



**CANNABIS CONTROL DIVISION
CANNABIS REGULATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**February 3, 2022
1 P.M.
MINUTES**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kaltenbach called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present via WebEx: Chair Emily Kaltenbach, Vice Chair Gov. Perry Martinez, Esther Lopez, Paul Haidle, Steven Jenison, Lou Ann Branch, Ginger Baker, Debbi Moore, Harold Trujillo and Rachael Speegle. Chief Phil Smith and Nathaniel Paolinelli later joined the meeting.

Excused were Bennett Baur and Mary Carmack-Altweis. Sheriff Adan Mendoza was absent. Also present at the meeting were CCD Director Kristen Thomson, CCD Deputy Director Robert Sachs, CCD staff member Terry Last, and Jonathan Gerhardt with the New Mexico Environment Department.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of agenda was inadvertently skipped.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dec. 16, 2021 meeting

Motion: Debbi Moore

Second: Paul Haidle

Motion passed unanimously

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who provided comment:

Ms. Adriana Villar, a small farmer and mayordomo, stated she was there on behalf of farmers and acequias and was there to listen.

VI. COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND BUSINESS

- A. CCD Director Thomson provided an update on cannabis-related legislation amending the Cannabis Regulation Act being considered during the current legislative session.

She said proposed legislation is contained in Senate Bill 100. Among the issues addressed in the bill are increasing the plant count for cannabis producer microbusinesses, reducing per plant fees for producers, allowing CCD to enter into joint powers agreements, language clarifying that alcohol and cannabis cannot be served in the same licensed premise, training requirements for industry staff, and the distribution of cannabis excise taxes.

The bill is scheduled to be heard by its first committee, the Senate Tax, Business and Transportation Committee, later this day.

In response to questions from the committee, Director Thomson said there is concern about a cannabis shortage when adult-use sales begin no later than April 1, 2022, so there's an emphasis on approving producer licenses. She also said the state's budget bill is expected to provide more funding to the CCD, allowing it to hire more staff. She noted that owning water rights was one of the biggest obstacles for producer applicants.

B. Deputy Director Sachs gave an update on the status of the CCD's Equity Plan.

He said most of the recommendations C-RAC made regarding the social equity plan were adopted. He went over some of the criteria for meeting the definition of a social and economic equity status and explained the two-tier approach that gives priority to some population segments. He also explained division programming under the equity plan, including creating a social equity position within the division, developing a navigator program to assist those applying for licenses, and partnering with the Department of Higher Education to build out a cannabis training and education program, among others.

C. Deputy Director Sachs provided an update on licensing, reporting that so far more than 350 cannabis activity licenses have been submitted and that 118 have been approved. He also reported on the demographic breakdown of applicants so far.

D. Deputy Director Sachs provided an update on rulemaking timelines and involvement of the C-RAC and subcommittee in the promulgation of rules.

He said typically the rulemaking process begins with stakeholder engagement and noted that two such meetings were held this week to advise the committee on rules for packaging and labeling. After that, notice of a public hearing is drafted and published. Taking into concertation advice from the committee and public input, the division then adopts a set of rules.

Deputy Director Sachs said there are two rule hearings coming up in the next month. The purpose of the hearing on Feb. 22 is to assist the CCD in formalizing rules emergency rules previously adopted regarding application requirements. Similarly, another hearing on March 1 will formalize rules covering plant count and plant fees.



VII. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

There were no subcommittee updates.

Under administrative business, Chair Kaltenbach said the committee will discuss forming advisory groups that will serve as subcommittees to C-RAC. She also said that the committee will begin meeting on a quarterly basis.

Chair Kaltenbach set a tentative date of March 10, 2022, for the next meeting. She noted that there will be three positions to fill on the committee: positions representing higher education, a state or local agency and environmental science.

VIII. Chair Kaltenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of March 2022



Emily Kaltenbach, Chair



