

MEETING MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SECURITY COUNCIL

October 13, 2017

The Agricultural Producer Security (APS) Council held a meeting on Friday, October 13, 2017, at the headquarters of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin.

Attendance

Three council members were present: John Manske, John Umhoefer and Nick George. Council members Louise Hemstead, Doug Cropp, Andy Wallendal, Craig Myhre, Don Hamm, Dave Daniels, and Jim Zimmerman participated by phone.

DATCP staff members present included Eric Hanson, Jeremy McPherson, Lori Ronnerud, David Woldseth, Frank Frassetto and attorney Paul Lazotte.

Agenda Item I Call to Order

Chair John Manske called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Agenda Item II Approve Minutes

Chair Manske asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Louise Hemstead moved to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2017, meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Wallendal. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item III Legislative Proposal Final Draft

Jeremy McPherson indicated that this meeting was called for final review of proposed legislation that was presented to the Council as an LRB draft in May. Jeremy noted that the LRB draft was converted to a bill, and staff believes it accurately reflects changes requested by the council and is ready for circulation. Changes made from the LRB draft related to cleaning up the plain language analysis, answering and removing drafting notes, addressing the council's concerns from the May meeting, and correcting a few drafting errors.

Specifically, based on feedback from the APS Council, the definition of deferred payment contract under s.126.40(6m) was changed to identify what it is rather than what it isn't; and language was added to the DP contract requirements section to clearly indicate that DP assessments may be deducted from amounts paid to producers.

Also, security requirements under s.126.47 were more clearly spelled out regarding both the circumstances under which security is required and the amount of security that is required.

The Council asked what the Milk Contractor deferred payment assessment rate would be. Staff explained that the rate would be determined by rule.

Nick George asked what the impact would be from the exemption for vegetable contractors that purchase less than \$15,000 per year. Staff explained that there were only a few vegetable contractors that would qualify, and the lost license fees and assessment revenue would total about \$500.

Jeremy McPherson talked about the next steps and a timeline. He indicated that it was still possible to move the bill this session, but added that assistance from Council members would be critical to having the legislation in place by 5/1/18.

Chair Manske asked for a motion. Dave Daniels moved to support the current draft of the legislative bill. Nick George seconded the motion. Doug Cropp said that the Wisconsin Agri-Business Association supports the bill draft. John Manske added that Cooperative Network also supports the bill draft. Chair Manske called the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IV Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Nick George, with a second by John Umhoefer. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:48 a.m.