

Organic Advisory Board
of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing

Minutes of Public Meeting of November 27, 2007

Meeting Location: RI DEM Division of Agriculture
Conference Room
Room 370, 235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Members Present: Erik Eacker, Brian Simmons, Pete Susi
Members Absent: Fritz Vohr, Rik Kleinfeldt
Staff Present: Ken Ayars, Dennis Martin, Matt Green (RIDEM/Agriculture)

The meeting began at 9:50 a.m. at the Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI. A quorum of board members was present.

Minutes from OAB meeting of September 20, 2007, were read. Erik Eacker made a motion, seconded by Brian Simmons, to approve the minutes without corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposed organic certification fees and deadlines and the need to adjust the fee structure in order to keep the program operational were discussed. The possibility was discussed of having adjustable certification fees to be lower in non-reaccreditation (5-year) audit years and higher in re-accreditation audit years to cover fees charged by USDA. Brian Simmons made a motion, seconded by Erik Eacker, to consider using an adjustable organic certification fee structure in order to cover fees charged by USDA and to minimize adverse impact on applicants. The motion was approved unanimously.

The 2008 meeting schedule was discussed. Erik Eacker made a motion, seconded by Brian Simmons and Rik Kleinfeldt, to schedule the first annual board meeting in 2008 for January 29, 2008, and the second annual meeting to be determined at a later date, with any additional meetings that may be necessary to be scheduled as needed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other discussion:

Certification fees must go to the state general fund and not restricted receipt account.
Possibilities for organization between certified organic operators.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Matthew Green, Supervisor of Insect Pest and Plant Disease Control
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM