

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

Minutes of Public Meeting of November 21, 2008

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

Members Present: Erik Eacker, Peter Susi, Dan Lawton, Rik Kleinfeldt

Members Absent: Brian Simmons

Staff Present: Ken Ayars, Eugene Pepper, Matt Green, Scott Marshall
(RIDEM/Agriculture)

Others Present: None

The meeting began at 10:35 a.m. at the Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI. A quorum of board members was present.

Board Membership—Appointment of Members. New appointment of Dan Lawton as NOFA RI representative as designated by NOFA RI President; Re-appointment of Peter Susi as Ag. Marketing Specialist representative. Rik Kleinfeldt made a motion, seconded by Erik Eacker, to approve the nominations and appoint the members to the Organic Advisory Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes from OAB meeting of February 12, 2008, were read. Rik Kleinfeldt made a motion, seconded by Erik Eacker, to approve the minutes without corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matt Green informed about the USDA organic certification cost-share programs, and organic livestock certification applications being accepted by the Division. Information on these topics would be submitted for the NOFA RI newsletter.

Marketing of organic products and requirements of retailers according to National Organic Standards were discussed.

Brand Name Materials List review procedure was discussed. The Division will be creating a materials list review manual for use by the organic program staff in reviewing materials for compliance.

USDA specialty crops grants as an option for funding certified organic promotional materials and NOFA RI projects were discussed. Weatherproof signage to promote certified organic products in farmers markets was discussed.

The 2009 meeting schedule was discussed. Rik Kleinfeldt made a motion, seconded by Dan Lawton, to schedule the first annual board meeting in 2009 for January 29, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Green
Supervisor of Insect Pest and Plant Disease Control,
RIDEM Division of Agriculture