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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS-NOP-23-0089]

National Organic Standards Board: Call for Nominations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) was established to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on the implementation of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA). Through this Notice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing its call for nominations to fill five vacancies on the NOSB. The positions are listed below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Appointees will serve a 5-year term likely beginning January 23, 2025, and ending January 23, 2030. Additionally, USDA seeks nominations for a pool of candidates that the Secretary of Agriculture can draw upon as replacement appointees if unexpected vacancies occur.

DATES: Application packages must be received by mail or postmarked on or before June 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Applications can be sent via email to Michelle Arsenault at michelle.arsenault@usda.gov, or mailed to: USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2642-S, Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. Electronic submittals are preferred.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Arsenault; Telephone: (202) 997-0115; or Email: Michelle.Arsenault@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For information on how to apply, please see the nominations process page: [https://](https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process)

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OFPA, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501–6524), requires the Secretary to establish the NOSB in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The NOSB is composed of 15 members: four individuals who own or operate an organic farming operation, or employees of such individuals; two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation, or employees of such individuals; one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products, or employees of such individuals; three individuals with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation; three individuals who represent public interest or consumer interest groups; one individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry; and one individual who is a certifying agent.

Through this notice, USDA seeks to fill the following five positions:

- one individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or employee of such individual;
- two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation or employees of such individuals;
- one individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products or employee of such individual; and
- one individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation.

Per OFPA, individuals seeking appointment to the NOSB must meet the definition of the position that they seek as identified under 7 U.S.C. 6518. For example, demonstrated experience and interest in organic production and organic certification; demonstrated experience with respect to agricultural products produced and handled on certified organic farms, or experience with consumer and public interest organizations. Applicants must also satisfy additional selection criteria the NOSB recommended on June 10, 1999. These criteria are listed below and on the following web page: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process>.

Additional criteria include:

- an understanding of organic principles and practical experience in the organic community;
- a commitment to the integrity of the organic food and fiber industry;

demonstrated experience in the development of public policy such as participation on public or private advisory boards, boards of directors, or other comparable organizations;

- participation in standards development or involvement in educational outreach activities;
- the ability to evaluate technical information and to fully participate in NOSB deliberation and recommendations;
- the willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to assume NOSB duties; and
- other such factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.

To apply, submit the following: a resume (required); Form AD-755 (required), which can be accessed at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755.pdf>; a cover letter (optional); and letters of recommendation (optional). Resumes should be no longer than five (5) pages and should include the following information: the position for which you are applying; current and past organization affiliations; areas of expertise; education; career positions held; and any other notable positions held. Previous applicants who wish to be considered must reapply.

If USDA receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

(5 U.S.C. 552) for records related to NOSB nominations, application materials may be released to the requester. Prior to the release of the information, personally identifiable information protected by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) will be redacted.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) encourages submissions from traditionally underrepresented individuals, organizations, and businesses to reflect the diversity of this industry. AMS encourages submissions from qualified applicants, regardless of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

AMS policy is that diversity of the boards should reflect the diversity of its industries in terms of the experience of members, methods of production and distribution, marketing strategies, and other distinguishing factors, including but not limited to individuals from historically underserved communities,

that will bring different perspectives and ideas to the Board. AMS plans to conduct extensive outreach, paying particular attention to reaching underserved communities; diversity of the population served; and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the members to serve a diverse population.

The information collection requirements concerning the nomination process have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control No. 0505-0001.

Dated: April 24, 2024.

Cikena Reid,

USDA Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Solicitation of Nominations for Membership for the West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of nominations for membership.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended, codified in Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, the United States Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for the West Virginia Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The West Virginia RAC will advise the Secretary of Agriculture on proposed recommendations and other such matters as the Secretary determines. The West Virginia RAC will be governed by the provisions of FACA. Duration of the West Virginia RAC is for two years unless renewed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted via email or postmarked by June 30, 2024. The package must be sent to the address listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Criteria for a completed package can be found in Nomination and Application Information Below.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations and resumes may be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture through Kristopher Hennig, Monongahela National Forest, Partnership Coordinator, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241 or email at 2146ristopher.hennig@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries may be sent to Kristopher Hennig, Forest Supervisor's Office, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241, by Phone at (304) 940-3317, or by email at kristopher.hennig@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Public Law of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 7125, directs the Secretary of Agriculture to create Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees (SRS RAC) to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with SRS Title II of the Act. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C 7125 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. 10, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for the West Virginia RAC. Additional information on the West Virginia RAC can be found by visiting the following website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mnf/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>.

The Act describes the duties of the committee as follows: to review projects proposed by counties and other interested parties; to recommend projects and funding; to provide early and continuous coordination with Forest Service officials; to provide frequent opportunities for citizens, organizations, tribes, land management agencies and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully, beginning in the early stages of project development; to monitor projects approved under the Act; to advise the designated federal official on the progress of monitoring; and to make recommendations for any appropriate changes or adjustments to projects being monitored.

Meetings for the SRS RAC's will be published on the **Federal Register** website at least 15 days prior to the meeting date at: www.federalregister.gov.

Membership Balance

The SRS RACs will be comprised of 15 members approved by the Secretary of Agriculture (or designee) where each will serve a 4-year term. SRS RACs memberships will be balanced in terms of the points of view represented and functions to be performed. The SRS RACs shall include representation from the following interest areas:

(1) Five persons who represent:

(a) Organized Labor or Non-Timber Forest Product Harvester Groups,

(b) Developed Outdoor Recreation, Off Highway Vehicle Users, or Commercial Recreation Activities,

(c) Energy and Mineral Development, or Commercial or Recreational Fishing Interests,

(d) Commercial Timber Industry, or (e) Federal Grazing or Other Land Use Permits, or Represent Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowners, within the area for which the committee is organized.

(2) Five persons who represent:

(a) Nationally Recognized

Environmental Organizations,

(b) Regionally or Locally Recognized Environmental Organizations,

(c) Dispersed Recreational Activities, (d) Archaeological and Historical Interests, or

(e) Nationally or Regionally

Recognized Wild Horse and Burro

Interest Groups, Wildlife or Hunting

Organizations, or Watershed

Associations.

(3) Five persons who represent:

(a) State Elected Office (or a designee),

(b) County or Local Elected Office,

(c) American Indian Tribes within or

adjacent to the area for which the

committee is organized,

(d) Area School Officials or Teachers, or

(e) Affected Public at Large.

Of these members, one will become the Chairperson who is recognized for their ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of the RAC. A chairperson is selected by a majority of RAC members. The Committee will meet on an annual basis or as needed and determined by the Agency. In the event that a vacancy arises, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) may request the Secretary to fill the vacancy in the manner in which the original appointments were made. In accordance with the SRS Act, members of the SRS RAC shall serve without compensation. SRS RAC members may be allowed travel and per diem expenses for attendance at committee meetings, subject to approval of the DFO responsible for administrative support to the SRS RAC.

Nomination and Application Information

The appointment of members to the SRS RACs will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. The public is invited to submit nominations for membership on the SRS RACs, either as a self-nomination or a nomination of any qualified and interested person. Any individual or organization may nominate one or more qualified persons to represent the interest areas listed above.