

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

Minutes of Public Meeting of September 20, 2007

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

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

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m. at the Division of Agriculture.

A quorum of board members was present.

Minutes from OAB meeting of January 29, 2007, were read. Rik Kleinfeldt made a motion, seconded by Brian Simmons, to approve the minutes without corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

Organic certification fees and the need to adjust the fee structure in order to keep the program operational were discussed. Erik Eacker made a motion, seconded by Brian Simmons and Rik Kleinfeldt, to recommend the adjustment of the organic certification fee structure in order to keep the RI DEM Division of Agriculture organic certification program operational. 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:

Pastured Poultry Processing. No new activity was reported on this project.

Livestock and Aquaculture. Matt Green reported that development of USDA NOP Aquaculture standards are still in the public comment phase and they are to be discussed at the NOSB meeting this November. Matt reported that DEM Division of Agriculture has applied for organic livestock certifier accreditation with USDA NOP, the application is still being processed by the NOP, and no information has been received on its status.

Organic Certification Fees: Suggestions by the board discussed on this topic included: whether creation of an account for certification fee funds to be used by the organic program would be possible; whether federal or other grant funds could be available for organic operators through a nonprofit organization of organic producers/handlers; recommendation to communicate any application fee changes to organic operations as soon as possible after implementation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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