

10-09-2025 Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kelly Pehrson Calls Meeting To Order - Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Kelly Pehrson

Chief Jason Williams

Dr. Edward Walker

Brad Winter

Miles Maynes

Drew Gubler

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the 08-13-2025 Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Meeting Minutes**
 - **Motion Seconded - Drew Gubler**
 - **All Present - YES**

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the 09-25-2025 Medical Cannabis Establishment Licensing Board Work Group Minutes**
 - **Motion Seconded - Chief Jason Williams**
 - **All Present - YES**

Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Open Position: Patient Representative

Commissioner Kelly Pehrson Reads Public Comment Guidelines: "All participants will be muted until asked to speak by the board. If you are a company representative please click Raise Hand when it is your time to speak and one of our admin will unmute you. During the public comment period please type in the chat box or click Raise Hand to be called on by the board, at which point you will be unmuted. Thank you to everyone for working with the department to ensure a professional and efficient meeting."

2025 Establishment Licencing Board Dates

November 13th | Documentation Deadline: October 17th

December 4th | Documentation Deadline: November 6th

Medical Cannabis Rural Pharmacy Application License

Cody James States: "Yeah, so the current rural pharmacy license applications that have been submitted through this summer have been reviewed by the department. We held that work group that the minutes were just approved for towards the end of September and the licensing board did receive access to those applications and are currently reviewing and scoring those applications. Our hope is to have them back to us or at least their scores back to the department by October 16th. We do allow them to ask some questions and we'll be sending those answers out to the entire board as they're asked by individual board members so everybody's on the same page with that. The one thing that needs to happen here today by the board is to determine the number of applicants that the board wishes to invite to the November meeting. To be here just in case they want to have a face-to-face interview with some of those applicants."

Q. Commissioner Kelly Pehrson: "So how many applications have they received?"

A. Cody James: "They've received nine applications."

Q. Miles Maynes: "So, as we're scoring these, is it reasonable to take the top three or four that have, kind of, started to show promise and sent them through an interview process?"

A. Cody James: "Absolutely, yeah."

Q. Miles Maynes: "And is there a, I guess, margin of... these ones are substantially... performed better on the applications than the others' or is there any guidance as to what makes that determination? Or is it up to whatever we feel?"

A. Cody James: "Submittable will rank them based on the points."

A. Dr. Brandon Forsyth: "We don't have everybody's scoring so we can't say if there's a gap between the top four and the bottom five. There's no way to know that ahead of time."

Q. Miles Maynes: "So yeah, I mean for me, there would be four or five but I don't know what makes the fifth one included with the fourth one. I know that it all takes time, but I also think it's fair to evaluate everybody based on some feedback and questions that they can answer in

person. If I was to say, the fairest chance, five would be it but I know it's a long time to go through and interview everybody, can we keep it to a specific window, like a ten minute interview process so that we're not spending too much time?"

A. Cody James: "I know you guys are donating your time for the most part, so we usually try and keep these to two hours. These normal meetings, so we can probably put that in place at that same level. Depending, and Melissa can correct me if I'm wrong, but I would think that you're going to be asking some specific questions on each license based on their application and not necessarily the same questions overall. And maybe you do have the same questions for all of them, to try and figure out who's better, but it's going to be based on what you want to find out and how they're going to answer the questions you might have."

Q. Miles Maynes: "Another thought comes to my mind, is if we limit it to five minutes and then bring in five applicants just for the sake of time. That's the thing I'm going to put on the table. I don't know what answers you're looking for, but I'd love to hear what the other members say."

A. Commissioner Kelly Pehrson: "I would think five minutes is too short. That's probably one question. I would say you're probably looking 10 to 15 minutes for an interview, based on the board all asking different questions. So, we should plan for that at least. But I'd love to get everyone's thoughts on it."

Q. Miles Maynes: "We're supposed to go from nine to five."

A. Cody James: "Well to one. Initially, because you'll want to make a decision on who gets that single license by January 1st for sure."

Q. Miles Maynes: "Okay, so nine to five to one. So, one license is available."

A. Cody James: "There'll be another one available in the calendar year 2026."

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the In-Person Interviews of Top 5 Medical Cannabis Rural Pharmacy Applications**
 - **Motion Seconded - Drew Gubler**
 - **All Present - YES**

Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal Approval: Wholesome Goods

Cody James Introduces Wholesome Goods: "So, the licensing board needs to consider for each cannabis processing facility that seeks renewal, their methods and procedures for extraction, their standard operating procedures, and a complete listing of the medical dosage forms for what that license produces. Wholesome Goods is a processor located in Davis County. Wholesome currently uses hydrocarbon and solventless extraction methods, and produces the following products: vapes, flower, non-edibles, concentrates, and edibles. Whoever's going to speak with that, probably JD, can go into more detail on what needs to be done, as far as their procedures. Over the past year of their license, they had seven quality assurance failures. One was for foreign matter, and six were for solvents. All seven of those were able to be remediated and then sent out for purchase at the pharmacies. With that, I'll turn it back to the board."

Wholesome Goods States: "I just want to thank the board for their consideration. I want to thank you after reviewing our application. I want to thank Arthur for coming out and visiting us early this week for the renewal inspection. Definitely just looking forward to another good year. As the department knows, we're expanding our facility to include some additional extraction methods, as well as, to give us some more room to do some of the things that we're already doing. So I'm looking forward to another good year. I'm happy to answer any questions that the board might have."

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Questions;**

Q. Miles Maynes: "Was this the license that you were merging with another national, international group?"

A. Wholesome Goods: "So, all of our licenses were part of that. We're part of that merger."

Q. Miles Maynes: "How's that?"

A. Wholesome Goods: "That merger closed in May and everything has been going along well. So far, there's still some things to be worked out through 2026 in terms of how much control the national company has. It's been great working with them. As a matter of fact, I recently took on a role on the corporate side of things. So now I'm kind of liaising over all compliance for all of the states that they have, not just here. So, it's been really good for the business and for me."

Q. Miles Maynes: "I notice your compliance up year to date is zero citations, zero warnings, and zero letters of concern. What would you attribute that to?"

A. Wholesome Goods: "I think it's something we've just built over time, right? I'm sure some of these other licenses here can talk to it, you know, compliance is a labor of love, I guess I'll say it. But I also think, too, a lot of it is being able to work hand-in-hand with the department to resolve things and just making sure that it's a focus, right, it has to be a pillar of the business. And I think we've been able to do that. And I think as you just continue to work on it, it becomes top of mind for people. And really the credit goes to the gentleman to my right, Ryan, his predecessor, Marcus, and then obviously all of our employees every day because compliance is not just a one person job. God knows I wouldn't be able to do it by myself. And so thankfully we've got a bunch of employees that can do it. So definitely proud of that record so far this year."

Q. Miles Maynes: “And remind me, are there any ongoing issues with the city of Centerville?”

A. Wholesome Goods: “No, there are not. We resolved the most recent enforcement action that they had against us by agreeing to another mitigation plan that was submitted to UDAF for approval for both our cultivation and processing. And we are in the process of implementing that, which the major part of that is gonna require us to install a dry vapor system that will kind of encapsulate our building and release dry vapor that will hopefully limit the odor of the cannabis that leaves our facility. And we intend to have that installed by the end of November and actually look forward to having you come out and see that once it's been installed.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Public Comments; Commissioner Kelly Pehrson closed Public Comments**

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal for Wholesome Goods**
 - **Motion Seconded - Dr. Edward Walker**
 - **All Present - YES**

Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal Approval: Curaleaf Processing

Cody James Introduces Curaleaf Processing: “Curaleaf is located in Davis County. They currently use ethanol and co2 extraction methods, and produce vape cartridges, flower, concentrates and infused edibles. Over the past year, Curaleaf has had two quality assurance failures, one for microbials and one for foreign matter, both were remediated and able to be put back into the market.”

Curaleaf Processing States: “Alan Roth, Director of Compliance for Curaleaf. We're happy to be part of the program. Happy for the ongoing communication with UDAF and look forward to keeping the boat floating in the right direction.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Questions;**

Q. Miles Maynes: “Remind me, as you're talking about Tooele and North Salt Lake, what's the final plan and is it affecting this license at all?”

A. Curaleaf Processing: “Well, as you can see we're renewing North Salt Lake. So, that should give some indication at this point in time. The approach being taken is to run both facilities simultaneously as they figure out their options.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “Okay. So, no plans this upcoming year to get rid of one or the other?”

A. Curaleaf Processing: “Not that I've been officially informed. Again, I think they're spending the money on the renewal to give themselves the, you know, options to decide what they truly want to do. But what I can say is that we've submitted for the build out in Tooele so the processor license that already exists, you know, when we took over the company, is going to be expanded we're going to be set up for setting up co2 there, full processing, so in this moment of time both eventually will be running. We've got conditional approval on most of the stuff we needed that was brought to this board. There'll be some final other OPCR's that need to be done to change, you know, with designations facility. That's the current plan as far as I'm concerned.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “Is there one site that produces more or less more specialty products? Is there anything you can add?”

A. Curaleaf Processing: “Well, at this point, you know, right now cultivation is happening at Tooele. There's very limited processing happening. Rather than, you know, trimming of flower and then packaging. Packaging is happening at North Salt Lake. So at this point we'll probably make the decisions. Maybe they'll package the flower at Tooele. Depends on how long it takes them to put in the CO2 at Tooele. So I think there's still lots of pieces being moved around on the board. So I think we'll have more clarity in 2026.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Public Comments; Commissioner Kelly Pehrson closed Public Comments**

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal for Curaleaf Processing**
 - **Motion Seconded - Drew Gubler**
 - **All Present - YES**

Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal Approval: Dragonfly Processing SLC

Cody James Introduces Dragonfly Processing SLC: “Dragonfly Processing SLC is obviously the Salt Lake City processing facility for Dragonfly. It's one of two that they have, obviously located in Salt Lake County. Dragonfly currently uses ethanol extraction methods and produces vape carts, flower, non-edibles, concentrates, and infused edibles. Over the past year, they had one quality assurance failure. It was for microbials and they were able to ask for a retest, get it tested, and it actually passed, was able to move on into the market.”

Dragonfly Processing SLC States: “My name is Jeff Chan. I am the Director of Compliance at Dragonfly. I just wanted to thank the board for this opportunity to get to operate for another year.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Questions;**

Q. Miles Maynes: “Remind me, Salt Lake is your only processing facility?”

A. Dragonfly Processing SLC: “No, we actually have another processing facility that's located inside of our Dragonfly greenhouse facility.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “And that's in Sanpete County?”

A. Dragonfly Processing SLC: “Yes.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “Tell me more about what the difference between the two are?”

A. Dragonfly Processing SLC: “Oh, yeah, sure. So the one located in Sanpete County does all of the extraction, if you will, and then basically the one, the processing location in Salt Lake does the packaging, kind of putting the final products together, creating the infused edibles, and stuff like that. So that's the main difference.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Public Comments; Commissioner Kelly Pehrson closed Public Comments**

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the Medical Cannabis Tier 1 Processing Application Renewal for Dragonfly Processing SLC**

- **Motion Seconded - Chief Jason Williams**

- **All Present - YES**

Medical Cannabis Pharmacy Application Renewal Approval: Beehive Farmacy SLC

Cody James Introduces Beehive Farmacy SLC: “The things for the board to take into consideration for renewals of a pharmacy: product availability, quality and variety that they they sell, the pharmacies operating procedures and practices, and the factors that are listed in 441-1003, which is really their operating plan and procedures. Beehive Pharmacy is who we're trying to renew here. They're an urban medical cannabis pharmacy located in Salt Lake City. They offer in-store, online and drive-through services. Beehive Pharmacy is vertically integrated, meaning they have a grow and a processor. They have an additional pharmacy in Brigham City as well. Beehive offers a variety of products including flower, vapes, concentrates, edibles, tinctures and topicals.”

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Questions;**

Q. Miles Maynes: “Remarkable compliance. I just want to ask, do you have any opinions or thoughts on UDAF strategies for compliance and why they're successful?”

A. Cody James: “I think the first thing I'd say is that there's a group of industry members that are very much willing to have the conversation ahead of time, right? To call and ask questions and have those types of conversations. I would say that Bijan and Beehive is one of those groups that does that. Sometimes that doesn't work in his favor either, but he's been good at communicating his wants and thoughts of ideas. The other thing is, even though that the department has been fairly hard on licensees, you know, trying to enforce the laws and the rules, is that there is always an ability to communicate, to work through those, and have meetings with each group if need be, and get to an understanding of what we're trying to do together as far as at least come to an agreement that, 'hey, maybe this is what the statute does say or whatnot.' So I think it's first and foremost putting it out there that the department is doing their best to communicate. There are those licensees that are really willing to communicate as well, and then just working together to get those the statutes clarified and work together. And once they understand that, and we understand like, kind of, announce what they do, and they understand what our stance is, it seems to work out pretty well.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “Would you say it's a majority or minority if someone has an idea they want to bring to you, and you eventually say yes or no, or what is it just all up to?”

A. Cody James: “I think as we're talking about all 45 licenses, if you looked at it that way, but there's a group that's... A lot of, I guess, a fair number that are vertically integrated. So, I'd say almost all the vertically integrated ones are doing that type of thing. So, I'd say the majority overall the licenses, but when you take in 45, it's probably not 23 of them, but if you take all of them as individual entities, yeah, you'll have someone like, again, like Bijan who's vertically integrated. So, he encompasses four different licenses.”

Q. Miles Maynes: “There's a letter of concern that includes using the word 'dispensary' throughout a website. I'm just more curious when customers come in, how do they refer to your business? What's the culture of Utah as they interact with medical pharmacies?”

A. Beehive Farmacy SLC: “Well in our name it's 'pharmacies', so we would refer to it as a pharmacy as opposed to a dispensary. That letter of concern came more from a blog post educating about 'What is a pharmacy versus a dispensary'. So technically we're out of compliance by using that word, even though it was educational. One of the links that was in the website was 'slash/dispensaries' rather than 'slash/pharmacies'. So,

we're not actively referring to ourselves as dispensaries and vernaculars not adult use focused like it may look like from that letter of concern. There were more technicalities on the blog post and an actual website URL. But we reiterate the medical nature of everything. Your earlier question about compliance, like our pharmacists in charge or really the adult in the room wearing a pharmacist jacket. And so we really try to set the standard of this is a medical environment. There's no, you know, while there may have been in the past, leaning towards adult use or recreational terms, for example, we've learned from that by not doing certain brands leaning towards more medical vernacular. So to answer your short question, we always refer to ourselves as a pharmacy with medical professionals there and always avoid any adult use type terminology."

A. Cody James: "And maybe just to help answer what you just said, and Bijan was 100% on that. But take into account the rest of the country and maybe even the rest of the world, Utah is the only state that refers to where they get their cannabis from as medical cannabis pharmacies. So the use of the term dispensary is out there throughout a lot of people. And so those that had been using before this program came on board, that were going across state lines, it's just something- I think even doctors are sometimes referring to it, even though we try and keep, as Bijan mentioned, that medicine. But to answer your question about how Utah's culture is that way, you're dealing with a lot of history with this. And so it's there, but that answers it a little bit."

- **Commissioner Kelly Pehrson opened Public Comments; Commissioner Kelly Pehrson closed Public Comments**

- **Miles Maynes moves to approve the Medical Cannabis Pharmacy Application Renewal for Beehive Farmacy SLC**
 - **Motion Seconded - Dr. Edward Walker**
 - **All Present - YES**

- **Miles Maynes moves to adjourn the 10-09-2025 Medical Cannabis Production Establishment Board Meeting**
 - **All Present - YES**