# **Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation**

# **Cannabis Control Board Meeting**

Meeting Date: Monday, March 21, 2022 | Time: 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81265550466

BOARD MEMBERS	POSITION TITLE	SIGNATURE
Adrian Cruz	Member, Deputy Director – DOAG	ZOOM
Dafne Shimizu	Vice Chairwoman, Director – DRT	ZOOM
Marie Lizama	Deputy Director – DRT	
Theresa Arriola	Member, Director – GBHW	ZOOM
Cid Mostales	Member, DPHSS	ZOOM
Vanessa Williams	Chairwoman	ZOOM
Ursula Herrera	Secretary	ZOOM

This is to certify that the above information is true and correct:

**Board Secretary** 

03/21/2022

# **Cannabis Control Board**

Regular Meeting #36 | March 21, 2022 | 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81265550466

# **Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call of Members/Quorum
- III. Secretary's Report
  - A. Meeting Minutes CCB #35 (February 28, 2022)
- IV. Chair Report of Cannabis related Banking Issues
- V. Old Business
  - A. Seed to Sale System Implementation
  - B. Proposed Rules and Regulations Status
- VI. New Business
  - A. Creation of Board Committee Meeting
  - B. Proposed Application Forms for Cannabis Establishments
- VII. Next CC Board Meeting
- VIII. Open Forum/Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

# Cannabis Control Board Meeting Minutes March 21, 2022

## Opening

Chairperson Williams called the regular meeting of the Cannabis Control Board to order at 1:03 p.m. on March 21, 2022.

Location: Zoom Video Conference

Meeting ID: 839 0519 6494

#### **Attendees Present:**

Vanessa Williams (Appointee), Chair

Dafne Shimizu (DRT), Vice-Chair

Adrian Cruz (DOAG), Deputy Director

Theresa Arriola (GBHWC)

Ursula Herrera (Appointee), Secretary

Cid Mostales (DPHSS)

Marie Lizama (DRT), Deputy Director

# Apologies:

William Parkinson (Appointee)

Nico Fujikawa (GVB)

Stephen Ignacio (GPD)

# Quorum present? Yes

#### III. Secretary's Report

A. Minutes of Meeting - CCB# 35 (February 28, 2022)

Director Arriola made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2022 (CCB 35) meeting. Vice-Chair Shimizu seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### IV. Chair Report of Cannabis related Banking Issues

Chairperson Williams reported that she attended the Banking Board's meeting to discuss how the Government of Guam will accept money from applications and licensing fees for licensed cannabis businesses and related issues. No decision was made one way or another at the Banking Board meeting as they were in the midst of reviewing the issue. Following that meeting, she shared that she and Director Lizama (DRT) met with the Banking Commissioner and Director of DOA to follow up on the issue. She advised that the issue was still being determined and that the Banking Commissioner and Director of DOA were going to speak with all Guam banks as the banks currently cannot accept cannabis-related money.

She advised that a follow up meeting was scheduled for Thursday to receive an update, establish a timeframe for next steps to coincide with legislative approval, or explore other workarounds, avenues and solutions, such as use of a third-party verification system. She committed to providing the Board with an update following that meeting.

Director Arriola commented that based on the experience of other jurisdictions, it would be very difficult for a legitimate cannabis industry on Guam to thrive without appropriate resolution to the banking issue. She expressed concern with public safety and the potential for increased crime if the industry were to operate solely on a cash basis.

Vice-Chair Shimizu agreed that the matter is urgent and added that if people are unable to bank, then the Government would also not be able to receive excise taxes from the cannabis industry. She thanked Chairperson Williams and Deputy Director Lizama for attended the meetings to work on this issue.

The Board discussed holding a meeting shortly after the Thursday meeting to provide an update and discuss next steps; however, Chairperson Williams indicated it may not be possible due to the two-week notice for calling a meeting and the possible lack of action items for the Board.

Chairperson Williams thanked Board members for their comments and concerns, and agreed that the banking issue is urgent as the Proposed Rules were submitted on February 28, 2022, leaving only 2.5 months until they are formally passed.

CCB36

#### V. Old Business

#### A. Seed to Sale System Implementation

Mr. Mostales provided an update on the Seed-to-Sale System implementation, noting that he received access to the Metrc project manager portal to view and track the progress of the project. He also shared that Guam has been added to the Metrc website which allows anyone to see what Guam is doing with respect to the Seed-to-Sale system.

It was also reported that the test database is running and that access will be provided to the necessary individuals. Online training on the software and login information will also be provided to those entering the industry. Prospective industry users would be required to pass the exam in order to use the software.

Mr. Mostales confirmed he will verify with Metrc whether anyone would be able to access the online training, or whether a license needs to be obtained first. Another meeting has been scheduled for Thursday to review the Seed-to-Sale system.

Vice-Chair Shimizu added that various departments met with Metrc to receive an overview of the system. She suggested that the Board received a presentation on the online training and volunteered to follow up with Metrc on this.

### B. Proposed Rules and Regulations Status

It was declared that the Proposed Rules and Regulations were submitted to Legislature 21 days ago. Legislature has 90 days to take action, that is, to approve, deny, or amend the Propose Rules and Regulations.

Chairperson Williams advised that in accordance with adjudication law, a hearing will be scheduled within the next 54 days. There were no further updates to report.

#### VI. New Business

#### A. Creation of Board Committee Meeting

The Board discussed creating a Board committee to hold more strategic work sessions focused on achieving the other specific mandates of the Board, such as the annual summit, annual reporting of cannabis data to the Legislature, and exploring options and next steps for the banking issue.

Director Shimizu agreed to participate in the committee to gather and compile data for the annual reporting requirements. She commented that she will also contact Mr. Nico Fujikawa for the data.

Director Arriola also volunteered to assist with the data and the annual summit. She suggested that Steve Ignacio would also be included in the data committee.

Director Arriola made a motion to approve the creation of the Data Committee to compile the annual reporting data and to nominate GPD Chief Steve Ignacio and Director Adrian Cruz to co-chair the Data Committee. Director Arriola withdrew her motion. There was no seconder and no vote.

Director Arriola made a motion to approve the creation of the Data Committee to compile the annual reporting data and to nominate GPD Chief Steve Ignacio and Director Nico Fujikawa to co-chair the Data Committee.

Vice-Chair Shimizu's suggested separating the motion made by Director Arriola into multiple motions and amending to allow the individuals being nominated to accept the nomination as they were not present at the meeting. Director Arriola revised her earlier motion to only approve the creation of the Data Committee.

Director Arriola made a motion to approve the creation of the Data Committee to compile the annual reporting data. Vice-Chair Shimizu seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Shimizu made a motion to nominate Mr. Nico Fujikawa from GVB to chair the Data Committee and Chief Steve Ignacio from GPD to assist, subject to their acceptance of the nominations. Secretary Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Proposed Application Forms for Cannabis Establishments

Craig from the Compliance team presented the proposed application forms for cannabis establishments, noting that it encompasses all the elements required by statute and the Proposed Rules and Regulations. He noted that because DRT is also responsible for regulating alcohol and beverage control, that application was adapted and used as the basis for developing the proposed application form for cannabis establishments.

Vice-Chair Shimizu added that the proposed application form would not be finalized until the Proposed Rules and Regulations have been approved and adopted. She also advised that she has a meeting scheduled with the Business License and Permit Center group to discuss the cannabis industry. She suggested establishing a licensing committee to discuss licensing and to ensure that all the relevant agencies, such as EPA, GFD, GPD, etc., are aware of the requirements and informed of the process.

The Board agreed to have a Board representative attend the meeting with the Business License and Permit Center. Vice-Chair Shimizu agreed to share the date of that meeting with the Board one scheduled.

The Board also discussed developing guidance about starting a cannabis business. Vice-Chair Shimizu advised that the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) issues a Guam Guide Book that provides detailed reference information about doing business in Guam. She suggested working with BSP to add cannabis industry into the Guide Book. The Board agreed to have Vice-Chair Shimizu reach out to them about updating the Guam Guide Book and follow up on the most recent version.

Director Cruz provided a introduction for DOAG's forms. Secretary Herrera presented the proposed forms from DOAG, which are to be used in conjunction with the Bona Fide Farmer's Certificate.

As DOAG's form included a section for demographic information for farm data, Chairperson Williams suggested that all agencies consider including a similar section as the Board will be required to report in its annual reporting the ownership trends in the industry by racial, ethic, and socioeconomic subgroups. She explained this would facilitate the gathering of that data.

Mr. Cid Mostales reported there were no proposed forms from DPHSS but advised that they were reviewing forms from the Bureau of Environmental Health, including verifying whether sanitation permits for cultivation facilities and manufacturing facilities are required for dispensaries. He committed to providing an update once that has been clarified.

#### VII. Next CCB Board Meeting

The Board agreed to tentatively schedule the next meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Chairperson Williams advised she may call the meeting earlier, if necessary, to discuss the banking issue.

#### VIII. Open Forum/Public Comment

There were no announcements or issues raised by the Board and no comments raised from the public.

# IX. Adjournment

Director Arriola made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Director Cruz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Cannabis Control Board meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m. on March 21, 2022. The next meeting shall be held on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Prepared by:

Ursula Herrera Secretary Noted by:

Vanessa Williams