

## Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting May 5, 2008

**Present:** Sandy McAlpine (Canadian Coffee Assn.), Wally Hamm (ProCert), Dag Falck (Nature's Path Foods), Gunta Vitins (ProOrganics/SunOpta), Arnold Taylor (OFC), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Mauricio Bobadilla (Sobey's), Betsy Hui (CHFA), Julie Belzile (OFC), Stephanie Wells (OFC & OTA), Paddy Doherty (OFC), Mike Leclair (AAFC), Nathalie Doré (AAFC), Katherine Carroll (OPAM), Michel Saumur (COO), Elizabeth Corrigan (COO)

1. Regulation: The COO has not yet received the drafted revised regulation. CFIA management met last Friday with Justice Department staff, who expressed concern about launching the Organic Products Regulations (OPR) in December 2008, when the organic standard is not likely to be ratified until June 2009.

Next week, senior management at CFIA will discuss the question of delaying the regulation. Michel expects to have a decision in two weeks regarding the implementation date.

2. Standards: Julie Belzile reported that comments are in on the second CGSB ballot. The minutes from the third CGSB meeting are now in translation. When they are ready, the third ballot can be circulated.

A fourth ballot would be desirable, but funding is short, and it may not be advisable to delay the publication and ratification of the standards in order to include a fourth ballot. Not all the issues for a fourth ballot have been determined and the amount of funding available is a challenge. The general sense was that the CGSB wrap up these revisions with the third ballot, and the sector needs to plan on a fourth ballot in the future to address the remaining issues.

3. Certification: Katherine of OPAM asked if brokers need organic certification. It was agreed that if brokers do not open, process or re-pack and organic product, certification is not required. They may choose to be certified, as a marketing tool or to allow them to not reveal where they source the products they broker.

4. Retailers: There was a question about whether retailers need to be certified when selling bulk foods. AAFC has contracted with OTA to adapt the OTA's Good Organic Retailing Practices for Canadian retailers, to provide sound guidance for retailers doing bulk sales.

5. Accreditation: Stephanie will circulate the COO letter listing the accreditors that will work under the Canada Organic Office. The accreditors will soon provide the COO with their lists of accredited CBs. These will be posted on the COO web site.

6. Stream of Commerce: This policy is back in the industry's court. Paddy and Keith Mussar will work on revisions, along with Sandy McAlpine.

7. Logo: Stephanie will circulate CFIA's response to the Organic Value Chain Roundtable letter objecting to the Canada organic logo.

The next meeting was proposed for May 19, two weeks from now, but that is Victoria Day, so please watch for an alternative date.

1:00 pm EDT, Dial-in number: 866-646-2080, Passcode: 2217165