



## COUNTY OF LAKE

Department of Agriculture  
Department of Weights & Measures  
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**STEVEN HAJIK**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

Lake County Industrial Hemp Ad Hoc meeting  
October 25, 2019  
Prepared by Janice Luke

Meeting began at 2pm by Bruno Sabatier

Introduction and meeting conduct guidelines presented by Bruno Sabatier

Hemp introduction PowerPoint presented by Bruno Sabatier

Roll Call and Introduction of committee members

Lance W Cannabis Grower Representative  
Hank Lescher Hemp Grower Representative  
Steven Hajik Lake County agriculture Commissioner  
Brenna Sullivan Lake County Farm Bureau Executive Director  
Michalyn DelValle Director of Lake County Community Development  
Bruno Sabatier Lake County supervisor District 2  
Rob Brown Lake County supervisor District (Absent)

Open nominations for Elections of Chair and Vice Chair of the committee

Bruno Sabatier was voted in as chair unanimously  
Rob Brown was voted as vice chair unanimously

PowerPoint and Review of Hemp Laws and Regulations

Discussion of Farm Bill, California Law, California Regulations 8100  
New Bill SB153 has been signed into law by Ca. governor but state now has to pass regulations to meet SB153 and then they must be approved by Federal Government. Federal Government has not finalized their regulations we are only working with interim Farm Bill regulations. This will change as well and then the state has to adjust to meet Fed Regulations. State Regulations cannot supersede Federal Law.

Changes to state law will possibly address the loopholes being exploited by some of the people growing under a research authorization.

Public Comment

All cannabis growers and representatives and one cannabis/hemp grower.  
Consensus of cannabis growers was that Cannabis Regulations should be attached to Hemp.

Differences between legal hemp and cannabis.

Cannabis sativa L. Same plant only chemical content has been changed through selective breeding practices. This produces cultivars that have low to no THC for hemp, and sometimes other characteristics for different uses of the hemp plant i.e. increased CBD production, fiber strength, or grain production.

## Hemp Approved Seed vs. Certified Seed

Approved seed cultivars are not listed all that is currently required for registration is a copy of the seed source grower's state license and a copy of the mother plant lab test certifying THC level that matches the grower license. This was allowed because there is not enough certified seed available to meet the demands of the current market as well as the prohibitive cost of certified seeds.

Certified seeds are produced by a breeder who is participating in a program through a recognized third party certifier that has set guidelines for production practices that provide for seed purity. This involves distances and setbacks to prevent cross pollination or contamination. Most of this is achieved through good neighbor farming practices in other states that grow hemp. CCIA is the California seed certification agency, they are currently crafting guidelines to create a certified hemp seed production program. (These guidelines could be used to effectively create practical setbacks for hemp and cannabis production in Lake County.)

## Hemp Fee Structure Discussion

Only current fees associated with Hemp are State Registration fees which are currently \$900 and local Lake County per site fees are \$500. County site fees are used by Agriculture Commissioner's office to process, sample, enforce and perform all other necessary duties associated with Hemp. Most likely state and county fees will go up to meet evolving Hemp Industry registration processing and enforcement activities.

Agriculture Office may to raise fees and possibly hire another staff member to effectively manage the Hemp program requirements. Agriculture Office wants to clarify enforcement ability and property access (search warrant issue) for ease in assuring compliance, pre site approval and random early season testing as well as clearly defining penalties for noncompliance. Need clear definition of violations and penalty structure, for issues such as refusal of access etc...

Additional fees or coverage to address possible abatement issues, surety bond?  
The county can bill for extra fees in excess of master base fee to cover unexpected of excessive costs on a case by case basis. (see Planning)

An outside fee study was suggested, it was also noted that this might not allow for timely resolution of an ordinance for this year.

Could some of the cannabis fees collected by the county be used to help enforce certain issues within the hemp industry that conflict with cannabis production.

## Discussion of Hemp Farming Practices

### Land Use

Discussion of issues with grading and of registrants not following through with county and state land use requirements. Grading and Storm water violations, environmental damage were some concerns. Environmental review may be needed with new hemp registrations as well as grading permits and possible CEQA compliance. It was noted that there was no official inclusion of CEQA in the California hemp regulations.

Discussion of zoning and allowable areas for growing in Lake County, school zones community growth boundaries etc. It was noted that zoning ordinances can take lots of time to implement and review unless an Urgency Ordinance is approved.

A county sign off sheet was discussed as a precursor to official registration. It was to include various requirements that need to be addressed through different departments before growing. This topic needs more discussion because there were various ideas on how this was to be implemented so as not to incur excessive fees or prevent timely farming.

It was stated that this issue needs to be addressed in a practical manner so as not to overregulate or create a precedent that could be used in the future to further restrict or hamper traditional agriculture.

Irrigated Lands Program compliance was not followed through by most hemp growers. Less than ¼ of Lake County Hemp registrants signed up with the Farm Bureau for the state irrigated Lands program.

#### Male Pollen

Consensus from audience was that most of the Hemp was not being farmed properly. Male Plants and poor farming practices were the most discussed. Male Plants are being blamed for seeding several cannabis and hemp smoke-able flower operations.

Possible suggestions for addressing the male pollen issue was regulations for rouging out in field males, county regulation addressing male plants as an agriculture nuisance. How do we ensure quality of male eradication practices? Possible Third party supervision?

All seed breeding operations confined to indoor operations where pollen drift could be controlled and not be a neighborhood nuisance. Significantly limiting the Lake County market to only producing hemp for smoke-able flower CBD production.

Feminized seeds and certified seed operations were also touched on as ways to address nuisance males.

#### Insect, Weed and Pesticide Use issues

Many Hemp fields observed were poorly maintained weedy, plants were often not properly cared for. Some fields self-seeded due to a variety of possible reasons. This has brought concerns of attractiveness for the county, ability to enforce, leased land use practices, insect pest problems (i.e. Hemp Aphid) and invasive weeds.

Participants ignoring or unaware of state and local quarantine compliance and inspections when moving and possessing plant material.

Practical regulations or guidelines for destruction of male plants or seeded Hemp, need to be discussed especially because large scale grows could be a potential issue.

Potential for misuse of pesticides or lack of knowledge of pesticide use program. Solution could be that all registrants need to go through Ag office for operator ID number and to receive introduction in to the pesticide use program.

#### Wrap Up Discussion

Would like to have something to present to the board of supervisors soon enough to have county ordinance and regulations in place by February.

Is a moratorium necessary?

Next meeting will discuss prioritization of key topics discussed.

What can effectively be addressed in an ordinance that is practical to enforce and manage?

Committee will meet every two weeks

Meeting Adjourned 4:15 p.m.