

**Variety Review Board Committee Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 /11:00am ~ 12:00pm

Chair Ken Bertsch Vice Chair Doug Miller

1. Call to Order – Chairman Ken Bertsch called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.
2. Introductions / roll call / distribute sign-in sheet – a sign-in sheet was distributed and introductions made.
3. Review AOSCA anti-trust compliance policy – Chairman Bertsch reviewed the anti-trust compliance policy.
4. Review & adopt agenda – motion made, seconded, and passed to amend and adopt the agenda to include an two additional Industrial Hemp issues, VRB Application and VRB Structure, to agenda item 8 General Discussion.
5. Approve minutes from 2018 meeting – motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes from the 2018 Variety Review Board Committee meeting.
6. Dustin Auman presented a recap of the Grass VRB meeting. Auman presented additions to the Grass VRB application developed by the Grass VRB members and a letter of support from the Oregon Seed Certification Service. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the recommended changes to the Grass VRB application, to be included in the newest version of the application and to be made a requirement for the 2023 season.
7. Steve Sebesta presented 5 specific changes to the Sunflower VRB application, reviewed during the Sunflower Committee meeting, for approval. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the recommended changes to the Sunflower VRB application, to be implemented immediately.
8. General discussion – Matthew Young, Industrial Hemp Committee, reviewed the VRB application. Discussion was held regarding the need to have the Industrial Hemp Variety Review Board finalize the application. Comments were heard that the Sengbusch Scale shown in the draft application is incomplete and Canada has implemented a Modified Sengbusch Scale that utilizes a continuous scale. It was also pointed out that the scale is to be used only for Monecious varieties and the entire issue is also tied to dropping the concept of “too male” from the crop standard. Specific comment was made regarding Part B page 3 item 20 relating to describing off-types. Further discussion indicated that the issue may trace back to the UPOV application. The redundancy of page 5, the published characteristics of the variety, and the need to cross check page 5 with pages 2-3 was discussed. It was also pointed out that items 14, 17 and 18 in the application offered no choices such as present, absent, high, low etc. and the UPOV version should be consulted again. Motion made, seconded, and passed to move the VRB application to the forthcoming IH VRB with comments. A Hemp National Variety Review Board Membership Descriptions draft was reviewed and modified as follows. Position 8, Hemp Industry Representative, and Position 9, ASTA Representative, were changed to two (2) ASTA representatives. The members of the Industrial Hemp Variety Review Board shall serve at the pleasure of the AOSCA Board of Directors. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the structure of the Industrial Hemp VRB.
9. Other business – No other business.

10. Action items - Motions passed to approve the recommended additions to the Grass VRB Application, updates to the Sunflower VRB Application, final structure of the Industrial Hemp VRB and the forwarding of the Industrial Hemp VRB application with comment to the Industrial Hemp VRB.
11. Adjourn – motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 AM.