

December 23, 2020
Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes
Held Remotely via Teams
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the December 23, 2020 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties on November 19, 2020 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on November 19, 2020.

Commission Present: Stanley Millay, Colon Durrell, Richard Cook and Matt Randall.

Commission Absent: Mike Wiers

Department Officials: None

Staff Present: Tim Drake, Executive Director, Joy Bonenfant, Resource Administrator and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

Legal Counsel: Laura Jensen

Others Present: Julie-Marie Bickford, MDIA, Gary Anderson, member of the public/contractor, John Blake, H.P. Hood, Jenni Tilton-Flood, dairy farmer, Mike Benar and Bob Proulx of Oakhurst.

Acting Chairman Durrell called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes: Stanley Millay made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting. Richard Cook seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 2: Laura Jensen, Assistant Attorney General: No report.

Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:

Tim Drake reported a prevailing premium of \$1.04/cwt. on Class I for January 2021, Agri-Mark did not respond for January 2021 and DFA also did not respond to a request for information for January. Federal Order One Class I price for January 2021 is \$18.39, a decrease of \$4.73/cwt. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.63/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for informational purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and they should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Acting Chairman Durrell asked for testimony.

Julie-Marie Bickford stated that MDIA was concerned with the price volatility for all classes of milk going forward. She stated that negative ppd's are becoming common and that they were grateful for the stability that Milk Commission COPA's and the tier program payments have provided Maine's dairy community. She noted that Vermont is now below 600 dairy farms. She urged the Commission to stay the course with continued stability. Labor continues to be a problem on farms and with processors.

John Blake asked if Dairy Farms had been treated equitably in the Federal Covid 19 relief programs.

Julie Marie stated that she thought that they had with the various programs that provided funds to dairy farms.

No other testimony was offered.

Acting Chairman Durrell asked for a motion.

Stanley Millay made the motion to accept order #01-21 with a Commission premium of \$1.04/cwt. and a COPA of \$1.63/cwt.

Richard Cook seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey: Tim Drake stated that he had performed a price survey in all areas of the state as normal with nothing to report. Julie-Marie Bickford asked if there was anything that could be done about the empty dairy cases, leaking and spilled milk containers and the limiting of dairy product purchases. Tim Drake answered that he noticed these issues in limited stores and believed it was due to the labor issues. Joy Bonenfant stated that her son works in a Hannaford store and that staff had been reassigned other duties related to Covid 19 cleaning which may be causing some of these issues. The IAMCA price survey was not available.

Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:

- January 21, 2021, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- February 18, 2021, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- March 18, 2021, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- April 22, 2021, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME

Agenda Item 6: Other

- A. **FY 2021 Financial Report**, No discussion.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: None

Adjourned: Adjourned; 4:31 p.m. December 23, 2020.
Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission