

Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 12, 2023

The Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission met on June 12, 2023, in the RSA Dexter Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Stokes at 8:59 A.M.

Dr. Sam Blakemore led the Commission's invocation. The roll was taken with a quorum present. Commission members present for the meeting were Dr. Steven Stokes, Mr. Rex Vaughn, Dr. Sam Blakemore, Mr. Dwight Gamble, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Loree Skelton, Judge Charles Price, Ms. Taylor Hatchett, Mr. James Harwell, Dr. Jerzy P. Szaflarski, and Mr. Dion Robinson. No members were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Stokes presented the minutes from the May 25, 2023, Commission meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Ms. Hatchett, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

Chairman Stokes stated that the Commission would move into executive session. He asked Mr. Justin Aday to explain the items which the Commission will address, and the legal authority to justify the executive session.

Mr. Aday explained that in the executive session the Commission would discuss the application evaluation process, the upcoming votes, and the matter of pending litigation and legal ramifications. He noted that these discussions meet the requirements for executive session under Section 36-25A-7(1) and Section 36-25A-7(3), Code of Alabama 1975.

A motion to recess for executive session was made by Ms. Hatchett, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The Commission entered executive session at 9:04 A.M.

The Commission reconvened the public meeting at 1:12 P.M.

Chairman Stokes recognized Director John McMillan to make some remarks prior to the pending decision items. Director McMillan reflected on the previous two years work that provided the path to award medical cannabis business licenses. He thanked the Commission members, staff, state agencies, and the applicants for their efforts.

Chairman Stokes also asked Mr. Aday to discuss the application review and scoring process that was utilized. Mr. Aday began by referencing the scoring criteria detailed in the Application Guide that was published with the release of the applications in the Fall of 2022. He also discussed how each scored exhibit was independently reviewed by two evaluators who had experience and knowledge relative to the corresponding scoring category. Mr. Aday concluded by discussing the division of responsibilities and firewalls between the Commission and the third-party evaluators who scored portions of the applications.

Chairman Stokes then moved to discuss the decision items before the Commission. He explained that the first decision item was a vote to award cultivation licenses to the following applicants: Blackberry Farms, LLC; Gulf Shore Remedies, LLC; Pure by Sirmon Farms, LLC; and Twisted Herb Cultivation, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Ms. Hatchett, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

Chairman Stokes explained that the second decision item was a vote to award processor licenses to the following applicants: 1819 Labs, LLC; Enchanted Green, LLC; Jasper Development Group Inc.; and Organic Harvest Lab, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Dr. Saliski, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The third decision item presented by Chairman Stokes was a vote to award dispensary licenses to the following applicants: CCS of Alabama, LLC; RJK Holdings AL, LLC; Statewide Property Holdings AL, LLC; and Yellowhammer Medical Dispensaries, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Harwell, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

Chairman Stokes explained that the fourth decision item was a vote to award secure transport licenses to the following applicants: Alabama Secure Transport, LLC; International Communication, LLC; and Tyler Van Lines, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Dr. Blakemore, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The fifth decision item considered by the Commission was a vote to award a state testing laboratory license to Certus Laboratories. A motion was made by Ms. Hatchett, seconded by Mr. Vaughn, and received unanimous approval by the Commission.

The sixth and final decision item presented by Chairman Stokes was a vote to award integrated facility licenses to the following applicants: Flowerwood Medical Cannabis, LLC; Southeast Cannabis Company, LLC; Sustainable Alabama, LLC; TheraTrue Alabama, LLC; and Verano Alabama, LLC. A motion was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Dr. Jensen, and received approval by the Commission. Ms. Skelton, Dr. Jerzy, and Dr. Stokes abstained from the vote.

Chairman Stokes congratulated those who had been awarded a license and expressed the Commission's enthusiasm to work with them to begin Alabama's medical cannabis industry. He also discussed the upcoming deadlines to pay license fees and file for investigative hearing. He noted that the Commission is scheduled to award licenses at the July 10, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Stokes asked Vice Chairman Vaughn to discuss new business items. Mr. Vaughn announced that the Commission will open a second offering of licenses for cultivators, secure transporters, and state testing laboratories. He encouraged those who were interested in applying to visit the AMCC website frequently for updates.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gamble, seconded by Ms. Skelton, and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 1:28 P.M.

Approved on: _____

Secretary: _____