



**May 27, 2020 U.S. HEMP AUTHORITY™**  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting occurred over Zoom, 11:30am – 1:00pm Central Daylight Time.

*President Scott Propheter was unable to attend; Marielle Weintraub steps in to facilitate the meeting.*

**Roll Call:**

Present: Grace Bandong, Pamela Baxter, Blake Ebersole, Brett Goldman, David Goodheim, Melody Harwood, Kasey Irwin, Holly Johnson, John Morrison, Neda Moss, Sarah Oxendale, Andrew Pham, Ron Conyea (USHA Board, non-voting), Marielle Weintraub (USHA Board, non-voting), Brooke Parker Robertson (USHA Secretariat, non-voting), Katelyn Wiard (USHA Secretariat, non-voting), David Gould (FoodChain ID, non-voting, minutes)

Absent: Tim Lombardo, John MacKay, Wendy Mosher, Scott Propheter

**Agenda:**

1. Discussion of draft outline for v3.0 and comments made to it, of v3.0 of the Guidance Procedures (ie the Standard), posted as googledoc for all TC members to have access.
  - a. Regarding content, the salient points that were discussed are summarized as follows:
    - i. The real value of the USHA program is the focus on hemp-specific attributes in terms of practice and product. “Baseline” needs of operators to follow applicable laws and/or common practices such as GMPs and food safety requirements as noted in the CFR will be duly noted in v3.0, but the onus responsibility for adhering to these will be placed more on the operators as opposed to having to check them in detail as part of the USHA audit process. In other words, operators will be asked to demonstrate how they maintain awareness and adhere to such requirements, and these will be what gets checked as part of the audit.
    - ii. Under v3.0 the value of the certification program will be expressed as a set of guiding principles and objectives, which will then be elaborated in terms of what it means in practice to achieve them.
    - iii. v3.0 is not intended to place additional requirements on top of v2.0, except that there may be some additional treatment of sustainability topics, in particular in a way that allows operators to start where they are and make continual improvements. Otherwise the intention of v3.0 is to make clarifications and streamline language, especially in light of the aforementioned points.
    - iv. The existing prohibitions in v2.0 will remain in v3.0. There was discussion amongst the TC as to whether this should be the case, but the prevailing sentiment was that stakeholder concerns are strongly in favor of the prohibition.

- v. There was discussion about laboratory approval and independence. Arguments with respect to a requirement for third-party accredited labs versus ability to use in-house labs fell on both sides of the issue. The TC needs to deliberate further.
      - b. Regarding format/structure of the new version: The prevailing sentiment was that the proposed outline should be changed to retain the specific operator categories as exist in v2.0, as opposed to merging all categories under the common principles/objectives. It may be possible to keep the introduction, principles/objectives, and glossary all at the beginning and then break out the other topics by grower, processor/manufacturer, and brand owner.
2. Next steps for drafting v3.0:
  - a. The TC will work first in sub-committees to focus on particular content as follows and with the following members so far assigned:
    - i. Farming – Brett Goldman, Ron Conyea, Scott Propheter
    - ii. Sampling/Testing/Labs – Andrew Pham, David Goodheim, Grace Bandong, Holly Johnson, Pam Baxter
    - iii. Regulatory/Food Safety – David Goodheim, Kasey Irwin, Melody Harwood, Sarah Oxendale

Additional TC members may join these subcommittees or suggest an additional subcommittee.
  - b. David Gould will work with Marielle, Katelyn, and Brooke to coordinate the work of these subcommittees, and then compile the work into an overall draft that the TC can review at its next meeting. (*Note post-meeting: additional help may be requested to complete the next draft.*)
  - c. The Secretariat will distribute information to all TC members about all of the TC members, so that they have each other's contact information as well as some basic knowledge of their respective backgrounds, expertise, and interests.
3. Set Next Meeting:

The USHA Secretariat will circulate a Doodle poll to set a next meeting for approximately the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

4. Adjourn

Moved: Kasey Irwin

Seconded: many members at once

Passed by consensus.