

**National Organic Standards Board
Policy Development Subcommittee
Consent Agenda Discussion Document
July 19, 2020**

Summary:

The PDS is discussing the use of a consent agenda for voting on Sunset items that are similar, in an effort to save time at the NOSB meetings.

Discussion:

A consent agenda is a board meeting practice where similar agenda items are grouped into a single agenda item for voting purposes. All items under a consent agenda can then be approved in one action, rather than board members filing motions on each item separately. Using a consent agenda can save time. Many private and governmental boards use a consent agenda for generally non-controversial items that do not require much, if any, discussion before a vote.

For the NOSB, reviews of substances with multiple listings on the National List where the two reviews are essentially the same could be grouped for voting. For example, ammonium carbonate and ammonium bicarbonate, or copper substances, could be grouped. The consent agenda process allows a board member, for any reason, to remove an item from the grouping for further discussion, and possible separate vote. However, if the items are not singled out for discussion they can be grouped for voting thereby saving time. To maintain transparency the process would only be used for similar, non-controversial items.

The Policy Development Subcommittee is seeking feedback from the full Board and public commenters to see if there is support for this change before pursuing it further.

Subcommittee Vote:

Motion to accept the discussion document on the use of a consent calendar

Motion by: Rick Greenwood

Seconded by: Jesse Buie

Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Recuse: 0

Approved by Rick Greenwood, Policy Development Subcommittee Chair, to transmit to NOP August 9, 2020