

## ORGANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 8, 2024

### Call meeting to order

Mark Doudlah made a motion to call the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Kat Becker seconded.

### Organic Advisory Council Admin

Roll call

19 present:

**All 12 OAC members:** Harriet Behar, Kat Becker, Steve Pincus, Mark Doudlah, Wayne Wells, Paul Maggio, Kris Olson, Adam Warthesen, Emily Fowell, Kyle Rowntree, Tay Fatke, Val Dantoin

**Agency Partners:** Allison Walent, Erin Silva, Ariana Abbrescia, Tom Manley, Adam Abel, Andrew Bernhardt

**Guests:** Aileen Switzer, Deputy Secretary – Office of the Secretary  
No public attended.

May 2024 meeting minutes and July 2024 agenda approved.

New OAC members were welcomed and all OAC members introduced themselves with description of their background on the council and working in the organic industry.

Interest to expand interagency partners on the OAC. Consider sending more invitations to more agencies including State Technical College System, Watershed groups, UW CALS Dean, Land conservation board, County boards, NRCS working groups. etc.

Description of the OAC and its background. Description of officer positions. New officers elected at November meeting to start Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

Description of the online Public Records training.

Update on the Organic e-newsletter. Interest to distribute this newsletter to a wider audience including elected officials or other state and community leaders.

### OAC Meeting Agenda Items

Updates from DATCP Deputy Secretary Aileen Switzer.

OAC Member Discussion:

Pesticide Drift concerns. Desire to learn more and develop a resource to help farmers know what their options are and what they can do if Pesticide Drift occurs on their farm.

Expressing a need for more outreach about OAC at conferences and other events around the state.

OAC priorities review. Identify which priorities have been accomplished, have not been done, missing, or no longer relevant. Will update and make available to review updated version at a future meeting.

How to get programs and funding that support organic industry included in the proposed biennium budget.

Regenerative Agriculture. How to incentivize farmers to implement practices? How do these terms compete with or potentially jeopardize organic agriculture?

Transitioning to Organic. Looking for more mentees with the TOPP mentorship program. New staff. 2 goals: more organic acres & more engagement of historically underserved farmers. Workforce development effort launching soon to get more inspectors and reviewers. Discussion of importance of having farmers develop organic systems plan. NRCS 823.

Discussing on organic pricing. Supply chains. Markets

Updates on SOE. Organic fraud. And prohibitive use of organic logo by uncertified operations.

Additional chemicals testing in food and on seed.

### **Wrap up**

September meeting: Will meet virtually. Time to be set at later date.

### **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 3:00 p.m.

*All reports and any associated documents presented during this Council meeting can be obtained by contacting [andrew.bernhardt@wisconsin.gov](mailto:andrew.bernhardt@wisconsin.gov).*