ASTA's Annual Convention
Washington, DC

Organic Seed Committee

3:00 – 4:15 PM | Thursday, June 18, 2015 | Archives

MINUTES

I. Welcome/Introductions and Anti-Trust Statement

Committee Chair Charlie Brown welcomed committee members to the meeting in Washington, D.C. He referenced ASTA's Anti-Trust Statement which is on the printed agendas.

II. Approve Agenda

Committee Chair Charlie Brown asked for and received approve from the committee the agenda for this meeting, Raymond Dobert made the motion and Pamela Howlett seconded the motion. The minutes from the January meeting in Tampa were approved, Rick Falconer raised the motion and Raymond Dobert seconded the motion.

III. USDA-National Organic Program

Betsy Rakola, Organic Policy Advisor at the Marketing and Regulatory Programs within the USDA and Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator of the National Organic gave an overview of the USDA's organic program and answered questions from the committee. There was also discussion about the importance of the Organic Seed Finder Database to the organic seed industry. Both ASTA and the USDA support this website. More information can be found on the NOP's website.

IV. National Organic Standards Board Meeting

Charlie Brown attended and presented at the National Organic Standards Board meeting in February. Attached is a copy of his presentation.

V. Co-Existence

Andy LaVigne and Charlie Brown attended the USDA's Co-Existence workshop in Raleigh, North Carolina last March. Andy presented to at the workshop on the availability of non-GE corn seed and the efforts ASTA has undertaken to quantify the amount of non-GE corn seed available, including working with a contractor on to survey the availability. The survey is attached.

VI. Madison Project Update

Andy LaVigne gave a brief update on the ASTA's Madison Project. In the near future the Madison Project efforts will focus on establishing a licensing mechanism for non-GE seed.

VII. New Officers

Chair Charlie Brown nominated the following slate of officers, Tom Gordon for Chair and Mac Earhardt for Vice Chair. The motion was approved by Mike Gumina and Rick Falconer.

VII. Adjourn

The Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Charlie Brown at 4:15 PM.