



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Acting Commissioner

Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2007
Lord Jeffery Inn
Amherst, MA
9:30 to 12:30**

Task Force Members Present:

Ms. Lynne Bohan, processor Representative;
Representative Daniel Bosley;
Senator Stephan Brewer;
Mr. Mark Duffy, Farmer Representative;
Representative Lou Evangelidis;
William Gillmeister, Ph.D., appointee, Department of Agricultural Resources;
Undersecretary Philip Griffiths, EEA Secretary's Designee;
Representative Stephen Kulik;
Mr. Robert O'Connor, appointee, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs;
Mr. David Shepard, Massachusetts Cooperative of Milk Producers Federation Representative;
Mr. Scott Soares, Acting Commissioner Department of Agricultural Resources;
Senator Stanley Rosenberg;
Mr. Greg Watson, appointee, Energy and Environmental Affairs;
Mr. Richard Woodger, Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers Representative;

Members of the public were present at the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Acting Commissioner Soares called the meeting into order at 9:45 a.m.

By unanimous consent Acting Commissioner Soares took up the report of the Safety net subcommittee to accommodate Senator Rosenberg who had a funeral to attend and would not be able to stay for the entire meeting

2. Old Business

a. Subcommittee Reports

5. Safety-Net Subcommittee

Dr. Gillmeister presented the report of the Subcommittee's work and its recommendations. The subcommittee met three times to examine the feasibility of a Dairy Stabilization Fund based on the South Carolina Income Tax credit. Dr. Gillmeister reviewed the cyclical nature of farm milk prices and that the cycle had lengthened to three to five years from peak to trough. The objective of the safety net mechanism is to provide a floor under falling milk prices during the trough of the cycle. The concept of a stabilization fund was to build up a fund during peak periods, so that funds for support would be available during trough periods. The South Carolina income tax credit would be used to distribute support during the trough.

Before addressing the question of the funding level that would provide a sufficient level of support, the Subcommittee evaluated the level of funding that the South Carolina tax credit would generate if applied to Massachusetts. Dr. Gillmeister reviewed the South Carolina tax credit model as to how it works.

The South Carolina income tax credit grants a tax credit to dairy farmers if farm milk prices drop below a certain trigger price. This mechanism is evaluated each month, and the tax credit is granted for milk production of a quarter during which the farm price drops below the trigger during any month in that quarter. At the end of the tax year, the farmer receives a tax credit on annual milk production adjusted for the number of quarters for which the credit is due. Once the credit is calculated, it is applied to a farmer's income tax liability. If the tax liability is greater than the credit, then the farmer is obligated to pay the difference. If the credit is greater, the farmer receives what's left.

More specifically, if during any month in a quarter, the trigger price falls below the farm price, the farmer receives a tax credit equal to \$10,000 for the first 500,000 pounds of annual milk production, and \$5,000 for each 500,000 pounds of annual milk production thereafter for that quarter's milk production. Five hundred thousand pounds of annual milk production amounts to about a 28 cow milking herd and this establishes a minimum milk production threshold. As to the trigger price, the South Carolina program uses a set of factors to establish the trigger price including the average price of the top five surrounding states from which milk is imported, transportation costs of transporting milk from those states, and the costs of milk production in South Carolina.

The Safety Net Subcommittee identified four variables that may require some adjustment for implementation of the tax credit model in Massachusetts. Those variables were as follows: a minimum production amount, the frequency of evaluating the trigger, the trigger price, and the amount of the credits. The South Carolina tax credit has a minimum production level of 28 milking cows. Dr. Gillmeister reported that the Subcommittee recognized the reason for a minimum production requirement as to be sure that only true farms have access to the credit. The Subcommittee recommended that no such minimum be established, but that a dairy farm be required to have a certificate of registration with the Department of Agriculture.

As stated above, the South Carolina model evaluated the trigger price on a monthly basis, but awarded the credit on a quarterly basis. The Subcommittee recommends evaluating the trigger on a monthly basis and that the credit be awarded on a monthly basis also. Of the trigger price itself, Dr. Gillmeister related that the Subcommittee recognized key differences in market conditions in Massachusetts when compared to South Carolina, thereby requiring a different set of factors for calculation of the trigger. To be consistent with Finding 6, the trigger price ought to include some measure of cost of production.

The Subcommittee went back to the Task Force meeting of August 10, 2007 to its discussion of costs of production and concluded that the Vermont operating costs of production, announced monthly by the US Department of Agriculture, offered the best source for a trigger price. In particular, the Subcommittee decided that the trigger price ought to include the operating costs, hired labor, and some level of the value of unpaid labor. The Subcommittee relied on the economic and business theory that a farm will remain in business as long as it can cover its variable or operating costs. Being able to pay for hired labor is a part of those costs as well as some part of the value of a farmer's unpaid labor.

Regarding the amount of the tax credit, the Subcommittee analyzed the fixed tax credit by incorporating the decisions already discussed while using the base credit of \$10,000 if a farm has a certificate of registration and a unit credit of \$5,000 per 500,000 pounds of milk production after the first 500,000 pounds. Using data from the Emergency Relief Program administered in July of 2007, the Subcommittee found that the maximum liability if the farm price fell below the trigger price every single month in a year would be \$4.12 million dollars.

Importantly, the Subcommittee recognized that based upon the cyclical nature of milk prices, the worst case scenario for milk prices might occur every 3-5 years, but that during the intervening years there could be an impact of anywhere from 0 to less than \$4 million. In fact, considering the high milk prices that have occurred during the calendar year of 2007, it is highly likely that if such a tax credit program were currently in existence the tax rebate liability would be zero. That is to say, the general fund liability will fluctuate from year to year and will range from a minimum of zero liability to a maximum of \$4 million, but on average, the payout would amount to \$2.3 million a year with an average payout of approximately \$12, 800 per farm. Dr. Gillmeister reported that the Subcommittee recommends that the credits be distributed on a per cwt basis to provide equity across all dairy farmers.

He then turned to the question of a dairy stabilization fund. After further review, the Subcommittee recognized the novelty of the proposal, but concluded that such a fund would likely be too problematic. Further, depositing milk dealer fees into such a fund may present some U.S. Constitution questions in line with *West Lynn Creamery v. Healy* (512 U.S. 186 (1994)). Dr. Gillmeister stated that the Subcommittee recommended that the milk dealer license fees be reviewed with a specific focus on the reestablishment of the retailers milk dealer licensing.

In summary, Dr. Gillmeister reported that the Subcommittee recommended that the income tax credit be implemented on a per hundredweight basis, that it be evaluated on a monthly basis, that the trigger be based on the USDA announced operating cost of production plus hired and unpaid labor costs for Vermont, and that the credit be limited to a maximum of \$4 million.

Senator Rosenberg reiterated that the recommendation of the Subcommittee is for \$4 million dollars adjusted for inflation and inquired if the writing of the necessary legislation could be performed by the Milk Promotion Board. Dr. Gillmeister replied that he did not feel this appropriate and recommended the establishment of a subcommittee to work on the legislation for the income tax credit.

Motion: Senator Rosenberg made a motion, seconded by Representative Kulik, to re-convene the Safety-Net subcommittee to construct the legislature for the income tax credit.

Discussion: Ms. Lynne Bohan, Dr. Gillmeister, Senator Rosenberg, Representative Kulik, Mr. Duffy, Representative Bosley and Mr. Brian Houghton volunteered to work on the Safety-Net Subcommittee. Senator Rosenberg voiced his opinion that this work should not hold up the completion of the report and if the legislation was not completed on time it should be left out of the report and submitted separately when completed.

Vote: Unanimous.

Representative Bosley asked who would review and adjust these details and Dr. Gillmeister responded that the Department of Agricultural Resources, in the form of the Commissioner, has the statutory oversight to make these changes.

Senator Rosenberg reiterated that it was the desire of many people that we do re-establish a retail license fee and adjust the current milk dealer license fees to the appropriate levels.

Representative Evangelidis asked as to where the money would come from and what the current milk dealer license fee structure was. Dr. Gillmeister responded that the money would come out of the general fund and explained the current milk dealer license fee structure and rates.

Mr. Richard Woodger commented that the dairy farmers of the Commonwealth were still sticking it out and still recovering from the losses of 2006. Mr. Woodger further stated that he felt that the farmers of the Commonwealth while appreciative of the effort, in the form of the emergency stabilization fund, did not feel that the \$3.6 million in assistance was sufficient. Based on this Mr. Woodger stated that while he was appreciative of the effort and the contents of the report he did not feel that this number should be used in the report.

Acting Commissioner Soares responded by identifying the fact that the members of the Task Force were aware that the scenario in 2006 was the “perfect storm” and that the \$3.6 million in assistance was determined adequate to maintain the dairy industry in the Commonwealth and ensure that farms were able to stave off the adverse affects of the crisis of 2006. He further identified that the South Carolina model also offered nearly \$3 million in assistance and was adequate to maintain the industry in South Carolina through difficult times.

Senator Rosenberg stated that this was only one element of a larger plan and that there were many more components of assistance for the dairy industry of the Commonwealth which combined would provide stability for the industry. He further mentioned that the proposed safety-net was a last ditch item of assistance and together with the other components of assistance would make a big difference,

Senator Brewer stated that this was a beachhead and that we should remain focused on making inroads in terms of statutory and regulatory modifications and that as his colleague Senator Rosenberg once coined, “we should not let the perfect get in the way of the practical”. Senator Brewer further stated that reality would dictate that if it is not real than it can be re-worked again.

Mr. Duffy responded that he understood this but that he had the responsibility to ensure that the Department of Agricultural Resources as well as the Legislature be made aware of the difficulties the industry is having.

Representative Bosley raised his concern on the \$4 million and if this was sufficient to cover all of the dairy farmers in the event of a downturn. He also mentioned that while South Carolina had started at 500,000, Massachusetts was starting at 0. Representative Bosley in closing mentioned that perhaps the fund idea could be re-visited at a later date.

Senator Rosenberg stated that this was something that could be discussed further and that an additional mechanism that would be utilized in the event of a profound dip where the \$4 million was inadequate that would allow the augmentation of any cap restriction in an extraordinary situation would be useful.

Undersecretary Griffiths referred to the fact that the declaration of emergency by the Commissioner should cover any increase over the \$4 million amount.

Representative Kulik recommended the possible use of the statutory language of the declaration of emergency to petition Administration and Finance in the event of an emergency.

Dr. Gillmeister stated that there was a clear necessity for the further review of these items. Senator Rosenberg asked if there was enough time to conduct this review prior to the release of the report and was unsure if this could be accomplished in short-order.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the tax credit would be good for those times that are not the perfect storm and should cover most dips and accumulated debt moving from one year to the next.

Motion: Senator Rosenberg made a motion, seconded by Representative Kulik, to accept the safety-net subcommittee's report and recommendations for inclusion in the final report to the legislature and to include as an item for the new Subcommittee the task of identifying an emergency mechanism for funds necessary beyond the \$4 million maximum already identified.

Discussion: Senator Rosenberg closed discussion by thanking the members of the Subcommittee and the Task Force, both the staff and the co-chairs for their work and professionalism. In particular he thanked Dr. Gillmeister for his work with the subcommittee and Acting Commissioner Soares for his professionalism and effort during his tenure. He also made mention that he felt it important that the mention of the federal issues affecting the dairy industry of Massachusetts be mentioned in the executive summary of the report. He also stated that it is crucial that we bring national resources to the table and communicate industry concerns and work closely with the congressional delegation to make the federal system fair. Before excusing himself from the meeting Senator Rosenberg voiced his strong endorsement of the report of the Task Force to the legislature.

Vote: **Unanimous.**

Acting Commissioner Soares thanked the Senator for his remarks and called the attention of the Task Force to the agenda and asked that they return to the original order business in the Agenda.

2. Approval of October 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Representative Evangelidis made a motion, seconded by Representative Bosley, to approve the October 5 Meeting minutes.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

3. Old Business (cont.)

a. Subcommittee Reports

1. Massachusetts Milk Promotion Board Subcommittee

Dr. Gillmeister presented the work of the Milk Promotion Board Subcommittee. The subcommittee met two times and reached consensus for the recommendation for the establishment of a Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board and has assembled draft legislation for this purpose. This legislation will identify an 8 member committee and will allow the commissioner and his office to manage the funds of the Dairy Promotion Board. He also stated that the subcommittee discussed the proposed membership and also discussed the 15 cent fee to the national board of which 10 cents can be re-directed to the regional board.

Mr. Duffy expressed his interest in this program and felt it would be positively embraced by dairy farmers.

Motion: Senator Brewer made a motion, seconded by Representative Kulik, to accept the Milk Promotion Subcommittee's report and recommendations for inclusion in the final report to the legislature.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

2. Technical Assistance and Low Interest Loan Subcommittee

Senator Brewer presented the work of the Technical Assistance and Low Interest Loan Subcommittee and its interest in the establishment of a farm linked loan program for dairy farmers. Senator Brewer discussed his meeting with State Treasurer, Mr. Timothy Cahill and thanked the Treasurer and his office for their work on the draft legislation to establish a dairy farm linked loan deposit program. Senator Rosenberg introduced three members of the State Treasurer's Office, Mr. Nick Favorito, Deputy Treasurer, Ms. Cynthia Lydon, Deputy Chief of Staff for the State Treasurer's Office and Mr. Craig Stepno.

Mr. Favorito began his presentation of the program by thanking the Task Force for the invitation and for the opportunity to explain the program to Task Force members. He explained the proposed legislation, based on the research of other state-backed low interest loan programs, would be the first one of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The legislation would grant the Treasurer the authority to invest up to \$500 million in below market interest rate investments. The investments would provide funds for low interest loans of up to \$500,000.00 per dairy farm. The funds would be available to eligible lenders to make such loans to eligible borrows. The eligible lenders will assemble loan packages and submit these packages to the commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources. The commissioner, upon review, would approve or reject the proposal. If approved, the commissioner would transmit the package to the Treasurer for disbursement of funds. Such loans will provide opportunities to dairy farmers that would be otherwise out of reach.

Mr. Duffy thanked Senator Brewer and the Office of the Treasurer for their work on this program as he felt it to be a very useful tool for dairy farmers and inquired if the Farm Credit System would be a participant in this program.

Representative Bosley stated that based on other existing programs that are similar that it is easy for financial institutions to participate if they wish. He also expressed his wish that thanks be sent to the Treasurer's Office for their work.

Motion: Senator Brewer made a motion, seconded by Representative Kulik, to accept the Technical Assistance and Low Interest Loan Subcommittee's report and recommendations for inclusion in the final report to the legislature.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

3. International Trade Subcommittee

Representative Bosley presented the work of the International Trade Subcommittee and the meetings that were conducted on its behalf. Representative Bosley and Representative Evangelidis met with the Director of M.O.I.T.I. to determine their interest and availability to assist the dairy industry of the Commonwealth through the enhancement of international trade efforts and to assist in the identification of export markets. Representative Bosley also reported on a meeting that he had with the Ambassador of South Africa, Mr. Nhlapo. The Ambassador was very interested in exploring possible trade agreements for dairy products and offered his assistance in facilitating a meeting with the South African Minister of Agriculture to explore the importation of Massachusetts's dairy products. Representative Bosley and Representative Evangelidis will continue discussions with these entities.

Representative Evangelidis asked Mr. Duffy if Massachusetts dairy farmers had the installed capacity, particularly in powdered milk, to be able to supply possible export opportunities. Mr. Duffy responded that there was the capacity, in powdered milk, to support any opportunities that may arise.

Motion: Representative Kulik made a motion, seconded by Representative Bosley, to accept the International Trade Subcommittee's report and recommendations for inclusion in the final report to the legislature.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

Representative Bosley continued his report by referring to the action item for Agri-Tourism that the International Trade Subcommittee also worked on. Representative Bosley met with Ms. Betsy Wall of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (M.O.T.T.) to explore agri-tourism options and expand existing initiatives to better serve the dairy industry of the Commonwealth. Representative Bosley explained that Ms. Betsy Wall is very interested in assisting the industry through the hosting of informational meetings and discussions with experts on agri-tourism and the culinary industry in order to determine and develop marketing strategies and plans for events that would hi-light the availability and advantages of farm visits.

Representative Bosley further reported that in support of agri-tourism development M.O.T.T. added a website link to the massvacations.com homepage listing Massachusetts's agri-tourism farms provided by the Department of Agricultural Resources. The Agency also added a website link to the discoveries section and family fun sections on the massvacations.com website.

Senator Brewer made mention that both he and Representative Kulik had worked closely with the University of Massachusetts system in the past to promote their purchasing local grown foods and while they had made progress, 20% of their purchases are local-grown, they may be open to increasing this amount through further discussions.

Acting Commissioner Soares mentioned the Farm to School Program as an existing program that may further benefit the dairy industry and assist farmers in cracking larger markets.

Representative Bosley further mentioned the economic bill and that the buy local initiative that was engaged in at the local level should also be applied at the State level as well.

4. Energy Subcommittee

Mr. Watson presented the work of the Energy Subcommittee and their discussions with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) to identify opportunities within existing renewable

energy programs and initiatives that would assist farmers in reducing their energy costs and provide new revenue opportunities. Mr. Watson highlighted what the MTC can provide in terms of feasibility studies and made certain that it was understood the dairy farms, owned or rented, do qualify under many of the existing programs. Mr. Watson also discussed methane digester opportunities, cooperative arrangements and wind opportunities for large KW scale initiatives. Mr. Watson concluded by mentioning several legislative initiatives pertaining to net metering and other areas such as wind and solar.

Senator Brewer asked as to why there were not more opportunities. In particular he expressed interest in grants for small scale KW initiatives. Mr. Watson replied that while these were offered for small scale initiatives for solar there were two main reasons why this was not applied to small renewable initiatives in general. First, the lack of resources within the department, and second, the investment necessary for a viable return is much larger.

Representative Kulik discussed the possible inclusion of net-metering for green legislation and inquired if APR farms who wanted to host energy projects were able to do so or if this had changed.

Acting Commissioner Soares replied that this has changed and that wind turbines, if used for the farm itself, are authorized as a part of farm infrastructure.

Motion: Representative Bosley made a motion, seconded by Representative Kulik, to accept the energy Subcommittee's report and recommendations for inclusion in the final report to the legislature.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

Acting Commissioner Soares introduced the next item on the agenda, a report on the action items identified at the October 5, Task Force meeting.

6. Report on Action Items

Mr. Duffy presented a list of regulatory issues to be used as a starter list for regulatory and statutory changes that would have a positive impact on the dairy farms of the Commonwealth.

1. The ability of farmers to use "viability funds" on farms encumbered with Article 97 restrictions or other conserved land.
2. Provide "Grants" or low interest loans available to farmers for capital improvements directly related to agricultural pursuits.
3. Preempt municipalities from regulating agricultural activities that are performed pursuant to industry recognized BMPs.
4. Establish a state tax credit allowing such credit to include all excise taxes on animals, machinery and equipment primarily used for agriculture.
5. Exempt multi-purpose equipment, vehicles and machinery primarily used for agriculture from sales tax.
6. Allow farms to pay estimated income tax on money actually received on date estimated quarterly payments are due to be filed.
7. Amend G. L. c. 59, §8A to allow corporations the same excise tax exemptions allowed to other "persons."
8. Reestablish a "Dairy Commission" within the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR).

9. Milk room waste or milk waste generated on a farm shall be treated in the same manner as other animal waste.
10. Silo leachate shall be exempt from state or local waste disposal, provided such leachate is managed or disposed of pursuant to BMPS of the NRCS.
11. Farm-wide net metering for agriculture.
12. Regulatory issues concerning small temporary slaughtering facilities.
 - * Fee structure
 - * Site assignment
 - * Regulatory requirements

Undersecretary Griffiths stated that the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was already discussing some of these issues with DAR. Senator Brewer asked if the discussions with EPA regarding number 10 of the list had produced any alternatives. Acting Commissioner Soares responded that Best Management Practices for leachate were being discussed but nothing formal has yet come forth.

Mr. Robert O'Connor discussed the several meetings that he had to discuss the Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) access to Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) entities and the amendment that gives guidance on the disbursement of funds to non-public entities. He further stated that this was a language issue that was in the process of being resolved. He also added that if the APR farms were added to FVEP more money would be needed. Senator Brewer made an inquiry to the bond bill and stated that he felt it important to take care of this before the amendment was filed.

There were no further action items identified for report.

b. Review of Draft Report

Acting Commissioner Soares then turned to the next item on the agenda, the review of the draft report. He explained that what the Task Force has before it is a draft Executive Summary of a yet to be completed Report to the Legislature. Further, the draft Executive Summary contains the Findings, which had already been approved and the recommendations that reflect the subcommittee reports of today and that have been approved. He suggested that the Task Force consider adopting the Executive Summary and provide the Co-chairs the ability to elaborate and complete a full report based on the Findings and Recommendations in the Executive Summary.

Senator Brewer recommended the addition of a signatory page at the end of the report. Acting Commissioner Soares agreed with this recommendation.

Motion: Representative Kulik made a motion, seconded by Representative Bosley, to accept the Executive Summary and to have the Co-chairs complete the report to the Legislature based on the Executive Summary.

Discussion: Representative Kulik suggested that before a vote was taken that the Public Comment portion of the Agenda be taken up at this time to allow members of the public to comment on the findings and recommendations contained in the Executive Summary.

Acting Commissioner Soares, seeing there were no objections, turned to item 5 on the agenda and opened the floor to public comment.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Chip Hager, President of M.A.D.F., thanked the Task Force for all of its work and voiced his concern as to what the next steps were after the report was filed. He felt it was important to keep the ball rolling and ensure that the identified issues are followed through. Representative Kulik responded that these items will move legislation through in short order and that there was the possibility of maintaining the Task Force as the administration was in strong support of agricultural initiatives and that the Governor himself wants these initiatives to happen.

Undersecretary Griffiths stated that the intent was that actions will take place on all of the items identified.

Senator Brewer used the public comment portion of the meeting to thank Acting Commissioner Scott Soars for not only his work as co-chair of the Dairy Revitalization Task Force but also his work as Acting Commissioner for DAR over the past months. He further commended the Acting Commissioner by stating that he had not been part of a more professional and well run commission than the DRTF. A round of applause was offered by all present on behalf of the Senator's comments.

Acting Commissioner Soars thanked the Senator for his comments and thanked all members of the Task Force and the DAR staff for their effort and assistance throughout his tenure as Acting Commissioner and as Co-chair of the Dairy Revitalization Task Force

Dr. Stephen Major, Veterinarian, explained what financial stress looks like from a dairy cow's perspective. Issues such as disease, bedding, etc; equate to a far less of a product and this is what the consumer sees. He recommended that farms be made sustainable for the benefit of consumers.

Mr. Bill Larkin thanked the Task Force for what has been done and contributed his contention that the processor-cartels pressure down the farmers price and that something must be done in the future to stop their ability to bargain the price down. He further stated that there is far more trouble today bargaining with shared monopolies. He further stated that dairy farming under these conditions is very difficult.

Seeing no one else wishing to provide a public Comment, Acting Commissioner Soares closed the Public Comment portion of the Agenda and returned to the motion that was left on the floor. Hearing no other discussion on Representative Kulik's motion to adopt the Executive Summary and providing the Co-chairs authority to complete the Report to the Legislature motion, Acting Commissioner Soares called for the vote.

Vote: Unanimous.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

Acting Commissioner Soares closed by once again thanking everyone for their effort and reiterating the wonderful time he had working with everyone involved and for the wonderful learning opportunity afforded to him through the process. He further stated that this was a new beginning for all of the members of the Task Force and for the industry as well.

Undersecretary Griffiths echoed the Acting Commissioner's words and also thanked the member's of the Task Force along with Acting Commissioner Soares for their hard work.

6. Adjourn

Motion: Mr. Richard Woodger made a motion, seconded by Representative Bosley, to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous

The Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.