions)

new chairs will be elected in the September meeting.

OAC Meeting Agenda Items

NASDA overview - Bradford Steine, DATCP Program and Policy Analyst

Organic Training Development update with NWTC

Val Dantoin (NWTC) – gave an overview of potential training format.
Mentoring would be separate – but complimentary.

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Meeting in Milwaukee

Tom Manley: USDA Organic Transition Initiative with NRCS, specifically: Organic Management 823

70 million nationally to support transitioning organic farmers.

2 pathways to support transitioning producer: Go to local office – 1, contract CPA to write conservation plan. Or 2, direct them to 823.

Encourage farmers to visit their local USDA office.

Allison Walent: USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)

TOPP – launched Oct 2022. MOSA is regional lead. In 11 state region.

Advance wrap around support for organic production. 5 main pillars.

Partners – 15 (and growing) core partners. Currently 60 organizations.

Looking to start implementing programing. Main goals. Increase in certified organic acres. Access to historically underserved communities.

Council Member Discussion - Each council member can (not required) report on organic information/happenings in their area of expertise that would be useful for the council to know.

Due to lack of time this was mainly skipped

Interagency Partner updates.

Ari (WI Extension Organic Specialist) introduced herself. She is doing a needs assessment. Could present on this in a future meeting.

Wrap up

May 20, 2024 meeting: Will meet in-person at DATCP. 10-3 time frame.

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Harriet Behar and seconded by Andrew Bernhardt. Motion approved unanimously. The Council adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

All reports and any associated documents presented during this Council meeting can be obtained by contacting andrew.bernhardt@wisconsin.gov.