

Montana Organic Commodity Advisory Council (MOCAC)
Montana Department of Agriculture
Greg Ames' Office
December 17, 2014

Council Members Present: Cathy Odden, Greg Thayer, Matt Johnson, Mark Smith, Lise Rousseau, Ty O'Connor

Council Members Not Present: Kiki Hubbard

Staff Members: Georgana Webster, Breanna Caldwell, Greg Ames, chairing for Ron de Yong, Cort Jensen

The call began at 8:35 AM. Introductions were made.

The revised fee structure was discussed. It was decided that in order to remain competitive with other certifiers a maximum cap of \$5,000 would be placed on Producer Assessments.

Ty O'Connor and Mark Smith suggested that we insert rebate language in case surplus funds came out of the fee change. Ty stated that a rebate could be incentive for larger Producers. Cort Jensen joined the meeting and stated that surplus money could be redistributed to Producers in 3 ways. 1) The Director may implement a rebate program whenever they believe organic programs reserves are sufficient. 2) The Director may (or shall) implement a rebate program whenever the organic programs reserves are above 50% of the anticipated total costs of the program for the following fiscal year. 3) The organic advisory council may request the director implement a rebate program when they believe organic program reserves are adequate to sustain the program. The Director shall honor the request unless the Director believes the reserves to not be adequate enough to sustain the program.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Cort Jensen and the Department dispersed the following rebate language to the council following the meeting:

"If a rebate program is offered the amount awarded back to individuals will be based on a uniform percentage of the money paid to the department in the previous certification cycle. The director can choose to offer the rebate in the form of a credit on future organic fees and/or as a direct check back to the certified party. In no case, will the Department send payments back to parties under ten dollars. A person choosing the credit option or due an amount under 10 dollars that is not used as a credit for organic fees within 24 months is forfeit."