

# Humboldt County Cannabis Micro-Grant & Loan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**May 5th, 2020 - 12:30-2:30pm**

Remote Zoom Meeting

*In accordance with Gov. Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17th, 2020), all Humboldt County Cannabis Micro-Grant & Loan Advisory Committee meetings will be held virtually until further notice.*

*Project Trellis was established to bolster the cannabis industry, protect future cannabis excise tax revenues by providing services to populations and communities in Humboldt who were adversely affected by the criminalization of cannabis, develop a framework for supportive programs designed to sustain and grow Humboldt’s cannabis industry, and to assist cannabis businesses as they work to overcome the financial and logistical challenges of coming into compliance.*

Item #	Description	Action
1	Approval of April 7, 2021 meeting minutes	Pass

**1. Opening (12:30)**

a. Roll Call – at 12:37 PM

Committee members:

- Thomas Mulder, Chair, Miranda – present
- Sarah Balster, Humboldt - present
- Richard Marks, Samoa - present
- *At-Large - vacant position*
- Hannah Joy, Vice Chair, Eureka - present
- Mario Fernandez, Humboldt - present
- Dylan Mattole, Honey Dew – present

Alternate:

Tom Handwerker (Eureka)– *present*

*Vacant position*

Staff in Attendance:

Peggy Murphy, Stephanie Souter, Scott Adair, and Cris Plocher

Others in Attendance:

Craig Johnson, Hannah Whyte, Linsey Jones, and Natalynne DeLapp

b. Approval of 04-07-2021 meeting minutes- (Attachment 1)

- Chair Mulder moved to approve the meeting minutes for April 7th, 2021. Richard Marks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Craig Johnson spoke regarding their efforts to gather information about the flow of funds, where funds were allocated, and the loss of funds to “other areas of the county” since March 2019. Johnson noted that their findings will be announced soon.
  - Hannah Whyte remarked that Project Trellis is a powerful community building tool. Whyte asked how much Measure S funding has the County Received? How much has been re-invested into the industry? Can the committee get “full accounting” of the 10% promised to the community? And what is the plan for distribution of the 10% of Measure S funding to the community?
  - Linsey Jones with Aloha Humboldt thanked staff and committee members for their work on Project Trellis. Jones asked for guidance on how to best advocate at a state level to allow growers alliances to apply for Equity Program funding. In addition, they asked how much Measure S funding has been spent to date, and how the expenditures are being tracked.
- d. Report out on meetings attended
- Mario Fernandez thanked those who made public comment and mentioned speaking with Humboldt County Growers Alliance regarding how best to advocate at a state level for changes to the equity program application process.

**2. Committee to receive SB1294 training from staff, discuss and provide feedback on legislature - (Attachment 2)**

a. Discussion

- Peggy Murphy provided training on SB1294:
  - Dylan Mattole asked if those funded through the equity program could also apply for the micro-grant program. Murphy confirmed. In addition, Mattole asked if the funding could be used for loans. Murphy confirmed and stated that staff is exploring loan options.
  - Hannah Joy emphasized the importance of listening to the to the needs community members and adapting the program to fit within those needs. Joy expressed desire to expand the services provided outside of those listed in SB1294. Further, she asked if staff had taken advantage of the “Technical Assistance” offered to the local equity program from the state. Murphy confirmed that staff is actively exploring options to expand the program through conversations with the state coordinators of the grant. In addition, Murphy noted that expansions made to the services offered must be requested program-wide and not an individual applicant basis. And furthermore, services must be justifiable in the budget submitted and accepted by the state or a budget adjustment would be required.

- Sarah Balster expressed interest in expanding services to support cannabis industries such as consultants, bud tenders, and heavy equipment operators.
- Mario Fernandez asked Murphy to confirm that only those applying for cannabis licenses or those who already have a license may apply for funds under the local equity program. Murphy confirmed. Fernandez asked if there were plans in place to help educate applicants on small business skills. Murphy confirmed that there is a direct technical assistance portion of the program that could assist with the development of a new small business.
- Thomas Mulder asked for clarification on how employees may be supported by the program (e.g., transportation to work). Murphy expressed that the SB1294 funding source is not the only way to fund projects. She encouraged the committee to consider other grant opportunities for items not coverable by SB1294.

b. Public Comment

- No public comment

**3. Policy and procedures manual Ad Hoc to give report on progress**

a. Discussion

- Sarah Balster reported out on the progress developing a manual for the committee. The next Ad Hoc meeting is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

b. Public Comment

- None

**4. Committee to receive Treasurer’s Report – (Attachment 3)**

a. Discussion about Measure S funding and allocation.

- Richard Marks outlined the Treasurers Report for the Committee. Committee members Mulder, Hannah, and Mattole requested a more detailed Treasurer’s report to be brought back to the committee.

b. Public Comment

- Natalynne DeLapp requested clarification on how the Measure S contribution to project Trellis is calculated. Further, she requested detail regarding the re-allocation of funding as a result of Covid-19.

c. Action

- Mario Fernandez moved to accept Treasurer’s report. Dylan Mattole seconded the motion.

**5. Staff Updates**

a. Discussion

- Murphy reminded the committee that the RFQ for the Equity Program had been released to the public, and that the county continues to encourage applicants. In addition, the RFP for the Marketing Program will be released in the following weeks. The micro-grants were approved by Board of Supervisors and contracts were sent to awardees. The review of equity applications has been completed by Staff.

b. Public Comment

- None

**6. Future Agenda Items**

- Agenda item for offering loans
- Local Equity Program Manual
- County Counsel refresher on the Brown Act

**7. Adjourn**

Chair Mulder moved to adjourn at 1:57 PM PM.

Next meeting is June 2, 2021