

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee
Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 1 pm ET**

Attending: Katrina Heinze (Chairperson), Jay Feldman, Calvin Walker and Jennifer Taylor (Vice-chairperson)

Absent: Wendy Fulwider, John Foster, Tina Ellor **NOP Staff:** Lisa Brines and Lorraine Coke **New Members:** Harold Austin and Zea Sonnabend

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Materials Review Process	KH	In progress	TBD
<i>Petition Guidelines (tentative)</i>	?		TBD
Materials classification	MC / LB		TBD
Petition tracking	KH / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	KH / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Sunset 2013	KH / LB	In progress	Fall 2011 / Spring 2012

Agenda:

- (15 minutes) Update work plan – Below is the work plan that I communicated at the Savannah meeting. Given the transition I thought we should spend some time making sure I’ve captured everything and it makes sense
Materials WorkPlan – obviously finalizing will be dependent on the new chair & committee
- Research Framework:
 - Review the public comments received on the discussion document
 - Finalize the framework and bring back to spring meeting with a starting list and proposal on the ‘big idea’ priorities
 - Items for the list collected at the Fall 2011 meeting:
 - Fire blight control in organic pear and apple production. Alternatives for use of tetracycline and streptomycin
 - Alternatives for copper sulfate in rice production
- Aquaculture Materials
 - Provide ongoing feedback to AWG to enable development of petitions that are sufficient for our two “trial” balloon petitions
 - Develop TR requests based on the sufficient petitions
 - Provide feedback and work with NOP to enable development of TR’s that the committee deems to be sufficient
 - Evaluate the materials to our criteria; optimize process for rest of petitions so we are ready when NOP begins work on the standards
- Classification –will work with NOP at their request
- Update evaluation criteria checklist with policy committee to reflect our recent discussions that a section for a narrative was needed.
- On WorkPlan but not intended for next meeting
 - Materials Review – Process Improvement -- As discussed in the Materials Committee update, we are planning to collaborate with the other committees and the NOP to improve our processes with our initial plans to focus on the
 - Evaluation checklist so it better reflects the different type of material actions we consider
 - TR request form so we can customize TR’s better to individual material situations
 - Define what a good TR looks like
 - Materials

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- Take from the table petition (September '08?)
- Materials never on the table (see CCOF comments) (Katrina note – Zea is very familiar with this topic)
- (10 minutes) Review Materials Update from December – Any outstanding items from any committees?
- (20 minutes) Aquaculture – Decide how committee wants to proceed and determine next steps. If time, we could look at the vitamin petition that Lisa just sent.

Discussion:

Review of work plan - Jennifer will confirm with John on any possible overlap with Handling committee work plan

Next steps: some need for clarification on aquaculture materials and what is needed in materials petitions
Background – carbon dioxide and vitamins/minerals petitions for aquaculture (need to clarify so AWG has guideline for how to submit future materials)

Specific to research framework – at Savannah tried to take note on topics to be added (fire blight and alternatives for copper sulfate in rice production). Any others? These seem to be the most contentious.

Suggestion to add methionine as well.

Wish list: take from the table petition (in early NOSB history – materials considered by the Board then “tabled” and nothing ever happened, 2-3 years ago the MC brought rec to take all those materials and bring them back into consideration, intent was to go back to petitioners and see if any interest still exists, assumption was that very few would receive affirmative response, resolution could be to write rec to take no further action – these materials are still in “limbo,” this process would help to clear the books); and materials never on the table (materials that had been “in review” but never made it to a board meeting, determining this list would be a bit harder, suggestion to take list that CCOF provided during public comment and go from there).

→ is it understood that these materials are not part of normal petition process?

→ There are 7 items on list, all went through petition process, none are in use currently. There are a couple on the “take from table” (i.e. soy protein isolate) list that were delayed/tabled due to materials classification document.

→ Important to have process in place before these materials are brought up again.

→ How important are these?

Materials review process (or classification?): where are we with this? Where is the NOP with this? The NOP is currently working on draft guidance in regards to classification. This will take a while due to process.

→ one member sees this as two parts (difference between classification policy and rec on

“significance/insignificance”) – how are these different? The sig/insig rec did not pass the Board and the NOP is trying to draft guidance with consideration of this. Should the MC take classification up again (on workplan)?

→ suggestion to let NOP work on guidance first and then the Board can submit clarification/questions after initial work is completed

→ time for “how you would execute this?” rather than having the MC try this again

→ another question from a committee member about whether the Board will have opportunity to comment/provide feedback before final guidance or draft to public is completed

→ intent of NOP is to include participation/feedback from MC in this process

Monthly materials update:

Won't be a Jan update b/c no sig change since Dec

Background – this list is maintained by Lisa B. and is updated monthly to keep track of materials review process

Crops – 2 items

-tr for pheromones (need finalized asap b/c EPA list 3 interts)

-Suff review for oxidized lignites

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Livestock – 2 items

- review of TR on GMO vaccines
- suff review on TR for methionine

Handling –

- might be helpful to combine suff review and TR reviews

Materials -

revised petition for AWG on vitamins and minerals in aquaculture

Question on whether there is a better way to make committee more efficient in review of materials?

Opinion from resigning Materials Chair – the process has improved over the last 5 years and the monthly materials spreadsheet has been very helpful in tracking the process

Aquaculture:

How to resolve issue on aquaculture materials? Uniqueness of water issues wasn't fully addressed.

Previous review of aquaculture materials by last Board missed discussion of this materials review process. There will be no Board members from that time on the 2012 Board. The MC/Board could decide to discuss/decide it all again. Suggestion that existing members review/read old transcripts. Jeff Moyer and Jennifer Hall were (previous Board members) heavily involved in the discussion and they may be good resources.

Next Calls:

February 14, 2012

February 28, 2012

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee
Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 1 pm ET**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson), Jay Feldman, Wendy Fulwider and Calvin Walker

Absent: John Foster

NOP Staff: Lisa Brines and Lorraine Coke

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities	?	In progress	TBD
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay?	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD

Agenda:

1. Welcome and member introduction
2. Issues to be discussed during meeting:
 - Aquaculture/received revised petition for vitamins for aquaculture use,
 - Development of Working Group that will identify research priorities/needed research areas and cultural and management strategies including varietal selections, etc. for successful sustainable organic farming,
 - Expert participation/discussion of issues during telephoned meetings,
 - Development of approach for Tabled Issues/Policy Committee issue?
 - Development of discussion document on extractants.
3. Other Issues
4. Issue assignment and deadlines
5. NOP update

Discussion:

Welcome to committee members – introduction from Zea Sonnabend (new member)

Aquaculture:

The committee has been asked to re-examine the aquaculture materials
 The committee submitted a discussion document during last meeting and did receive some materials. There was a previous petition from 2011. The first doc was received in January 2011, but committee didn't start working on it until later in spring. In August 2011 the committee submitted questions regarding petition sufficiency. Responses were not received until January 2012, but the MC had met with members from the AWG before that to discuss. No petitions have been posted to the NOP website at this time.
 MC has to review response from sufficiency questions and determine whether they have been addressed.
 Committee needs to determine the adequacy of the checklist, the sufficiency of the responses, etc. These are all

materials that are on the materials list for terrestrial use, but need to determine whether questions/review are sufficient to determine uses in aquatic medium.

Lisa has done a review of the petition and has

Clarification – mention of “revising” questions on checklist. It is not that the questions need to be revised (they are based on OFPA), but they need to be applied to aquaculture context.

An example – one question has to do with toxicity/environmental contamination and this would be different for aquaculture materials (i.e. how they may contribute or not contribute to contamination based on type of use)

Questions:

-What should we expect to be doing on aquaculture by the next Board meeting?

→would be nice to have more guidance on review of aquaculture materials

One issue is that occasionally the responses from the petitioner are very simple. On the issue of manufacturing processes – the response was that it is “proprietary information”

-Is there a process to get clarification/verification of these answers from the AWG?

→Yes, the MC has authority to request TR. It would not likely be ready by the spring 2012 meeting.

Calvin is on the AWG – he will review and

-Did the NOP approve aquaculture in ponds or the ocean?

→The use of the materials would be broad. There has been no defined area of accepted aquaculture. Unclear how you could regulate the application of these materials in open systems. This could be restricted by the NOSB in an annotation.

Zea will review checklist and get back to the committee with comments at next meeting.

The questions on current checklist come from OFPA and the NOP regulations – may not make sense to change the questions.

What is the MC’s goal in terms of the Board meeting in the spring?

Any sense of where the committee should be by the spring?

The purpose of doing the material review process and petitions from AWG is that they have an additional 20-25 materials for review. Important to make sure that the Board is ready to receive all these materials. The AWG would like the Board to move forward on this process, but it is important to ensure that the Board is ready. The nutrient and vitamins petitions/reviews are more of a priority in terms of materials.

If we do trial balloons on some of the more innocuous materials and then do review on a microbial materials that is essential to the system. The entire system could hinge on one material. Shouldn’t the committee know the entire range of materials that the AWG will be submitting. Wouldn’t it make sense for the committee to start with some of the “tougher” materials and work backwards? The tougher ones are also the key one – they may be more critical to the viability of these systems. Suggestion from another Board member to review materials on a case-by-case process. Are we going to go through the process of requesting TRs and possibly waste resources (concern on funding and prioritization). Supplemental TRs will be needed on certain materials because they will have different impacts in aquatic systems.

Will there be an agenda for the March 13 meeting?

Yes, the MC will prepare questions in advance. They will have the AWG on the call for 30-45 minutes.

Expert on aquaculture – Chair will invite to participate on next call

Additional items/tabled items – will be addressed by Policy Committee

Tabled items can be brought up again, or “untabled” by the Board, but the Board does not currently have a policy on how they deal with issues that have been postponed and gone unaddressed for a period of time. Policy committee should evaluate this type of situation and determine process.

Some of these materials on the list are currently in use

The materials should be assigned to the appropriate/relevant committee to decide what to do/how to proceed
If there are lingering policy issues, then maybe PDC should take that issue as part of their work plan

Next Calls:

February 28, 2012 – prepare questions for the March 13 call with AWG. Presentation from expert?

March 13, 2012 – conversation with AWG

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee
Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 1 pm ET**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson), Jay Feldman and Calvin Walker

Absent: Wendy Fulwider and John Foster

NOP Staff: Lorraine Coke

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities	Zea	Discussion document (fall, 2011); In progress	TBD?
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay?	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD

Agenda:

A.) Review of minutes from last meeting and approval/addition to minutes.

B.) Issues to be discussed during meeting (30 min):

- Aquaculture
- Review and discussion
- Expert participation
 - Identify issues, concerns, questions
 - AWG will meet on March 13, 2012 MC call.
 - Experts
- Other Issues (10 min)

C.) Issue assignment and deadlines (5 min)

D.) NOP update (5 min)

Discussion:

Discussion of items to include on agenda for today's meeting

-Research Priorities Document: it was a discussion document in fall, 2011 – needs further development to become a formal recommendation. Possible to submit to NOP as a recommendation/letter that would be sent to appropriate agency within USDA? This sort of “priority report” could be sent to the NOP each year with updated research priorities. This item will tentatively be on the spring 2012 agenda.

Review of minutes from last meeting

Minutes were reviewed and approved by the committee members

Issues

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Extractants – were discussed at NOSB meeting in Seattle

-NOSB had proposal that would allow for extractants as long as they were not above allowable levels or tolerance levels, the NOSB did not pass with 2/3 vote, committee was told that this issue would be taken up by the NOP, question regarding the process. Will this process be discussed with committee/NOSB? Uncomfortable that Board will not fulfill its duties and not be part of this process. From perspective of NOSB's responsibilities – it is important to be involved in evaluation of these materials. There is responsibility to review process/input of that chemical's (extractant) production. Issue is more on "insignificant residues" issue that was discussed in Seattle.

Aquaculture – a document was sent around to committee "new comments and questions" this is based on trial petition on vitamins. This was based on questions that went out in July regarding sufficiency. There is some frustration because the committee is not getting clear answers.

-The AWG may feel that vitamins are vitamins and they are allowed on national list (for livestock). Assumption that MC/NOSB should just accept these as a "class" of materials? Is this a good use of the MC's time? If it is allowed on National List for terrestrial use, then should it be allowed in aqua-based systems?

-Maybe it is helpful to have a discussion on a revised checklist that would be more specific for these types of materials used in open water systems. Some suggestions were sent to the AWG, but they were not addressed completely. Because these materials are petitioned in a group, there are more questions/complications in reviewing these items.

-Should the TR address just one type of system (i.e. open vs. closed aquatic system)? One MC member suggested that the TR should address both systems at once and then the MC can make recommendation based on that information.

Next Calls:

March 13, 2012 – conversation with AWG (30 min), finalize agenda items for spring, review research priorities recommendation (draft)

March 27, 2012 –

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee
Tuesday, March 8, 2012, 1 pm ET**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson), Jay Feldman and Calvin Walker

Absent: Wendy Fulwider and John Foster

NOP Staff: Lorraine Coke

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities	Zea & Calvin	Discussion document (fall, 2011); In progress	Spring 2012?
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay?	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Draft proposal	Spring 2012

Agenda:

AWG call - Identify questions/issues

- Review:
 - +Draft Discussion Paper on Extractants and Solvents
 - +Draft Recommendations on Significant Residues

Discussion:

AWG call - Identify questions/issues

- requested by the AWG – some concerns regarding the pace of the review of aquaculture materials
- assumption that no items will be put forth at the spring NOSB meeting (i.e. no rec for any specific aquaculture material)
- committee previously responded to both petitions submitted by AWG (asked for clarification/additional information) – current status is that AWG will want to know if response to questions on vitamins petition are sufficient
 - still some concerns of terrestrial vs. aqua uses
 - concern over synthetics/non-synthetic – documentation on commercial availability?
- rather than ask for TR, the MC could ask AWG to edit the petition and include some of this additional information
- reason MC is not asking for TR at this time is that this group of vitamins is already approved for livestock/terrestrial use in the regulations
- this trial balloon does not evaluate open/closed systems enough
- committee had previously mentioned that it would prefer to review individual materials/substances rather than groups of substances, may be helpful to remind the AWG about this

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- MC may have discussion with other groups/individuals regarding organic standards in Europe
- feeling among many committee members that more information would be helpful

Questions:

- Comfortable that vitamins are on list for livestock, and would be ok with approving them for closed system for aquaculture, but what would happen to these vitamins in an open system?
- Would AWG prefer the committee/Board to review open and closed systems together (this could be a slower process) or should they review open/closed separately?
- What about synthetics/non-synthetics when the petitioned items are grouped? How do you get at issues of commercial availability, alternatives, etc.?
- Were there other documents that raise issues/questions related to this? Are there other documents that the MC members should review?

Draft discussion document on extractants/solvents

- this issue came from previous NOSB meeting
- some overlap with handling committee
- this will be developed into a discussion document for the spring meeting
- gums water-extracted only, hexane extractions, alkali extraction, etc. – many volatile solvents used in extracting
- important to lay out some of the issues surrounding the use of these materials
- controversy over definitions of these materials (suggestion to use boiling point to define volatility)
- have to explain what would be effected by these materials (agriculture, non-agricultural, etc.)
- what is meaningful amount of volatile synthetic solvent?
- is there a good explanation for not having uniform process/method for dealing with these?

Draft recommendation on significant residues

- identified by Board in 2009 as an issue
- language regarding significant levels of residues under classification of materials policy
- when this was adopted, there was work on this that was not finished
- proposal is a definition of “significant” and making determination on detectable residual amounts
- given previous vote of Board in 2009, this needs to be addressed by the Board again
- MC members should review this and discuss by email, prior to next meeting
- the guidance for classification of materials (as drafted in 2009) is in work plan – will it address these issues?
- common practice used in materials in 205.601 is that synthetic solvents can be used to extract products as long as they are removed in the end
- committee has discretion to move forward on issues that they feel need addressing
- is it waste of time for MC to be addressing this issue? – one concern is that it will be difficult to reach consensus (therefore NOP moved forward on draft guidance)
- should consider language in previous recommendation and whether the NOSB will be able to get consensus based on this new language that is being proposed
- different regulatory language regarding other materials may be helpful to review

Research priorities document

- what are the next steps forward?
- how does this translate into an actual agenda item for the next meeting?
- previous MC idea was to develop this into a recommendation for guidance
- was a process issue before – still trying to figure out the most important/relevant issues

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-try to figure a range of research topics

Next Calls:

March 13, 2012 – conversation with AWG (30 min), finalize agenda items for spring, review research priorities recommendation (draft)

March 22, 2012 (3 pm EST) –

March 27, 2012 –

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

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National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Materials Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 1 pm ET

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson), (Vice-chairperson), Jay Feldman, Zea Sonnabend, John Foster and Calvin Walker

AWG: George Lockwood, Ron Hardy, Ralph Ellston, Sebastian Belle

Absent: Wendy Fulwider

NOP Staff: Lorraine Coke, Michelle Arsenault and Melissa Bailey

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities	Zea & Calvin	Discussion document (fall, 2011); In progress	Spring 2012?
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay & Calvin	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Draft proposal	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- AWG telephone call and discussion
- Review:
 - +Draft Discussion Paper on Extractants and Solvents
 - +Draft Recommendations on Significant Residues
- Other Issues

Discussion:

AWG discussion

- Introduction of AWG members on the call
- Original questions were sent out in July – the NOSB got responses back in January; mostly regarding process issues
- Revised petition for vitamins was sent to MC and now ready to move forward with TR or to proposal stage if no TR is requested by committee
- Trace elements will be next, then biologics, trace minerals, sanitizers, etc.
- Anticipating a final rule sometime in the future (NOP is not officially working on this project at this time, there is a group at the USDA that is being formed), therefore would like to move these forward to next step

MC has discussed petitions and revisions – some questions still lingering

- distinction between open and closed
- clarification on how vitamins are fed/administered to aquatic species (usually fed in pellets, at low quantities,

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and would “benefit” wild fish if they accidentally ate them)

- according to one AWG member – there are no known adverse effects to other fish, plants or the environment
- food is expensive, therefore more economically feasible to feed only amounts consumed (if any feed does escape, then wild fish benefit, feed dissolves or there are some systems that include zones where food is collected/gathered if there is excess that was not consumed)
- also use “demand feeders” (in trout farming) and fish trigger release mechanism – this is very efficient
- in net pen/open systems there are also demand feeders, but there are also feed broadcasting systems with computer monitor/Doppler system to sense any wasted or uneaten feed
- food conversion (amount of feed given relative to weight gain) is monitored and is highly efficient

Another issue that has come up is TR review on vitamins – whether this is needed

- National Academy of Sciences – nutrient requirements for domestic animals (this has been expanded to fish)
- 2011 – most recent update was released and reviews all nutritional requirements for fish
- these vitamins are essential in diet
- in terms of 3rd party review, there are documents/academic papers that verify need for vitamins in aquatic species

What countries have good aquaculture certification/monitoring program?

- Soil Association in UK has some regulations/guidelines
- Natureland in Germany has guidelines for some species (shrimp, specifically)
- EU standards are somewhat confusing and the US has better standards
- New Zealand and Australia have standards, but not as comprehensive as the U.S.
- Canada is developing standards

Is there direct dissolving vitamins in the water?

- For plants – vitamins are dissolved in the water, not for fish (fish are fed directly through feed)
- in case of open system – there is requirement to grow other animals (like shellfish) or kelp to help control vitamins that are released in water (multi-trophic system)
- pre-mix has .5-1.5% vitamins in the feed (this would be ppm if not consumed by fish and dissolved in water)

Are there differences relating to different materials and their possible contamination/applications?

- most materials that will be petitioned are added directly to feed (often in small quantities)
- sanitizers/disinfectants are used on the farm, but they are not intentionally discharged into water/environment
- presumption that a whole group of feed ingredients, disinfectants, sanitizers, etc. will all need to be approved for aquatic systems – many of the AWG members agreed that there is a group of materials that are essential to aquatic systems and all will need to go through process

Discussion after the AWG left the call

Plan for this petition moving forward?

- not urgent to develop a recommendation on this (or other aquaculture materials) at the next meeting
- bring update to spring meeting and possible recommendation for fall 2012 meeting
- still not clear on whether to move forward and request a TR or not

How do you review this without knowing the system that it will be used in?

- because rulemaking has not happened, it is hard to proceed in this scenario
- historically – have assumed that rulemaking will follow decisions made pre-rule

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Next Calls:

March 13, 2012 – conversation with AWG (30 min), finalize agenda items for spring, review research priorities recommendation (draft)

March 15, 2012 (2 pm EST) – wrap-up discussion on AWG

March 22, 2012 (3 pm EST) – Extractants and Solvents, and Significant Residues

March 27, 2012 –

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
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Materials Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 1 pm ET

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Absent: John Foster

NOP Staff: Lorraine Coke, Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities	Zea & Calvin	Discussion document (presented at fall 2011 meeting); In progress	Spring 2012?
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay & Calvin	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- Recap of AWG discussion
- Review:
 - +Draft Discussion Paper on Extractants and Solvents
 - +Draft Recommendations on Significant Residues
- Other Issues

Discussion:

Most of the committee members have not reviewed the documents

-some sent around comments by email

Discussion on significant residues document

-to the extent that something is showing up as a “synthetic,” need to understand what materials are used

-important to define “significant” because previous policies mention significant levels

-a lot of chemicals are used, but are not detected (therefore not required to review)

-are there other approaches to deal with “known” (or detectable) synthetics

-this issue has been moving around the Board for several years

-in April 2011 the NOSB proposed a policy to define and detect thresholds for “synthetic” materials in organic products

-one committee member was concerned that trying to define “significant” with the word “known” does not make sense

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

- another committee member commented that nothing that should prevent a Board from defining something as “detectable”
- there is a need to define processes for reviewing these materials – in the last policy the Board put forth an idea that would allow for a particular
- aim to create a proposal that develops procedures for ACAs and MROs to do this process themselves
- one comment suggested that the definition of “known” that is too much of a stretch and the policy will not work on the ground
- level of detection is a good thing, currently MROs have
- no guidance explaining explicit levels of what is ok and what is not (100 ppm vs. 200 ppm – at what point is it “detectable” and would it become a “significant” detection)
- there is a level of inconsistency regarding amounts of “allowable” substances
- if the laboratory comes back with a detectable amount, would it trigger the Board to review that particular product? Even if there are guidelines, then the Board may decide that there are certain levels that mean a particular material should be reviewed.
- no predetermination when a substance detected that it would be allowed/not allowed
- suggestion that the questions around this document be folded into the extractants/solvents document
- another suggestion to convert this document to a discussion document for spring meeting and prepare a proposal for the fall meeting – more feedback from the public and suggestions on how to address this
- should clarify in proposal whether the NOSB has the authority to review significant levels of “synthetic” materials

Questions:

-How do MROs deal with different levels of a substance when detected – when is it “significant” and how would an MRO know? →there are some guidelines regarding particular materials, but some materials do not have health/safety guidelines

Discussion on extractants/solvents

- suggestion to fold in “significant” discussion document into this document
- there was a question/comment about “volatile synthetic solvents”
- there is a clause in the OFPA, but not consistent application
- important to clarify and once this happens, there may be items from the national list that have to be reviewed again
- this is only dealing with materials on the national list now (synthetics on the crops list and non-org agricultural/synthetic allowed materials for handling)
- on page 4 – agricultural item that has been turned into a synthetic (suggestion to elaborate in this section)
- on page 7 – suggestion to make separate question on non-synthetics (focus on 205.601 materials)
- additional questions to clarify different types of extractants – trying to create categories or require individual review on product to product basis?
- have to be careful/duty under classification document – need to be clear

Next Calls:

March 22, 2012 (3 pm EST) – further discussion on Extractants and Solvents and Significant Residues, further discussion on AWG (next steps with petition), discuss Research Priorities document

March 27, 2012 – vote on documents

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Materials Committee

Tuesday, March 22, 2012, 3 pm ET

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson), John Foster, Calvin Walker and Jay Feldman

Absent: Wendy Fulwider

NOP Staff: Lorraine Coke, Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	Zea & Calvin	Discussion document (was presented at fall 2011 meeting); Draft proposal In progress	Spring 2012?
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	Jay & Calvin	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	Zea?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- 1.) Review and approval/ or addition to minutes from last call.
- 2.) Issues to be discussed during meeting (40):
 - Extractants and Solvents Discussion Paper
 - Significant Residues in Classification of Materials
 - Research Priorities Proposal Document
 - Aquaculture Discussion Document
- 3.) Other Issues (05)
 - Making the deadlines.
 - Call for next week?
- 4.) NOP update (05)

Discussion:

Review/approve minutes from last call

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Extractants/solvents discussion document

Review/discussion on the latest draft of the document. The name of the title was changed and several edit swere made.

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

Solvent def: synthesis for combining materials can be a “solvent,” not intent of paper to prohibit all solvents, but just solvents that use synthetic extractants.

Should we make a distinction between volatile (not toxic) solvents and other types of solvents.

The numbering system in the document needs to be edited.

How should volatile synthetic solvents be defined especially in relation to the regulations?

Should we make a distinction between different types of solvents?

Distinction in types of solvents is important – water is a “solvent”

More of a discussion of types of solvents is important

The first question in the questions needs to relate to part 1

Add supercritical carbon dioxide to the chart

Is there a way to highlight the section regarding the public’s comments?

What is the relevance of volatility as it applies to what we are doing? Is it really an issue around manufacturing or worker exposure around manufacturing? Is it a term that just gets people excited? →not likely that a consumer will deal with this directly. Would we have the same questions if the word “volatile” weren’t there?

-it is related to exposure

-it is not often referred to by the NOSB

-it is in the regulation

-important to calm down the reactions to extractions (like hexane extraction)

-would be helpful to resolve this confusion around the word/definition

On page 3, whether a substance would change a material from agricultural to non-agricultural (sometimes a preference when placed on the National List – on 205.606 re

Jay made a motion to approve as a discussion document to present at the meeting. Calvin Seconded. Vote: 5-yes, 1-absent.

Next steps: Jay will make changes and circulate the document one more time. Hope to vote on it next week.

Significant residues in classification of materials discussion document

Review of comments from committee members.

Whether a material should be “reviewable” – what is the “trigger” that pushes a material forth for review by the Board

Change “synthetic impurity” to “synthetic residue” is acceptable

Would not want to lose this sense of “legal responsibility”

It would be helpful to have things expressed a little more plainly

This document is moving forward as a discussion document to receive public comments

Would the committee be ok with moving this document forward if changes are made to the tone, clarity, etc.?

Feeling from some board members that this document needs to be trimmed down and refined

Next steps: will review, make edits, and circulate to the committee. Plan to vote on it next week.

Research priorities proposal document

The discussion document from last fall did not receive many comments on regulations.gov

Did not insert the same background info. from the last discussion doc b/c seemed reparative

Some edits to the content where it wasn’t very clear – some changes from committee members

-the materials committee will collect research suggestions from other committees

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- research priorities is a priority for more than just the materials committee
- work with other agencies to better understand what the priorities are in organic agriculture
- have to balance the ability to make demands on other peoples' time (to attend additional agencies sessions)
- creating a list will take place annually at the fall meeting
- in area where the examples are cited, could alternatives and cultural management perspectives be incorporated (so add a bullet point to ask question about cultural practices and the whole system)
- would a question on market reception/research be appropriate as well?
- also add "private foundations" and "research foundations" to the list of funders

Future calls:

March 27 (1pm EDT)- review and vote on Research Priorities Proposal, review and vote on significant residues discussion document, discuss next steps on aquaculture

March 28 (3pm EDT) –

March 30 (noon – 1 EDT) –if needed

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:00 ET**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo), Calvin Walker (CW) and Jay Feldman (JFe)

Sitting in: Barry Flamm (BF)

Absent: Wendy Fulwider (WF)

National Organic Program (NOP) Staff: Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Work Plan

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW	Discussion document (was presented at Fall 2011 meeting); Draft proposal In progress	Spring 2012
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	JFe & CW	In progress	Spring 2012?
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- Approve Minutes from March 22
- Review and discuss:
 - Extractants and Solvents Document/Jay
 - Significant Residues in Classification of Materials Document/Jay
 - Research Priorities Recommendation Document/Zea and Calvin
 - Aquaculture Presentation/Jay
- NOP update: Review status of outstanding petitions or technical reports. Lisa Brines, National List Manager
- Other Issues:

Two additional calls scheduled as necessary before April 02 deadline for proposals:
Wednesday/March 28 at 3:00-4:00pm and
Friday/March 30, Noon-1:00pm

Discussion:

Minutes from March 22 were reviewed and approved as received.

Extractants/solvents discussion document

Sent final doc on extractants and solvents via email. Added language about supercritical CO₂ with footnote. Also moved order of questions based on previous discussion. The discussion doc was voted on during last meeting, so would like to verify that this is acceptable prior to forwarding to NOP office.

Significant residues in classification of materials discussion document

Changes were sent via email and the committee feels it's a good solid document now. The committee is looking forward to getting some good input from public. Would like to see this move toward a proposal for the fall meeting. Prior to sending this to committee for review, two members had a conversation about the definition of "harm" which they found to be very productive and useful. The committee agreed that this document be on the Spring agenda but did not vote on it last meeting. Motion by JFe to submit this as a discussion doc for the Spring meeting. Seconded by Jennifer. All in favor. (5 yes, 0 opposed, 1 absent)

Research priorities proposal document

Draft was sent to committee but the text was not fleshed out. Edits and changes that other members suggested were made. Comments with regard to the issue about region specific limits to fire blight? Question about preventing growth in areas with fire blight- not a question that can be answered with research. Member offered that they thought this proposal and this issue is very important and will add great value to the organic community.

ZS moved to put this forth as a proposal. Seconded by CW. Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstain:0 Absent: 1 Recuse: 0

This now provides the committee with three discussion docs for the Spring meeting, and one presentation about aquaculture.

Aquaculture Presentation/JFe

Presentation will be oral and about 5 minutes long

Other Issues: NOP update (10)

All technical reports (TR) for Spring 2012 meeting have been posted on the NOP website, with the exception of pheromones.

NOP would like members to start thinking about Technical reports for Fall meeting. Will send out updated spreadsheet April 6, with reminders for outstanding items for Spring.

Lingering questions about FePO₄ (Ferric Phosphate) and updated TR. Does board need to put forth a formal request for new TR? Should Agricultural Research Service (ARS) do initial review before we send it out for new TR? NOP would like to figure out the path forward and get back to Crops Committee.

ZS will send Research Priorities doc to members.

Future calls:

March 28 (3pm EDT) –Extra meeting-**cancelled**

March 30 (noon – 1 EDT) –**cancelled**

April 10 (1pm EDT)

April 24 (1pm EDT)

Milestone	Deadline
Spring 2012 Agenda Finalized	Friday, March 23, 2012
Committee Proposals Due	Monday, April 2, 2012
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 21 – 24, 2012

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo), Calvin Walker (CW), Jay Feldman (JFe), Wendy Fulwider (WF)

National Organic Program (NOP) Staff: Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Work Plan

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW	Discussion document (was presented at Fall 2011 meeting); Draft proposal In progress	Spring 2012
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	JFe & CW	In progress	Presentation Spring 2012
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- Approve Minutes from March 27 (sent 04 06 12)
- Review Extractants and Solvents Document (JFe)
- Review Significant Residues in Classification of Materials Document (JFe)
- Review Research Priorities Recommendation Document (ZS, CW)
- Discuss Aquaculture Presentation (JFe)

Preparation for Spring Meeting

- Identify needs for presentation
- Evaluation of comments
- Discussion and inter-committee communication
- Preparatory meetings on Monday May 21

Discussion:

- Minutes from March 27 (sent 04 06 12) not reviewed yet. Will approve at a later date.
- Extractants and Solvents Document for spring meeting (JFe). No additional comments or updates.

- Significant Residues in Classification of Materials Document (JFe). No additional comments or updates. Research Priorities Recommendation Document (ZS, CW). No additional comments
- Aquaculture Presentation at spring meeting (JFe). Intention is to summarize current status, and would like to enlist help from other committee members. Committee asked to clarify status of Technical Report (TR). NOP indicated that there was no request for TR for specific aquaculture petitions yet, so no contractor has been assigned. Presentation at meeting will include # of petitions pending, determination for sufficiency, need for TR. A member requested that the Committee schedule a date for decision (for sufficiency) before board meeting. A streamlined TR would be useful in an effort to move things forward. JFe is still looking for someone to address the committee about the aquaculture systems and how they work (i.e. open net systems vs. closed systems, etc.).
- Chair asked if there were any needs for presentations at Spring Meeting. None.
- With regard to evaluation of public comments Chair would like to find an effective way to review and respond.
- Inter-committee communication. ZS offered that if and when the Research Priorities doc gets passed it should be interfaced with the Policy Development Committee (PDC). How do we do this? Will talk about partitioning time at the meeting when the public comment period has closed and there's a better idea of how many comments there are
- Preparatory meeting on Monday May 21 at 6pm

Next Scheduled MC Calls

- April 24 (1pm EDT) – Continue aquaculture discussion; review public comment received on MC documents for May meeting
- May 8 (1pm EDT) – Review public comment for NOSB meeting

Milestone	Deadline
Public Comment Period	April 9 - May 3, 2012
Informal prep meeting	May 21, 6pm (in Albuquerque)
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 22 – 25, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Committee (MC) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo), Jay Feldman (JFe), Wendy Fulwider (WF)
Absent: Calvin Walker (CW)
National Organic Program (NOP) Staff: Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Work Plan

Project	Point Person	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW	Discussion document (was presented at Fall 2011 meeting); Draft proposal In progress	Spring 2012
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	JFe & CW	In progress	Presentation Spring 2012
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- Review minutes from last call (4/10/12)
- Review public comments
- Preparation for Spring Meeting
- Aquaculture (chlorine) Issues/Lisa Brines, NOP

Item 1 – Definitions

- Proposed text for draft guidance: In implementing the NOSB’s recommendation, the NOP does not see the need to amend the existing regulations by adding new definitions. Instead, the NOP has provided explanatory definitions within the guidance document to be used when needed. Some definitions that were provided in the NOSB Formal Recommendation of April 10, 2011 have been updated or amended within the draft guidance for clarity.
- Specific Changes:
 - Chemical change (definition not in regs)
 - NOSB/AWG Definition:

- Chemical Change. An occurrence whereby the identity of a substance is modified, such that the resulting substances possesses a different distinct identity (see related definition of “substance”)
- NOP Proposed Clarification:
- Chemical change. A process (i.e., chemical reaction) whereby a substance is transformed into one or more other distinct substances.
- Extract (definition not in regs)
- NOSB/AWG Definition:
- Extract. To separate, withdraw, or obtain one or more essential constituents of an organism, substance or mixture by use of solvents, mechanical or physical methods.
- NOP Proposed Clarification:
- Extract. To separate, withdraw, or obtain one or more [lb – “essential” deleted] constituents of an organism, substance, or mixture by use of solvents (dissolution), acid-base extraction, or mechanical or physical methods.
- Substance (definition not in regs)
- NOSB/AWG Definition:
- Substance. An element, molecular species, or chemical compound that possesses a distinct identity (For example, a distinct identity may be demonstrated through the material having a separate Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number (in some cases the same material may have multiple CAS numbers), Codex International Numbering system (INS) number, or FDA or other agency standard of identity).
- NOP Proposed Clarification:
- Substance. A generic type of material, such as an element, molecular species, or chemical compound that possesses a distinct identity (e.g. having a separate Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, Codex International Numbering System (INS) number, or FDA or other agency standard of identity).

Item 2 – Substances not previously classified / not on Permitted Substance List

- Proposed text in guidance:

Substances which have not been previously classified by the NOSB at a public meeting, and which do not appear on the Permitted Substances List, NOP 50XX, may be petitioned to the NOSB for review.

Item 3 – Eligibility for organic certification

- Proposed text in guidance:
- This draft guidance does not determine the eligibility of a substance for organic certification.
- If a substance contains or is made up of agricultural ingredients, and can meet the USDA NOP organic production, handling, processing and labeling standards, it may be eligible to be certified under the NOP regulations.

- Related Issues
- Meeting adjourned.

Discussion:

- Approval of minutes from 04/10/12 delayed until next meeting
- Review public comments. Deferred to next meeting until more comments are received
- Preparation for Spring Meeting-Chair asked if anyone had any questions about presentations or other topics.
- Aquaculture Issues – It is proposed by NOP to have the Aquaculture petitions handled by the Livestock Committee (LC), but this is open to discussion. Chair proposed that the MC continue addressing the Aquaculture issues for background. NOP believes livestock would be a better fit because MC does not have in its purview in the PPM the ability to vote on petitions. A member felt that the MC is better suited to review these petitions. NOP added that most of the petitions that have come in so far have pertained to LS issues. Environmental concerns, which are unique to this issue and have broader environmental context need to be addressed. A member asked about a joint approach? Members agreed that this would be a good approach. Several possibilities about how to move forward were suggested, including forming a joint committee with all members, or just letting committee members who are interested in participating join the LS calls. One member thought that moving it to the LS committee was a good idea, and having members choose to sit in on calls if they want, instead of forming a joint committee was a better idea. JFe would like to look back at history and scope of the aquaculture before making decision about whether or not to send it to LS. ZS suggested that Jay call Katrina. In terms of workplans, NOP would like to finalize them on next call.
- ZS - item: asked that each of the committees look at relevant GMO items be discussed and added to their workplans.
JFe: Two discussion docs that that the Committee is working on are not on workplan for fall. Would like to discuss this with NOP so things don't get delayed. NOP requested that MC compose questions. The questions revolve around the definition of the word "significant". However, it may not be necessary to define the word if the process they use to determine it is effective.
- Related Issues -none
- Meeting adjourned

Next Scheduled MC Calls

- April 24 (1pm EDT) – Continue aquaculture discussion; review public comment received on MC documents for May meeting
- May 8 (1pm EDT) – Review public comment for NOSB meeting

Milestone	Deadline
Public Comment Period	April 9 - May 3, 2012
Informal prep meeting	May 21, 6pm (in Albuquerque)
Spring 2012 NOSB Meeting	May 22 – 25, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo), Jay Feldman (JFe), Wendy Fulwider (WF)

Absent: Calvin Walker (CW)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault and Lisa Brines

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW	Discussion document (was presented at Fall 2011 meeting); Draft proposal In progress	Spring 2012
Aquaculture Materials Review Process	JFe & CW	In progress	Presentation Spring 2012
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Materials classification	?		TBD
Petition tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Technical Report tracking	JT / LB	In progress	Ongoing
Material Review – Process Improvement	?		TBD
Extractants/solvents	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012
Significant residues	JF	Discussion document	Spring 2012

Agenda:

- Review minutes from April 24 meeting.
- Approval or addition to minutes.
- Discussion of public comments
 - Aquaculture Overview and Presentation
 - Proposal - Research Priorities Framework (RFP)
 - Discussion Document – Extractants and Solvents
 - Discussion Document – Significant residues and Classification of Materials/Jay
- Workplan/Development of Draft
 - Issues of critical overview/Fall 2012 and spring 2013
 - Proceed with Recommendations on two discussion documents/Fall 2012
 - Other Ingredients, processing aids, etc. /Jay
 - GMOs/Zea
 - Examine and Update Petitions/Technical Review Process
 - Examine CBI/Confidential Business Information transparency, etc.
 - Known utilization of substance and Ion exchange chromatography or similar analysis to examine substance/ residue

- Other Issues
- Definition Issues/Lisa Brines, NOP
- Spring Meeting Preparation Continues/Michelle Arsenault
 - Updates
 - Response to journalist/public
 - PowerPoint

Discussion

- Minutes from April 24 meeting not reviewed or approved
- Discussion of public comments
 - Aquaculture Overview and Presentation-no document, will have a short update presentation. Received comments from aquaculture working group.
 - Research Priorities Framework Proposal - not many comments and those that have been received are supportive
 - Extractants and Solvents Discussion Document - comments reflect positions on both sides. Discussion breaks down on substance vs process. General sense from community is to slow down and let NOP resolve some work before NOSB pushes forward with these documents.
 - Significant residues and Classification of Materials Discussion Document- Piece of unfinished business that needs to be resolved. The committee agrees that it is valuable to have input and feedback. A member offered that perhaps the NOSB needs to slow down from time to time and let NOP respond. JFe asked that NOP weigh in on scope of guidance docs with regard to specific issues listed in doc and timeframe. Committee would like to add placeholder on workplan for these two issues once the NOSB meeting concludes.
- Workplan/Development of Draft
 - Issues of critical overview/Fall 2012 and spring 2013
 - Proceed with Recommendations on two discussion documents/Fall 2012
 - Other Ingredients, processing aids, etc.
 - GMOs and MCs role with regard to GMOs. Intention was for all the committees to interface with GMO committee. Appropriate topics for MC to consider include: Excluded methods, cell fusion, etc. Committee would like to clarify definition of terms within excluded methods clause. After RPF is passed, there is a lot of research that needs to be done about GMO contamination. LB asked if a TR would be required when it comes to reviewing definitions. ZS indicated that it probably would not, and is going to solicit comments from plant breeding group that is very knowledgeable about such things.
 - Examine and Update Petitions/Technical Review Process- Look at process in PPM in conjunction with PDC to streamline process for submitting petitions.
 - Examine CBI/Confidential Business Information transparency, etc. –unclear in guidelines in PPM. Who is receiving information and what happens to it? MC could look at usefulness of this. Committee member noted that they don't feel comfortable voting on something when the CBI info is redacted. A member asked if the petitioner was aware

that the NOSB will not, or are not required to, vote on something if the information is not complete. MC would work with PDC to get updates into manual.

- Known utilization of substance and Ion exchange chromatography or similar analysis to examine substance/residue – Perennial issue. (Techniques used for separation of products). Would this technique be allowed and is this a topic that should be discussed at NOSB meeting? A member asked if this issue has been settled or not, citing a past material that was rejected because it was subjected to this process. Committee feels we would need a TR.
 - Other Issues – ZS clarified that the research priorities should be included in the fall workplan.
- Definition Issues/Lisa Brines. NOP will have a couple of slides at NOSB meeting about this issue.
 - MA updated group on Spring meeting preparation
Response to journalist's inquiries – Guidance was sent to NOSB from Soo Kim about conducting interviews.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled MC Calls

June 12 1pm EDT

June 26 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
Fall proposals due	August 20, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting	October 16-19, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Jay Feldman (JFe),

Absent: John Foster (JFo), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Calvin Walker (CW)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA) and Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal In progress	fall 2012
Examine Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)	fall 2012
Update petition/TR process		Jointly with PDS	TBD
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information. Discussion document.	spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing	N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD

Agenda:

- Review minutes from April 10, 24, and May 08, 2012
- Discussion of 2012 NOSB Spring Meeting
- Public Comments
- Discussion of Draft Workplan
 - Workplan clarification requested on following:
- Materials Subcommittee (MS): Identifying what GE means to the public, Successful aquaculture
- New Issues/Biodiversity
- Report from Michelle Arsenault/ABS
- Additional report from NOP
- Meeting adjourned.

Discussion

- Approval of minutes from April 10, 24, and May 08, 2012 deferred until June 26th, due to lack of quorum
- Discussion of 2012 NOSB Spring Meeting - no new discussion

- Public comments – There was a general sense that the public would like the subcommittee to work more quickly on various items.
- Discussion of Draft Workplan
 - Materials Working Group (WG) is ad hoc and is comprised of anyone who wants to join, including past members, members from Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and National Organic Coalition (NOC). Currently there are about 20 people participating. It is intended as a vehicle for group to give input on materials classifications that have been delayed, i.e. “other ingredients” in food (which is on the Handling Subcommittees workplan). ZS indicated to NOP (MM) that the group had been reconvened in order to look at specific issues. NOP had questions about how working group would function, since it is organized outside the NOP and NOSB process. ZS asked for input from others so she could begin a discussion doc. Would like to invite JFo to participate. The WG already had one ‘framework’ call and has one scheduled for this afternoon. Group will meet every other week between now and August. ZS indicated that the WG would like to engage experts who have knowledge of these topics. JFe would like to stay in touch with this group and will try to participate.
 - JFe – There are two discussion docs (one on extractants and solvents, and one on residues) that are being addressed by NOP proposed guidance on materials classification. Would like to create similar doc to compare to the draft guidance to make sure the issues are being addressed. There seemed to be categories that were raised by the Subcommittee that were not included in the draft guidance and wanted to make sure there are no gaps. Feels that NOP is making determinations on material without applying the policy that the NOSB voted on. There is no precedent for this. Would like more clarity about “functional and technical affects”, if this is the terminology being substituted for “significant”. NOP indicated that this will not be policy but instead be draft guidance that will be available for public comment, and thinks that this issue can move forward without additional work on these proposals from the MC subcommittee.
 - Clarification requested on following workplan items:
 - Ion Exchange Resins- NOP will send background guidance before MS should start on this. Due to timing, this may be delayed until the spring 2013 meeting.
 - Confidential Business Information. Several questions were raised including: to what degree should the NOSB be involved in creating a CBI/disc/COI policy? Can reviewers look at all ingredients that are considered proprietary? What can or can’t they disclose. Discussion on whether this overlaps with technical report (TR) disclosure/COI policy. This workplan item is separate – only addresses CBI that is submitted by the petitioner.
 - ZS indicated that this would be a good opportunity for the NOSB to call for a TAP process that uses panels of technical experts.. Will determine at a later date who will take the lead (JFe?).
 - GMO ad hoc will interface with Materials to look at definition of excluded methods. The main question is how far back in chain do you look when determining GMO. ZS will reference OMRI GMO decision tree as example. Not sure that this will result in anything for the fall agenda, but would like to keep it as a place holder on agenda for now.
 - JFe (Crops) and CW (LS) need to determine research priorities for MS. ZS asked that they assemble a list by the end of July which will be shortened to focus on most important research topics to be addressed. JT - GMO Vaccines issue? This will be addressed through the Livestock Subcommittee for now.

- Identifying what GE means to the public. These topics keep coming up in public comments, so would like to address this, but don't intend on creating a discussion doc or proposal. Is there a need to examine organic integrity with regard to materials? At this time, the GMO ad hoc Subcommittee will be addressing GMO issues.
- Successful aquaculture.
 - Would like to appoint liaison to Livestock Subcommittee (CW) and Crops (JFe or ZS) to keep the Materials Subcommittee updated on the review of aquaculture petitions
- New Issues/Biodiversity
 - Unclear as to whether or not this is something the MS would like or need to address. JT feels that the MS should look at broad overview of Biodiversity. It was noted that a previous joint subcommittee between CACC and Crops created a document and there are outstanding recommendations from NOSB. NOP (LB) feels that this item does not need to be added to the MS's workplan at this time. ZS indicated that this sounds like an accreditation issue and not one for the NOSB.
- ABS – update on status of minutes (posted on web) and recommendations from NOSB May 2012 meeting (to be posted soon)
- Additional report from NOP (LB). There are lots of new petitions to be distributed to MC and some TRs should be returned soon.
- Meeting adjourned.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

June 26, 2012 1pm EDT
 July 10, 2012 1pm EDT
 July 24, 2012 1pm EDT
 August 14, 2012 1pm EDT
 August 28, 2012 1pm EDT
 September 11, 2012 1pm EDT
 September 25, 2012 1pm EDT
 October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" agenda	August 13, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Calvin Walker (CW)

Absent: Lisa Brines (LB), John Foster (JFo), Jay Feldman (JFe)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA) and Melissa Bailey (MB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)	spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly with PDS. MS will lead.	TBD
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information. Discussion document.	spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing	N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/Materials? Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item below?	TBD

Agenda:

- Review minutes from April 10, 24, May 08 and June 12, 2012
- Discussion documents - further processing
 - Extractants and Solvents
 - Significant Residues
- Develop and implement framework for NOSB Research Priorities.
 - Identify research priorities procedure and issues. Calvin and Jay
- GMOs
- Examine and update petitions/technical review process – joint PDS.
- Examine Confidential Business Information Transparency – joint with PDS
- Examine ion exchange resins and impact/ NOP wants to provide additional information before we proceed with this item.
- Additional items

- Discuss next call dates.

Discussion

- Minutes from April 10, 24, May 08, and June 12 approved.
- Discussion documents - further processing
 - Extractants and Solvents, Significant Residues
 - NOP indicated that neither of these items is on the workplan so they are not on the agenda for fall meeting. During the last Materials call, JFe indicated that he wanted to do a side by side comparison with the pending draft guidance, but the NOP feels that it would be more productive for the subcommittee to comment after the draft guidance is released.
- Develop and implement framework for NOSB Research Priorities.
 - ZS is working on this in conjunction with subcommittee representatives CW (LS) and JFe (Crops)
- GMOs
 - GMO ad hoc subcommittee does not have any joint work in progress with the MS but may have in the future. JT would like to work on GM issues as they relate to materials. MB stated this is not on the workplan and is not sure what this topic would be.
 - MB indicated that GMO ad hoc Subcommittee is initiating projects and would involve other subcommittee as needed. ZS asked that the chair draft a document to clarify what she is proposing.
- Examine and update petitions/technical review process – joint PDS.
 - 2-stage TR policy-conversation deferred until next meeting to have JFe’s input.
- Examine Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency – joint with PDS.
 - Currently the CBI that gets submitted with petition is filed and does not get sent to NOSB. The discussion included questions about the usefulness of collecting this information, and what is communicated to petitioners who are submitting CBI along with the petitions. A member noted that they would be unlikely to vote for a material if the CBI is not disclosed. The subcommittee would like additional information from NOP on how the NOSB would provide feedback. MB suggested this could be part of updating the petition guidelines and that LB could provide additional context.
- Ion exchange resins and impact. NOP will provide additional information before MS proceeds with this item.
- No additional items
- Next call dates were not discussed due to lack of time.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

July 10, 2012 1pm EDT

July 24, 2012 1pm EDT

August 14, 2012 1pm EDT

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT
October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 13, 2012
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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 1:00 EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Calvin Walker (CW), John Foster (JFo), Jay Feldman (JFe)

Absent:

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)	Spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.	Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.	Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing	N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item?	Fall 2012?

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from July 10 call
- Research Priorities Framework/Process
- Report current research topics and background information from public and NOSB subcommittees/Jay, Calvin, Zea
- Examine and update petitions/technical review process- joint with PDC/Jay (Fall 2012)
- Examine Confidential Business Information Transparency- joint with PDC. Requested additional information from NOP. (Spring 2013)
- Examine ion exchange resins and impact: NOP wants to provide additional information before we proceed with this item. No additional information provided as of yet. (Spring 2013)
- GMO Ad hoc Subcommittee update/Zea
- Program update and discussion/Lisa Brines
- Extractants and Solvents

- Significant Residues
- Remarks and clarifications/Materials
- New items
- Next call

Discussion

- Minutes from July 10 approved with no changes.
- Research Priorities Proposal Document – Materials is soliciting topics from other Subcommittees. NOP encouraged the members to solidify lists/questions in order to move the process forward
- Update petitions/technical review (2-stage) process - joint with PDC/Jay (Fall 2012?). NOP has indicated that they would like the PDS to work on a proposal instead of a discussion doc. Now that PDS has worked on this, perhaps the MS would like to move forward. Chair asked for clarification about how the MS could continue this project, and NOP suggested looking at the bigger picture with regard to TRs. The 2-stage process will fall under that and may be revised along the way. The chair asked that the two subcommittees coordinate as this has not occurred yet. A member asked about the provenance of the checklist, and how the NOP uses it. NOP provided clarification about using the checklists for eligibility and petition sufficiency. Confidential Business Information Transparency- joint with PDS. MS requested additional information from NOP, which will forward the CBI section of petition guidelines. It is unclear in petition guidelines about what happens to the CBI, so petitioners do not necessarily know that it's not being sent to the NOSB, and that perhaps this is an obstacle to getting the substance approved. LB noted that there's an issue with deliberation at the NOSB meetings since decisions need to be transparent and CBI cannot be disclosed to the public.
- GMO ad hoc Subcommittee update - working on several items: Seed Purity, decision tree structures, policy and other standards with regard to how far back in chain we are looking. Envisions a 5-year plan for the GMO ad hoc Subcommittee and another member asked about potentially converting this to a standing Subcommittee.
- Ion exchange resins- still waiting for NOP to provide more info. NOP doesn't expect to get started on this until fall or after.
- Significant residues/Extractants and Solvents - Draft guidance on classification is in progress (LB) with the intention to put into clearance this summer. Classification guidance will be available for public comment. NOP will provide group more info if plans change.
- JFe would like to start discussion about production aids: what they are and how they are defined.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 14, 2012 1pm EDT

- Discuss/Vote: Research Priorities Proposal Document
- Discuss: Update petition process
- Discuss: CBI Process and Policies

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 4:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Calvin Walker (CW), Jay Feldman (JFe),

Absent: Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo), Wendy Fulwider (WF)-call dropped/couldn't gain access.

Sitting in: Mac Stone (MS), Colehour Bondera (CBo)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)	Spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.	Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.	Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing	N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item?	TBD

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from July 24, 2012 call.
- Discuss the research needs/issues, questions that have been discussed in-committee and those collected thus far.

Discussion:

- Minutes from July 24, 2012 call not approved due to lack of quorum
- Research ideas discussed by Subcommittee
- Livestock: methionine and herbal methionine
- Crops: Copper sulfate, antibiotics, quality of organic over conventional

- PDS: PDS has not discussed research topics since it is not directly relevant to this Subcommittee. The Materials group feels that the PDS could take on some issues about process, but it's not certain that this is the best use of their time.
- Chair asked if the Research Priority Framework should be included in the PPM so that it can be utilized by future Boards. CBo added that it should at least be mentioned in the PPM. A member asked if the NOSB would need a form letter in an effort to communicate to different agencies or communities. LB indicated that the NOP would communicate the information as stated in the Framework Document and felt that the Subcommittee does not need to create a form letter document.
- Still need to get lists from the following subcommittees: GMO ad hoc, CACS, and Handling. Chair asked if the other members could relay this information and ask them to email their lists.
- LB reminded the group that this topic is scheduled to be voted on Tuesday, August 14, 2012.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 9, 2012 1pm EDT extra call

August 14, 2012 1pm EDT

- Discuss/Vote: Research Priorities Proposal Document
- Discuss: Update petition process
- Discuss: CBI Process and Policies

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 9, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Calvin Walker (CW), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), John Foster (JFo)

Absent: Jay Feldman (JFe), Wendy Fulwider (WF)

Sitting in: Colehour Bondera (CBo)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)	Spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.	Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.	Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing	N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?		TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within “Update Petition Process” item?	TBD

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from July 24 call
- Discuss the research needs/issues, questions that have been discussed in-committee and those collected thus far.

Discussion:

- Minutes from July 24 call not approved.
- Livestock: Seven research topics in preliminary discussion, including methionine, non-plant materials, parasitism, aquaculture (open v closed), mastitis. CBo added that the group spoke briefly about prioritizing the items but have not discussed them in depth yet. ZS asked that they include a few bullet points for each research topic to focus the research.

- Handling:
 - Research areas of interest include: Tools to assess commercial availability; available tools to assess suitability of alternatives to sunseting or petitioned materials; How to develop markets for organic alternatives to 605 and 606 substances; Health value and essentiality of accessory nutrients (e.g. ARA, DHA, inositol, choline, etc.); Silicon Dioxide (Subcommittee decided not to do this one); Sulfur Dioxide in wine (Subcommittee decided not to do this one);
 - Research areas of interest with respect to Carrageenan include:
 - * Can Carrageenan be produced using methods that are non-synthetic and can those methods be used for all the types of carrageenan?
 - * Does the gel formed by carrageenan when it is used in food provoke an inflammation response? Injected or in vitro studies allegedly cannot be compared to feeding studies because the carrageenan has formed a gel that is more resistant to degradation in food.
 - * Is there replicated proof that carrageenan breaks down into smaller molecular weight forms in digestion and that these forms are small enough and populous enough to pose a health concern?
 - * Allergic and toxicological responses to carrageenan are so far primarily anecdotal. Can there be further research done to quantify how widespread and truthful these claims are?
 - * Are there viable alternatives to carrageenan and if so, for what uses?
 - * What are the ecological impacts of seaweed cultivation and harvest in species used for Carrageenan?
- ZS asked that Handling provide specific questions that will serve to focus the research. JFo will send this doc to the Handling Subcommittee members and solicit specific questions under each of the broad topics.
- Crops: Group will discuss Research Topics on next call. Perhaps might need extra call to take vote on this.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 14, 2012 1pm EDT

- Discuss/Vote: Research Priorities Proposal Document
- Discuss: Update petition process
- Discuss: CBI Process and Policies

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
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NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Calvin Walker (CW), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Jay Feldman (JFe), Wendy Fulwider (WF)

Absent: John Foster (JFo)

Sitting in: Colehour Bondera (CBo), Barry Flamm (CBo)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan - Subject to change

Project	Reviewer	Status	VOTE	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress		Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)		Spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.		Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?			TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item?		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from July 24 call
- Research Priorities Framework/Process.
 - Research topics/questions - updated information from chairs
 - Materials review and discussion
 - Summary and list formation/top priorities
 - Development of key questions about each topic
 - Recommendation may include preliminary list of entities involved in
 - Research and evaluation of funding opportunities, collaboration, endorsements.
- Program update: Michelle or Lisa
- Additional Materials call scheduled for Friday August 17, 2012, 1:00pm.

- Discuss the research needs/issues, questions that have been discussed in-committee and those collected thus far.

Discussion:

- Minutes from July 24 call not ready for approval yet. Will approve on next call.
- Research topics/questions: Group discussed various aspects about research topics and narrowing scope of the research questions.
 - LS: GMO vaccines research questions need to be more specific. Chair would like a completed document by tomorrow so the MS can finalize this on Friday.
 - CS: copper sulfate, antibiotics, whole farms system research. JFe and ZS would like to move forward with the Research Priorities for Crops Subcommittee. ZS will edit some language from a paragraph to question format and send it out before the next CS call.
 - HS: JFo sent Handling Research Priorities but it was unclear whether or not updates and edits were made. Chair asked that HS make edits (if they haven't been done yet) and have them prepared for next call.
 - CACS has not discussed any research priorities.
 - ZS is working on preamble for the Research Priorities document.
 - A member asked that the MS chair send out an email reminder that the Research Priorities docs are due ASAP.
- Research and evaluation of funding opportunities, collaboration, endorsements. Chair asked for feedback about implementing this portion of the process. NOP has committed to making this available to other agencies, as well as publishing this online. BF supports this endeavor. Chair asked that finalized docs be sent to her by tomorrow.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 14, 2012 1pm EDT

- Discuss/Vote: Research Priorities Proposal Document
- Discuss: Update petition process
- Discuss: CBI Process and Policies

August 17, 2012 1pm EDT extra call

Vote on Research priorities proposal.

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
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Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012
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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 17, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) Calvin Walker (CW), (ZS), Wendy Fulwider (WF)

Absent: Jay Feldman (JFe), John Foster (JFo)

Sitting in: Colehour Bondera (CBo)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	08 17 12	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)		Spring 2013
Update petition process		Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.		Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?			TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item?		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from July 24, 2012
- Vote on Research Priorities Framework/Process

Discussion:

- Minutes from July 24, 2012 not approved during the call.
- The Materials Chair thanked the group for the extra effort they put forth to get the Research Priorities submitted. ZS asked that the Subcommittees narrow the list to approximately 3 per Subcommittee for this first submission.
- Livestock priorities top 3: GMO vaccines, methionine alternatives, and organic aquaculture. Additional priorities: parasitism, mastitis, herd health, pneumonia and plant extracts. Group agreed to concentrate on short list for now, and add items as it progresses.

- NOP asked for clarification about organic aquaculture. Suggestion to delete text which is not specific to a research priority, specifically statement on whether materials already approved by NOSB for organic plant, animal, and handling should be automatically approved for organic aquaculture systems. CW will edit and send to JT, who will work with ZS to finalize proposal
- Crops: “Whole farm systems research” includes 3 topics and research questions. Didn’t identify other issues beyond the 3, but expect more in the coming months.
- Handling priorities: The group discussed the items that were sent for a prior meeting. Carrageenan is one priority, and so far this is the only item that the group has had a chance to discuss so they would like to put forth the one and add the others later. Other questions will be flushed out in the coming months.
- Research Priorities introduction: ZS wrote intro and left place holders for the Subcommittee’s topics.

Vote on Research Priorities

Motion to adopt the proposal on NOSB Research Priorities.

Motion by: ZS

Second: CW

No Additional Discussion

Yes: 4 No: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 17, 2012 1pm EDT extra call

Vote on Research priorities proposal.

August 28, 2012 1pm EDT

September 11, 2012 1pm EDT

September 25, 2012 1pm EDT

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, August 28, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Jay Feldman (JFe)

Absent: Calvin Walker (CW), John Foster (JFo)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	08 17 12	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and JT	Discussion doc?, jointly w/PDS (JFe)		Spring 2013
Update petition process	JFe	Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.		Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		Spring 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?			TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS. Could this be integrated within "Update Petition Process" item?		TBD

Agenda:

- Minutes from July 24, August 14, August 7, August 9, and August 17 need to be approved
- Discuss Research Priorities and update
- Review and identify additional list of primary organic research funders/funding opportunities, interest groups, etc.
- Review work plan
- New items and priorities
- Program report/ Lisa Brines
- Materials discussion

Discussion:

- Minutes from July 24, August 14, August 7, August 9, and August 17 not approved as yet.

- Group discussed additions to the list of primary organic research funders/funding opportunities, interest groups, etc. CW volunteered to follow up with various agencies about proposal cycles and engaging in capacity building with them. LB commented on a possible mechanism by which NOP would disseminate the information about organically-focused research proposals. The group also discussed the previous NOP letter to ARS on a research priority issue (May 2011): <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5091325>
- Work plan and assimilation of research plan. The group discussed various workplan items (CBI, Update of petition process, and Ion Exchange Resins) and the target meeting dates for presentation of those items. It was noted that the PDS is working on updates to PPM, which are cross cutting to the Materials Subcommittee, making the process more transparent for the public. NOP and the MS clarified that the Subcommittee's intention was to make individual determinations of which materials will need the abbreviated-TR, and not to request one for every material.
- Possible new items for the MS workplan: definition of production aids (clarity and definitions), and vitamins and minerals. The group discussed a question on the checklist about adverse effects of production of materials, and the fact that the question about how NOSB uses scientific data has a degree of uncertainty. JFe asked what the path forward is with regard to these new items. The Chair encouraged people to think about, and list, what items they would like to discuss further.
- The GMO ad hoc will work jointly with materials to work on definitions relating to GMO topics: cell fusion, mutagenesis, microencapsulation etc.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

August 17, 2012 1pm EDT extra call
 Vote on Research priorities proposal.
 August 28, 2012 1pm EDT
 September 11, 2012 1pm EDT
 September 25, 2012 1pm EDT
 October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Jay Feldman (JFe), Calvin Walker (CW), John Foster (JFo)

Absent:

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	08 17 12	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and JT	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)		Spring 2013
Update petition process	JFe	Jointly w/PDS. Mac Stone will lead.		Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?			TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS.		TBD
Extractants	JFe?			Fall 2013?
2-stage TR process				
Production aids				Spring 2013

Agenda:

- Approve notes from August 28th call
- Possible workplan Items:
 - Impact of extractants, spring 2013.
 - Classification of materials (in absence of NOP decision), spring 2013.
 - 2-stage TR (with PDS), spring 2013.

- Examine and update petition, technical review process, spring 2013.
 - Definition of production aids, Spring 2013
 - Checklist evaluation/adverse effects of production materials, on health, environment, etc. Fall 2013
 - How to address scientific uncertainty, spring 2013.
 - Confidential Business Information Transparency and Process, Spring 2013.
 - GMO contamination impact, spring 2013.
 - Examination of ion exchange chromatography and impact, fall 2013.
 - Continued data collection of research concerns, topics from subcommittees and organic public, etc. Evaluate the dissemination of information and feedback from identified research agencies and grassroots organizations, etc. Fall 2013.
- New Items/issues for 2013/2014 workplan
 - NOP report/LB
 - Materials Discussion

Meeting adjourned.

Discussion:

- Notes from August 28th not approved yet.
- The Chair would like summaries of workplan items by COB today
 - Impact of extractants, spring 2013. Follow up to public comments received this past spring. The Subcommittee would like to create a consistent standard by which these items are evaluated which would help make the work of the NOSB more efficient. A member stated that it would be preferable to wait until the classification of materials doc by the NOP is released, although it is unclear when this document will be released. LB asked that the Subcommittee explain the focus of the proposed work and describe the intent of this workplan item. The NOP suggested delaying this item until fall 2013, with the hope that the guidance will be out by then.
 - Classification of materials (in absence of NOP decision), spring 2013. The discussion was similar to the Extractants discussion.
 - 2-stage TR (with PDS), spring 2013. The intent is to streamline the process of technical review to save time and money. The group discussed the potential savings, the impact on the TR contractors and continuity of review. A member asked for clarification about which subcommittee is taking the lead...PDS or Materials, as this is a joint project. Criteria for compatibility and essentiality are vague and this "filter" should be part of the discussion. Natural/synthetic determination is also key and a member feels this should be primary.
 - Examine and update petition, technical review process, spring 2013.
 - Definition of production aids, spring 2013. There are parameters built in the statute, but a member felt that there needs to be more clarity
 - Checklist evaluation/adverse effects of production materials, on health, environment, etc. fall 2013
 - How to address scientific uncertainty, spring 2013. The group would like to see guidance in PPM about how to address this uncertainty. A member feels added that this might be too complex a topic for the group to address and NOP asked that something be written for distribution.

- Confidential Business Information Transparency and Process, spring 2013. Work will be done in conjunction with PDS. ZS is taking lead. The NOP Deputy Administrator will clarify what is expected of petitioners and NOP.
- GMO contamination impact, spring 2013. The intent is to look at methods of GMO prevention strategies. This is a project that would be joint with the GMO ad hoc Subcommittee.
- Examination of ion exchange chromatography and impact, changed from spring 2013 to fall 2013 in table above.
- Continued data collection of research concerns, topics from subcommittees and organic public, etc. Evaluate the dissemination of information and feedback from identified research agencies and grassroots organizations, etc. Fall 2013.
- ZS added that during the Expo East conference she spoke with Mark Lipson and Dr. Peet (NIFA) about the research priorities document and he will send guidance about a format which is more relevant for agencies.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

October 9, 2012 1pm EDT

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, October 09, 2012, 1:00 pm EDT**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (Chairperson) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (Vice-chairperson) (ZS), Calvin Walker (CW), John Foster (JFo), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Jay Feldman (JFe)

Absent:

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB), Mark Lipson (ML) (OSEC)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Research Priorities Proposal Document	ZS & CW & JFe	Discussion document presented at Fall 2011 meeting; Draft proposal in progress	08 17 12	Fall 2012
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and JT	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe)		Spring 2013
Update petition process	JFe	Jointly w/PDS. MS will lead.		Spring 2013
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	JT/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material Evaluation Checklist	ZS?			TBD
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Discussion Document - <u>JOINT</u> w/PDS.		TBD
Extractants	JFe?			Fall 2013?
2-stage TR process				
production aids				Spring 2013

Agenda:

- Approve notes from August 28th call
- Review research Priorities Presentation, and correct format for dissemination of document to agencies
- Comments
 - Public comment from FMC (Chemical Company)

- Discuss proposed workplan items
- New Items for workplan?
- Program Report/L Brines

Discussion:

- Notes from the August 28 call were not approved. Will approve them on next call after fall meeting (November 13)
- The group discussed the research priorities format and the best way to disseminate it to the agencies. ML indicated that the criteria don't seem to have a connection to the items listed in the research priorities doc. For example, there's background for some items, and not for others. It seems it would be more useful if the format was systematic and structured. ZS added that the lack of ranking was intentional due to the varied nature of the Subcommittees' work. NOP is asking for more structure, and without a ranking it might not get the support from the agencies. JT asked that ZS and CW give an overview of this document at the fall meeting. ZS will prepare some slides and CW will talk about the public comments and feedback. Also, each Subcommittee may be asked to add any feedback about research priorities.
- The Carrageenan document will need to be updated at the meeting, with the addition of the following language: "What are the ecological impacts of seaweed harvest in seaweed for carrageenan". (See August 9th notes)
- The Subcommittee would like the FMC comments posted prior to the meeting.
- Workplans: Various items on the workplan were discussed, based on NOP feedback.
- The Chair asked if there were any additional items for WP and asked about adding items at the fall meeting. MA will find out.
- JFe asked about the Sept 12 aquaculture memo and whether or not a material for terrestrial plant use should be allowed for aquatic plant use. NOP is looking at the information in the memo to see if clarification is needed.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

October 23, 2012 1pm EDT - cancelled
 November 13, 2012 1pm EST
 November 27, 2012 1pm EST
 December 11, 2012 1pm EST

Milestone	Deadline
NOP - "Finalize" tentative agenda	August 10, 2012
Fall 2012 proposals due to NOP	August 20, 2012
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	August 27, 2012
Public comment closes	September 24, 2012
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	October 1, 2012
Fall 2012 NOSB Meeting – Providence, RI	October 15-18, 2012

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 1:00 pm EST**

Attending: Jennifer Taylor (2012 Chair, 2013 Vice Chair) (JT), Zea Sonnabend (2012 Vice Chair, 2013 Chair) (ZS), Jay Feldman (JFe), Joe Dickson (JD), John Foster (JFo) (2012 member), Calvin Walker (CW), Mac Stone (MS)

Absent: Wendy Fulwider (WF), Tracy Favre (TF)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Examine and update petition and technical review process	JFe	Jointly w/PDS (Materials will lead). JFe (Materials)/MS (PDS)		Spr 2013
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and CW	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe) in Spring? Prop in fall?		Spr 2013/Fall 2013?
Definition of production aids				Spr 2013
Research Priorities Proposal	ZS & CW & JFe			Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	ZS/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Joint w/PDS (PDS will lead)		TBD
How to address scientific uncertainty	JFe	Will begin this after “Update Petition Process and CBI projects” are complete		TBD
Ion Exchange Resins		Waiting for NOP background information in late fall. Discussion document.		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve notes from the August 28 call, September 25, and October 10
- Future deadlines and call schedule (MA)
- Petition for polyalkylene glycol monobutyl ether (PGME); processing aid for livestock feed (LB)
- Workplan scrutiny to assign/confirm point people and determine which call each subject will be discussed on.

Discussion:

- Notes from the August 28 call will be approved via email by Friday November 16.

- Future deadlines and call schedule (MA)
- Petition for polyalkylene glycol monobutyl ether (PGME); processing aid for livestock feed (LB)
 - Petitioned as a synthetic on 205.605, but discussion on whether 205.603 would be a better fit as a synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production. The NOP will send the petition back to the petitioner for more information. Once it is returned, the NOP will forward it to Materials and the appropriate Subcommittee.
- Workplan
 - Research priorities - Part 1: The group discussed revising the research priorities recommendation in the form of a letter for dissemination to potential funding agencies. Part 2: The group would like to begin compiling priorities for next year, and would like each Subcommittee rep to mention it on the next round of call. Research priorities delegates are as follows: JFe-Crops, JD-Handling, CW or WF? – Livestock. This will be an ongoing item and the group will bring a list of new priorities to the fall meeting.
 - CBI - ZS will have draft ready for next call (Nov 27)
 - Examine and update petition and technical review process – the group asked if this could this be incorporated into the PDS workplan item, “convening of technical advisory boards &/or working group policy”. The members also discussed renaming this to be more specific, since the examination process will be focused and not comprehensive. The members also discussed adding the process for reviewing re-petitioned items.
 - Petition and TR tracking- LB will talk with ZS offline to determine ZS’s needs with regard to emails and correspondence.
 - Material initiation policy - NOP has proposed that this be renamed “Substance Annotation/Clean-up”. The members discussed the need for this workplan item, and while some felt it was useful, others felt that perhaps there wasn’t a need. The supporters argued that sometimes substances are petitioned and there isn’t adequate notice and time for public comment, while others felt that this is resolved by issuing a discussion document rather than a proposal.
 - Definition of production aids - NOP would support work on this item if the MS decides pursue it. A member felt that this was a catchall category and the parameters are not well defined while other members didn’t feel that this is an issue. The group asked for examples of substances that were problematic before moving forward.
 - How to address scientific uncertainty -JFe has already written a document, which the chair asked is sent to new members.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

November 27, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- CBI

December 11, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process

December 19, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Definition of production aids

January 8, 2013 1:00 pm EST

January 22, 2013 1:00 pm EST

February 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST - proposals due

February 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE
NOP – Complete tentative agenda	February 8, 2013
Spring 2013 proposals due to NOP	February 12, 2013
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	February 19, 2013
Public comment closes	March 19, 2013
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	March 25, 2013
Spring 2013 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR	April 8-11, 2013

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 1:00 pm EST**

Attending: Zea Sonnabend (Chair) (ZS), Jennifer Taylor (Vice Chair) (JT), Jay Feldman (JFe), Joe Dickson (JD), Calvin Walker (CW), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Tracy Favre (TF), Mac Stone (MS) - sitting in

Absent:

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Examine and update petition and technical review process	JFe	Jointly w/PDS (Materials will lead). JFe (Materials)/MS (PDS)		Spr 2013
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and CW	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe) in Spring? Prop in fall?		Spr 2013/Fall 2013?
Definition of production aids				Spr 2013
Research Priorities Proposals May 2012 Framework Proposal	ZS & CW & JFe			Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	ZS/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Joint w/PDS (PDS will lead)		TBD
How to address scientific uncertainty	JFe	Will begin this after “Update Petition Process and CBI projects” are complete		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve notes from November 13. The notes from August 28, Sept 25 and Oct. 9 were approved via email
- Designate someone for GMO ad hoc committee
- Discuss CBI proposal
- Workplan Clarifications (if needed)

Discussion:

- Notes from November 13 approved with no changes.
- The GMO ad hoc committee representative will be Jennifer Taylor (JT)
- The Subcommittee discussed the draft CBI document. LB discussed the process for the TR contractors, who can request the CBI, as the NOP does not provide this info unless it is requested. The contractor cannot put this information in the TR due to confidentiality agreements. The members discussed CBI issues surrounding the difference between reviewing groups of items, as opposed to reviewing individual substances, and the fact that groups of items are generic, and generally CBI is not an issue. ZS will make edits to the document based on the conversation, and will clarify and strengthen the language about affidavits.
- Workplan Clarifications:
 - Examine and update 'petition and technical review process'. The 'two stage TR process', which was a separate item, has been incorporated into this workplan item. The group discussed folding in the 'material initiation policy' workplan item, but felt that it shouldn't be. The Materials Subcommittee and the Policy Development Subcommittee are working jointly on the petition and technical review process, and since Materials is leading this effort, they will initiate a document for review.
 - Research priorities - CW will be working on a letter based on the recommendation from the last NOSB, which will then be circulated to funding entities. TF is the representative from the Livestock Subcommittee (LS) so she will take the lead for the LS research priorities.
 - **Note from Advisory Board Specialist (Nov 30, 2012):** Ion Exchange Resins was removed from the workplan table above, as the release of the NOP memo will be delayed, perhaps until fall 2013. It will be placed back on the workplan at a later date.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

November 27, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Discussion of CBI Policy

December 11, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process

December 19, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Definition of production aids

January 8, 2013 1:00 pm EST

January 22, 2013 1:00 pm EST

February 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST - proposals due

February 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE
NOP – Complete tentative agenda	February 8, 2013
Spring 2013 proposals due to NOP	February 12, 2013
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	February 19, 2013
Public comment closes	March 19, 2013
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	March 25, 2013
Spring 2013 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR	April 8-11, 2013

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**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 1:00 pm EST**

Attending: Zea Sonnabend (Chair) (ZS), Jay Feldman (JFe), Calvin Walker (CW), Tracy Favre (TF), Jennifer Taylor (Vice Chair) (JT), Mac Stone (MS)-sitting in
Absent: Joe Dickson (JD), Wendy Fulwider (WF)
Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Examine and update petition and technical review process	JFe (for Materials), MS (for PDS)	Jointly w/PDS (Materials will lead and pass along the document to PDS).		Spr 2013
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and CW	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe) in Spring? Prop in fall?		Spr 2013/Fall 2013?
Definition of production aids	?			Spr 2013
Research Priorities Proposals May 2012 Framework Proposal	ZS & CW & JFe			Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	ZS/LB	Ongoing		N/A
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Joint w/PDS (PDS will lead)		TBD
How to address scientific uncertainty	JFe	Will begin this after “Update Petition Process and CBI projects” are complete		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve notes from November 27
- Discuss “Examine and update petition and technical review process” workplan item

Discussion:

- Notes from November 27 call approved with no changes
- Examine and update petition and technical review process. This was originally included in a PDS document proposing a two-stage TR but since the group feels that this is a substantive issue, not

a mechanical/process issue, it's logical to have Materials lead with PDS input. The members discussed separating these items, and decided that it would be better to combine them. JFe, the lead for Materials, will connect with MS, who is going to lead for PDS, and discuss the path forward. MS noted that he was interested in the topic and is willing to help disperse the workload even though he is not on the Subcommittee. LB described to the group how the NOP processes petitions when they are received, and how the decision is made to forward it to the appropriate Subcommittee. The group discussed the pros and cons of this process as it currently stands and considered how to mold a discussion document in light of this. JFe will clarify the statement of the problem and edit the proposal. MS asked if the NOP would be able to assist the Board with more direction when beginning a new review and LB answered that NOP can continue to provide background information, but that providing guidance about decision-making may not be appropriate since it's the NOSB's responsibility to provide guidance.

- ZS asked if NOP could provide a list of all petitions received, including ones that were not referred to the NOSB for review. LB noted that the NOP maintains this information and can forward it.

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

November 27, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Discussion of CBI Policy

December 11, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process

December 19, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Continue discussion of "Examine and update petition and technical review process" (JFe/MS)
- Definition of production aids

January 8, 2013 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process (JFe/MS)
- Continued discussion of CBI policy (ZS, JFe, and CW)

January 22, 2013 1:00 pm EST

February 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST - proposals due

February 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

MILESTONE	TARGET DATE
NOP – Complete tentative agenda	February 8, 2013
Spring 2013 proposals due to NOP	February 12, 2013
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	February 19, 2013
Public comment closes	March 19, 2013

NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	March 25, 2013
Spring 2013 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR	April 8-11, 2013

Note: Subcommittee notes may include preliminary discussions regarding substances considered for addition to or removal from the National List. They do not represent official National Organic Program (NOP) policy or regulations. Please see the NOP website for official NOP policy, regulations, and status of substances used in organic production and handling.

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Materials Subcommittee (MS) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 19, 2012, 1:00 pm EST**

Attending: Zea Sonnabend (Chair) (ZS), Jay Feldman (JFe), Tracy Favre (TF), Jennifer Taylor (Vice Chair) (JT), Joe Dickson (JD), Wendy Fulwider (WF), Calvin Walker (CW), Mac Stone (MS) - sitting in

Absent: Wendy Fulwider (WF)

Staff: Michelle Arsenault (MA), Lisa Brines (LB)

Work Plan

Project	Reviewer	Status	Vote	Target Meeting
Examine and update petition and technical review process	JFe (for Materials), MS (for PDS)	Proposal. Jointly w/PDS (Materials will lead and pass along the document to PDS).		Spr 2013
Confidential Business Information (CBI) Transparency	ZS, JFe, and CW	Discussion doc, jointly w/PDS (JFe) in Spring? Prop in fall?		Spr 2013/Fall 2013?
Definition of production aids	JFe			Spr 2013
Research Priorities Proposals May 2012 Framework Proposal	ZS & CW & JFe			Fall 2013
Petition and TR tracking	ZS/LB	Ongoing	N/A	N/A
Material initiation policy – NOP has proposed that this be renamed (Substance Annotation/Clean-up)	JFe/JT	Joint w/PDS (PDS will lead)		TBD
How to address scientific uncertainty	JFe	Will begin this after “Update Petition Process and CBI projects” are complete		TBD

Agenda:

- Approve notes from December 11
- Discuss “Definition of production aids”
- Discuss “Examine and update petition and technical review process” workplan item

Discussion:

- Notes from the December 11 call were approved with no changes.
- Production aids: Production Aids is a generalized category in the statute but is not defined in the regulations, and it comes up frequently in discussions and petitions. The group discussed the construction of the discussion document and questions that could be posed to solicit input from the public. Production aids seems to have two definitions, one a strict interpretation (for example, mulch or row cover) and the second, a less strict one, as an aid or additive used to produce a product. The second interpretation has never been used, although the issue does get raised occasionally. The group discussed several examples, including lignin sulfonate and hydrogen peroxide. Members also discussed specific points in the document that was circulated noting that question #2 would work better as the first question, #4 should be moved to position # 2, and perhaps question #3 is redundant. The group pondered the need for a discussion document at all, and deferred the conversation until the next call. The group also considered the implementation of defining production aids, and how that would be incorporated into the various existing guidance documents and the Policy and Procedures Manual PPM).
- The Subcommittee members will review the letter addressing research priorities on the next subcommittee call (January 8)
- The Chair will have new draft of the CBI document for the next call

Future Scheduled Subcommittee Calls:

November 27, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Discussion of CBI Policy

December 11, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process

December 19, 2012 1:00 pm EST

- Continue discussion of “Examine and update petition and technical review process” (JFe/MS)
- Discuss “Definition of production aids”

January 8, 2013 1:00 pm EST

- Examine and update petition and technical review process (JFe/MS)
- Continued discussion of CBI policy (ZS, JFe, and CW)
- Continue discussion of “Definition of production aids”
- Review letter addressing research priorities

January 22, 2013 1:00 pm EST

February 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST - proposals due

February 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 12, 2013 1:00 pm EST

March 26, 2013 1:00 pm EST

Spring 2013 Milestones	Target date
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NOP – Complete tentative agenda	February 8, 2013
Spring 2013 proposals due to NOP	February 12, 2013
NOP - Post proposals, Publish FRN, Open public comment	February 19, 2013
Subcommittees submit tentative workplans to NOP	March 1, 2013
Discuss workplans on ES call	March 8, 2013
NOP provides written comments on workplans to NOSB	March 11, 2013
Public comment closes	March 19, 2013
NOP - Send compiled public comments to NOSB	March 25, 2013
Workplans finalized on ES call	March 29, 2013
Spring 2013 NOSB Meeting – Portland, OR	April 8-11, 2013