

August 18, 2016  
Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes  
Marquardt Building, Room 332  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the August 18, 2016 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties on July 21, 2016 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on July 21, 2016.

**Commission Present:** Mike Wiers, Colon Durrell, Richard Cook, Stanley Millay and Matt Randall

**Commission Absent:** None

**Department Officials:** Ron Dyer, Acting Director

**Staff Present:** Tim Drake, Executive Director, Betty Farr, Resource Administrators and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

**Legal Counsel:** Absent

**Others Present:** John Blake, H.P. Hood, Jim Lesser, Oakhurst Dairy, Shelley Doak, Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association, Julie-Marie Bickford and Dale Cole, MDIA, Clayton Davis & Bob Fortin, DFA/DMS, Mary Frank and Jacob Bickford members of the public.

Chairman Wiers called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1: Minutes:** Colon Durrell made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2016 meeting as presented. Matt Randall seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Agenda Item 2: Lauren Parker, Assistant Attorney General:** Nothing to report.

**Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:**

Tim Drake reported a prevailing premium of \$1.10/cwt. on Class I for September 2016, Dairy Marketing Services (DMS). In addition to this premium, DMS reported that an additional \$0.38/cwt for milk that comes from producers who do not treat their cows with the rBST hormone will be in effect. Agri-Mark reported no changes in their total premiums for September. Federal Order One Class I price for September is \$19.81, an increase of \$1.49/cwt. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.58/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for informational purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Chairman Wiers asked for testimony.

Dale Cole asked if any changes to rBST premiums were reported.

Tim Drake answered that no changes were reported.

Shelley Doak stated that the increased Class I price was good to see and recommended that the commission consider reducing the producer margin to \$1.35/cwt to be consistent with past actions.

Julie Marie Bickford asked that the commission be just as deliberate lowering the producer margin as they were when raising it. She further stated that Maine dairy producers were still struggling from low milk prices and the current dry conditions, which is impacting crops. Any reduction in crops will mean increased costs of production later.

Dale Cole told of talking to a farmer that will have to sell cows because of reduced forage crops; he also said that his situation is similar and he is anticipating \$30 to \$40 thousand to replace forage losses. He felt that this was a poor time to lower the producer margin.

John Blake stated that most of the milk sold in Maine under store labels is being sold at or near minimum prices; he supported lowering the producer margin to \$1.35/cwt.

Dale Cole stated that retail milk prices had little to do with covering farmer costs of production.

Stan Millay stated that he was not ready to lower the producer margin to \$1.35 but that a lesser reduction was appropriate; he then made a motion to accept order #09-16 with a producer margin of \$1.53/cwt. and a Commission premium of \$1.53/cwt.

Richard Cook seconded the motion.

Chairman Wiers called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey:** The Commission reviewed the Maine price survey for August 2016 which showed retail prices for Augusta, Brunswick, Topsham, Bangor, Brewer, South Portland, Scarborough, Saco and Biddeford. The IAMCA survey was not available.

**Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:**

- September 22, 2016, 10:30 a.m. Room 329, Marquardt Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta ME
- October 20, 2016, 10:30 a.m. Room 332, Marquardt Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta ME
- November 23, 2016, 4:00 p.m. Room 332, Marquardt Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta ME
- December 22, 2016, 10:30 p.m., Room 329, Marquardt Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta ME

**Agenda Item 6: Other:**

- A. Monthly Financial Report:** The FY 17 report was reviewed.

**Agenda Item 7: Executive Session:** None

**Adjourned:** Adjourned; 10:45 a.m. August 18, 2016.  
Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission