



State of Connecticut
Department of Agriculture
Milk Regulation Board

30 Apr 09

Minutes of the Milk Regulation Board
Regular Meeting of April 29, 2009

Board Members Present:

F. Philip Prelli – Chairperson/Commissioner of Agriculture
Robert Jacquier
Neil Marcus
Joseph Ruwet
Mae Schmidle
Jim Stearns
Jack Tiffany
Tracey Weeks - DPH

1 position vacant (milk processor)

Others Present:

Wayne Kasacek - DoAg
Herman Weingart - retired dairy farmer

Paul Miller – Fairvue Farm

Meeting called to order 10:15 am

Agenda Item 2: The Commissioner asked that the public sign in. All present introduced and identified themselves.

Agenda Item 3: there was no correspondence to come before the board

Agenda Item 4: Joseph Ruwet made a motion to accept the 21 Jan 09 minutes as submitted, 2nd Neil Marcus. No discussion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Agenda Item 5: The commissioner reported to the department's bill regarding Retail Raw Milk was not considered by the Environment Committee and failed. The commissioner stated that the department was not going to do anything with the Retail Raw Milk bill.

The Adulterated Milk bill was approved by the Environment Committee and went to Judiciary where it was not voted on and as of this date it was not being considered by the legislature.

Two bills were being considered by the legislature which would set up special funds for supporting the milk producers by providing grants during time of low prices.

The commissioner reported that NE NASDA was pushing to increase MILC payments from 49% to 79% and that there is increasing talk about resurrecting the NE Dairy Compact. NY and PA were onboard with the effort to bring the Compact back.

The commissioner reported that Governor Rell supported reestablishing the Compact and the effort to increase MILC payments to 79%

Wayne Kasacek reported on the NCIMS Conference. Mr. Kasacek attended the conference as the states' voting delegate. The conference voted to increase the maximum SCC count in goat milk to 1,500,000 relieving goat milk producers of their natural seasonal difficulties which is due to the differences between

goat mammary system and a cows mammary system. Lynn Hinckley at Uconn CVMDL was the driving force behind this change and should be commended for her work.

The conference turned back a proposal from FDA-CVM that would have required all milk producers to keep records of drug administration for the life the animal plus 1 year. This was seen as an effort by FDA to gain more information for their tissue residue investigations. Milk residue's occur at very low frequency < .004% and the current milk screening program has been a great success.

Provisions were added for milk producing camelids and testing of electronic process controls was updated to reflect the new technology.

Agenda item 6: no old business

Agenda Item 7: no new business

Agenda Item 8: Herman Weingart asked Jim Stearns about the Federal Milk Marketing Order proposal that would eliminate the exemption for producer dealers. Jim stated that Mountain dairy and another producer dealer had retained legal counsel to try an get a local exemption for the Northeast Order. This is an issue for the western Milk Orders where there are very large producer dealers' "disrupting" the markets.

Paul Miller asked the commissioner about the Governor's stance on several issues related to taxes, meeting with milk producers and grants to milk producers.

Neil Marcus stated that the current milk price situation is a threat to the entire milk industry. Mr. Marcus also reported that the Danbury paper had an article favoring the department's position regarding the sale of retail Raw Milk.

Mae Schmidle motioned to adjourn, 2nd Neil Marcus, Motion approved by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 11:19

Respectfully Submitted,


Wayne Kasacek
Clerk of the Board

Approved 21 OCT 09