

CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

May 22, 2025

10:00 AM

In-Person with Remote Access via [Microsoft Teams Live*](#)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents:

- Application Materials associated with:
 - Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership
 - Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses
 - Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
- [Meeting Packet](#)

In Attendance:

- Commissioner Nurys Z. Camargo
- Commissioner Ava Callender Concepcion
- Commissioner Kimberly Roy
- Acting Chair Bruce Stebbins

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order
 - The Acting Chair (AC) recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.
 - The AC gave notice that the meeting is being recorded.
 - The AC gave an overview of the agenda.
- II. Commissioners' Comments & Updates – 00:01:52
 - Commissioner Concepcion dedicated her comments to Commissioner Camargo and thanked her for her service and dedication to the Commission's mission. Commissioner Roy noted the launch of the EquityWorks Career Hub and thanked Commissioner Camargo for her public service. The AC highlighted a webinar he had participated in regarding Employee Stock Ownership Plans hosted by BlankRome.
- III. Staff Recommendations on Changes of Ownership – 00:15:13
 - Licensing Analyst Jaime Wakefield (Analyst Wakefield) presented on behalf of the Licensing department the Staff Recommendations for Changes of Ownership, Renewals and Final Licenses.



- Castleleaf, LLC
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Change of Ownership.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Change of Ownership.

IV. Staff Recommendations on Renewal Licenses – 00:16:34

- Commissioner Concepcion moved to approve the renewal of items numbered 1-16 as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the renewal of items numbered 1-16 as indicated on the agenda.

V. Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses – 00:18:09

1. Hidden Wonders, LLC (#MR285040), Marijuana Retailer
2. Native Sun Wellness, Inc. (#MTC4128), Medical Marijuana Treatment Center

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the Final License roster from 1-2 as indicated on the agenda.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the Final License roster from 1-2 as indicated on the agenda.

VI. Hearing Officer Recommended Decision – 00:20:10

- General Counsel Kajal Chattopadhyay (GC Chattopadhyay) provided an overview of the Hearing Officer’s process and noted that the parties were not present as oral



arguments in Public Meeting were not provided for in the regulations. He explained that this matter started when a summary suspension order was issued regarding an unapproved change of control after which the Licensee requested a hearing. The recommendation was contained in the board book and Commissioners had the option to approve, modify or amend, reject or reverse, or to remand for further fact finding. GC Chattopadhyay clarified for Commissioner Roy that informal or formal rules were prescribed for certain scenarios while in others the parties could choose which set to follow.

- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Hearing Officer’s recommended decision and direct the General Counsel the appropriate steps to finalize the decision.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

VII. Request for Equitable Relief – 00:31:06

- GC Chattopadhyay provided an overview of Deerfield Naturals, Inc.’s request for equitable relief. He explained that this was a collaborative effort between Legal and Enforcement and that this matter had been started after the Licensee had paid licensing fees, after which the municipality had informed them that they were no longer interested in acting as a Host Community (HC). Commissioner Roy requested a recess.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 01:04:50.)
- Enforcement Counsel Timothy Goodin (EC Goodin) explained that, since the request was initially made, Deerfield Naturals, Inc. had indicated that they were solely interested in the refund of their licensing fees. Commissioner Concepcion asked for clarification on whether the staff’s recommendation had changed after receiving further information from the Licensee and EC Goodin explained the Commission’s options had not changed, but that the Licensee likely wanted to no longer pursue licensure and the preference was simply being passed along. Commissioner Roy asked if the language in 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.050(1)(a) barred refunding License fees and if there was any mechanism to direct funds from the Marijuana Regulation Fund back to a Licensee. Chief Financial and Accounting Officer Lisa Schlegel (Chief Schlegel) confirmed that there was a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for refunding payments made in error. Commissioner Camargo suggested discussing the matter offline to develop policies and Commissioner Roy concurred. Executive Director (ED) Travis Ahern noted that the budget did not allow for a refund and Commissioner Camargo suggested reviewing the meetings where equitable relief was discussed. Commissioner Roy requested information if other agencies had been consulted when drafting the refund SOP and for a report on



potential financial impact. The AC and Commissioner Concepcion agreed with the suggestions and GC Chattopadhyay confirmed that there were no upcoming deadlines.

- Commissioner Camargo moved to table the request for equitable relief of Deerfield Naturals, Inc. until June 12th.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

VIII. Commission Discussion and Votes – 01:38:44

1. Agent Registration Discussion

- The AC stated that he was bringing this topic in light of the new Social Consumption Establishment (SCE) License types to ease the regulatory burden. His suggestion was to align 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.029(6) and 500.030(8), with the goal of not losing industry workers and to ease the transition of employees between Marijuana Establishments (MEs). The AC explained that considerations in updating Agent Registration were the timeline and background checks. Commissioner Concepcion explained that she had considered moving ownership of Agent Registrations to the Agents themselves so that they could take them to new MEs. Commissioner Roy asked for information on how other states had handled this issue and requested a report from the Government Affairs and Policy department. The AC proposed amending 935 Code Mass. Regs. § 500.029(6) and 500.030(8) and including the edits in the draft Social Consumption regulations. Additionally, he wanted to seek input from stakeholders and discuss who should be responsible for Registered Agent fees as well transitioning to digital cards and updating the Responsible Vendor Training (RVT) requirements. The ED noted that this would result in a decrease in revenue and Commissioner Roy suggested holding a public listening session.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 03:01:14.)

2. Job Description: Complaint Resolution Administrator and FY 2025/2026 Budgetary Impact

- The ED explained that this position had arisen during discussions regarding establishing a centralized tipline for complaints. Chief People Officer Debra Hilton-Creek (CPO Hilton-Creek) explained that any applicants for this position would need in-depth knowledge of the Commission and the ED added that the position would be housed in the Investigations and Enforcement department to ensure redundancy. He added that centralizing external calls would make the process more efficient and potentially generate fines and revenue. He further recommended posting the job description internally, evaluating the position's impact after it had been filled and to institute a hiring freeze. Commissioner Roy requested a minor grammatical edit and



suggested issuing a press release announcing the hiring freeze. The ED explained that the position would be insulated from conflicts of interest by routing Human Resources (HR) complaints directly to HR rather than their supervisor. He clarified that all jobs which were posted which would be unaffected by the hiring freeze, but backfilling internal applicants would not be possible.

- Commissioner Roy moved to approve the job description for the Complaint Resolution Administrator.
- Commissioner Camargo seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

3. Legal Intervention Update

- GC Chattopadhyay stated that the Commission had been granted authority to intervene in the Theory Wellness v. Great Barrington matter. He explained that the complaint which had been filed sought declarative relief in the form of a court order affirming the Commission’s authority to review Host Community Agreements (HCAs) upon renewal. GC Chattopadhyay explained that the plaintiffs were seeking similar declarative relief as well as damages for alleged noncompliant Community Impact Fees (CIFs).

4. Draft Guidance on Positive Impact Plans

- Licensing Manager Tsuko Defoe (Manager Defoe) presented the draft guidance document, which had been edited to include “Applicants and Licensees may opt to publish their Positive Impact Plan on their business website” in the Elements of a Plan section and to include donations to the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund as a goal. Commissioner Roy requested a recess.
- The Commission took a brief recess. (Returned at 04:06:50.)

- GC Chattopadhyay suggested tabling this matter until the regular June meeting to allow for further legal review.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to table approval of the updated Draft Guidance on Positive Impact Plans and bring it back for the agenda on June 12th.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.



5. Draft Guidance on Equity

- Director of Equity and Communications Outreach Silea Williams (Director Williams) which had been edited to include a reference the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund and address formatting issues. Commissioner Roy asked if a reference to the EquityWorks Career Hub could be included, which Director Williams confirmed. The AC asked if Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBEs) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Business Enterprises (LGBTBEs) could be identified in the guidance document, although they were not identified in St. 2017, c. 55. Director Williams explained that the document spoke to the groups which the Commission was statutorily mandated to prioritize.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Commission’s Draft Guidance on Equity subject to an addition of the EquityWorks Career Hub and delegate approval of that addition to Director Williams and the ED.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

6. Commission Election of Secretary

- The AC nominated Commission Concepcion to be the Commission’s Secretary and she accepted the nomination.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to elect Commission Concepcion as the Commission’s new Secretary.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

7. Draft Governance Charter Discussion

- The AC discussed the history of the Governance Charter (Charter) and the ED explained how he had familiarized himself with the document since before his onboarding. He described how he had tried to streamline the document by excising sections which were better described in SOPs and narrow its focus by addressing how Commissioners effectively utilize organizational resources. He began reviewing the document beginning with No. 1(e)(vi) under Roles and Responsibilities, where he noted that Commissioner’s authority to approve job descriptions related more to the budget implications rather than the description itself. Commissioners discussed and Commissioner Roy suggested potentially using the language from G.L. c. 10, § 76 (j),



although the ED noted he was voicing his thoughts and not necessarily suggesting an edit. Regarding No. 2(a), he noted a minor edit striking “all” to clarify the responsibilities of the Chair and ED. Regarding No. 2(f), Commissioner Roy expressed concern that the ability of Commissioners to elect an Acting Chair if the Chair was removed or suspended overrode the enabling statute. Commissioners discussed and the ED continued to the rest of his edits under No. 3(c)(ii) to clarify that review meetings involving the Treasurer and Chief Financial Accounting Officer (CFAO) would occur through the ED and under No. 5(f) where more detail was provided regarding the timeline on which the ED would be responsible for alerting Commissioners of urgent public health matters. Regarding No. 6 under the Interactions Between and Among Commissioners, Executive Director, and Staff section, the ED explained his edits to make it clearer that requests for staff and Commissioners time to prepare for a Public Meeting would go through the ED. Continuing to No. 8, he explained an edit to indicate that not all project charters may include Commissioners and an addition to the end of No. 13 to indicate that Commissioners would attend annual Open Meeting Law (OML) trainings. The ED concluded his review in the Accountability, Checks and Balances section where he had edited Nos. 4 and 5 so that the process of reporting complaints regarding a Commissioner or the ED to their reporting authorities was mirrored.

- The AC brought the conversation back through the edits and Commissioners agreed to leave “all” in No. 2(a) under Roles and Responsibilities, to edit footnote eight to cite G.L. c. 94G, § 4(a)(i) and there were no objections to the remainder of the ED’s edits. Commissioner Roy suggested that statutory amendments were necessary to address issues within the Commission. She asked why the Charter had been discussed in Executive Session and read into the record a determination from the Office of the Attorney General’s Division of Open Government which found that Executive Session had been used improperly on April 24, 2023. She explained her position that she would not vote affirmatively to ratify the Charter. GC Chattopadhyay noted that recordings of those Executive Session had been made public and that every effort had been made to redact them as minimally as possible. Commissioners thanked the ED for his work familiarizing himself with the document and his edits and he confirmed that he had received no objections regarding the Charter from the appointing authorities.
- Commissioner Camargo moved to approve the Governance Charter as amended subject to ministerial edits.
- Commissioner Concepcion seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Concepcion – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Present
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission approved the motion by a vote of three in favor and one present.

IX. New Business Not Anticipated at the Time of Posting – 06:02:18



- Commissioner Roy stated that it was brought to her attention that a neighboring state had issued a voluntary recall and that Investigations and Enforcement had not found any issues with similar products in Massachusetts.

X. Next Meeting Date – 06:03:46

- The AC stated that the next meeting was scheduled for later in the day with the next scheduled for June 12, 2025.

XI. Adjournment – 06:04:32

- Commissioner Camargo moved to adjourn.
- Commissioner Roy seconded the motion.
- The AC took a roll call vote:
 - Commissioner Camargo – Yes
 - Commissioner Roy – Yes
 - AC Stebbins – Yes
- The Commission unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

