

**National Organic Standards Board  
Policy Development Committee  
Proposed Recommendation  
Policy & Procedures Manual Section V:  
Procedures for Completing Committee Recommendations**

**February 2, 2011**

## **Introduction**

The PPM is a guide to assist the Board in the conduct of its responsibilities and it is revised as necessary to improve the functioning of the Board. The development and proposed revisions are done with public input, following the same procedures used for all NOSB committee recommendations.

Most of the Board's work is done by the standing committees, constituted by members with expertise and experience in the subject area and thus should be allowed to reach an independent committee conclusion, which may include a minority opinion. The full Board has the option to arrive at different conclusion and reject the committee recommendation.

The purpose of this recommendation is to clarify committee procedures and prerogatives for completing recommendations.

## **Background**

During the NOSB Fall 2010 Meeting, procedural questions arose over the prerogative of a Committee to withdraw a proposed recommendation. Withdrawing a recommendation is not an uncommon practice, occurring at least once during the same Board Meeting. However in this case, the majority of the Board objected to the action of the Committee. During the insuring discussions, it became obvious that the PPM needed clarification on the subject.

## **Relevant areas in the Rule**

OFPA provides the authority for the NOSB. Operating procedures were left to Board's discretion.

## **Discussion**

Standing Committees develop recommendations based on the best information available, including public comment and the Committees own expertise.

At the Board Meeting additional information may be presented that may cause the Committee to reconsider its recommendation. This may be done during the Board meeting. However, the new information may be so complex, technical or controversial, that the Committee needs additional time or third party evaluation of the information. In such situations, the Committee needs to be able to take back its recommendation.

## **Recommendation**

Revision of Section V, PPM: Procedures for Completing Committee Recommendations.

Developing committee recommendations follows these broad steps:

1. The committee prepares a recommendation or discussion document as agreed to in the committee work plan (see p. 32 PPM).
2. The recommendation or discussion document is posted for public comment.
3. Public comments are considered by the committee when making recommendation to the Board.
4. Prior to an official vote at the Board meeting, the committee may withdraw its recommendation.
5. Once presented, the Board takes action on the committee recommendation.

*Note: all language following #4 on p.20 remains unchanged and should be included.*

## **Committee Vote**

Motion: to accept the proposed amendment to the Policy and Procedures Manual

Motion by: Barry Flamm    Second: Calvin Walker

Yes: 4

No: 0

Absent: 1

Abstain: 0

Recuse: 0