

Humboldt County Cannabis Micro-Grant & Loan Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, July 27th, 2020
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Via Zoom Web Conferencing

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.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Mulder – Miranda, CA, Jim Groeling – Whitethorn, CA, Sarah Balster-McKinleyville, CA, Rich Ames – Eureka, CA, Hannah Joy-Eureka, CA, Brian St. Clair – Garberville, CA, Thomas Handwerker – Eureka, CA, Mario Fernandez – Eureka, CA

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Adair, Ryan Heitz, Amanda Freeman, Elishia Hayes

1. Opening

- a. Vice Chair, Thomas Mulder, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Chair, Rich Ames, was unable to login to start the meeting, so Vice Chair, Thomas Mulder, assumed the role of Chair for the entirety of the meeting.
- b. A roll call was conducted, and each member gave a brief introduction
- c. There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

2. Approval of June 2nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Richard Marks and seconded by Hannah Joy to approve the June 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes. Chair called for public comment – none received. Motion carried.
Ayes – Thomas Mulder, Jim Groeling, Sarah Balster, Hannah Joy
Abstain – Mario Fernandez

3. View and Discuss FY 20-21 Micro-Grant Allocation and Budget

Scott Adair outlined the micro-grant allocation of \$490,725 for fiscal year 2020-2021. He explained that this is the total amount/percentage diverted from Measure S funds and that there are no additional reductions to the amount. Elishia Hayes, Assistant CAO, also gave a brief explanation of Measure S, and the differences between Measure Z and Measure S.

4. Review Adjustments to the Bylaws

Mario Fernandez asked for clarification on the meeting times and whether that would be eventually reflected in the bylaws. Sarah Balster also asked for clarification on the adjustment to the bylaws as far as the committee's role in the application process. Staff then explained the committee's role as an advisory committee.

Hannah Joy asked that it be included in the bylaws that the committee meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month.

It was moved by Richard Marks and seconded by Jim Groeling to approve the adjustments to the bylaws, with the modification that the language in the bylaws include that the committee meets on the fourth Monday of every month. Chair called for public comment – none received. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss Timeline for Upcoming Micro-Grant and Equity NOFA

Scott Adair explained that the \$490,725 will be the available micro-grant funding and that staff is currently working on a new micro-grant application.

He also explained that after discussing the Equity NOFA with County Council and CCRP, there will be an update to the Equity Assessment and modify the Local Equity Plan. He stated that this will push out the timeline for the Equity NOFA, but the micro-grant NOFA can be released as soon as the new application process is adopted, and the scoring and ranking process has been determined.

Mario Fernandez asked how far the Equity timeline will be pushed out. Scott Adair answered that he is estimating that the earliest release of the Equity NOFA would be October.

The committee expressed they would like to begin the second micro-grant round as soon as possible.

Ryan Heitz asked if the committee had enough time to review the applications during the first round. The committee stated it depends on the number of applications that come in during the second micro-grant round.

6. Determine First and Second Alternates for Voting Purposes in the Absence of a Quorum

Thomas Handwerker volunteered to be the second alternate.

It was moved by Rich Ames and seconded by Jim Groeling to make Brian St. Clair the first alternate and Thomas Handwerker the second alternate for voting purposes in the absence of a quorum. Chair called for public comment – none received. Motion failed.

Nays – Richard Marks, Sarah Balster, Mario Fernandez, Thomas Mulder

Ayes – Hannah Joy, Jim Groeling, Rich Ames

It was moved by Hannah Joy and seconded by Sarah Balster to start with Brian St. Clair and alternate who will be the voting alternate each meeting in the absence of a quorum, and staff will keep track of the voting alternates. Chair called for public comment – none received. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Appoint Chair and Vice Chair for the 2020 – 2021 Year

Scott Adair explained the process for nominating a new chair and vice chair.

Hannah Joy asked for clarification about electing a new officer in July rather than August, the anniversary month of the chair and vice chair elections. It was suggested by County Council to hold a special meeting in August to appoint a chair and vice chair.

It was moved by Richard Marks and seconded by Rich Ames to nominate Thomas Mulder as chair and Hannah Joy as vice chair. The motion was withdrawn by Richard Marks.

8. Staff Updates

Staff updated the committee on the following:

- Form 700 – a reminder for the committee to turn in their Form 700
- Five Sisters Farm Application – update on the status of the application and the ongoing discussions between staff, the applicant, and County Council
- Application and Summary Document Update – the committee reviewed the new micro-grant application with updates
- Equity program update – CCRP is modifying their original Equity Assessment
- Ranking and Scoring – will discuss next meeting
- Progress on Hiring for the FTE Trellis Specialist – The division is in the process of hiring a full time Trellis position and interviews are being scheduled

9. Adjourn

It was moved by Richard Marks and seconded by Rich Ames to adjourn the meeting at 2:50. Chair called for public comment – none received. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: August 24th, 2020 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm