

Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

October 7, 2025

2:01 p.m. – 2:52 p.m.

301 Centennial Mall South, 1st Floor – Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Hearing Room

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission landing page on the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's website on October 1, 2025, as well as on the Nebraska.gov Public Meeting Calendar.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Open Meetings Act Notification.

The meeting was called to order by the Commission Chair, Dr. Monica Oldenburg, on October 7, 2025, at 2:01 p.m. Present were Commission members Dr. Monica Oldenburg, Lorelle Mueting, and J. Michael Coffey, establishing a quorum. A copy of the Open meetings Act was available for review at the back of the room.

2. Roll Call

Lorelle Mueting – present

J. Michael Coffey – present

Dr. Monica Oldenburg – present

3. Public Comment Period

Oldenburg noted that there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed regulations as part of the regulation hearing process and that those comments will be responded to in writing. She stated that the public comment portion of this commission meeting was not a question and answer session and that defamatory remarks and hostile commentary would not be tolerated. Each speaker is allowed three minutes to speak. The public comment portion of the meeting is limited to one hour or less. She asked that each speaker state and spell their name for the record and asked for a show of hands from the members of the public who wished to comment.

Public Comments were made by the following individuals:

a. Lia Post

Ms. Post is a resident of Spring Field, Nebraska, a medical cannabis patient, an opioid survivor, and a pharmaceutical-approach-to-pain-management survivor. She thought it would be easy to go to her legislature to explain that she is a medical cannabis patient who no longer takes fifteen (15) prescription drugs, and that her mental health was better as a result. However, Ms. Post states that door-after-door has been shut in her face. She met other patients through advocacy work, which is where she met Crista Eggers. According to Ms. Post, Crista is fighting for her son's life. Ms. Post is upset that Crista received the lowest score of anyone. Ms. Post suggested that the Commission is making decisions based on the Governor's opinion and also suggests that the Governor states that the Commission is working independently. Ms. Post thinks it's good that the Commission has a judge. Ms. Post expresses gratitude for Ms. Eggers for what she has done in advocating for the true will of the people. Ms. Post stated that whoever gave Ms. Eggers an eleven (11) shouldn't be involved with the Commission.

b. Crista Eggers

Ms. Eggers stated she is speaking as a mother who is fighting for her son's life, and that she is grateful that the Commission is moving forward in the licensing process. She hopes that the individuals who receive licenses are good people who have every intention of providing good medicine to the people of the state who desperately need it. Ms. Eggers would like to see transparency about the matrix so that all applicants can have that information about their scores. Ms. Eggers also said that she was grateful for the use of Zoom, so other individuals can access the meetings.

c. Maggie Ballard

Ms. Ballard offers her appreciation to the Commission for taking on a very difficult task. Everyone that Ms. Ballard has talked to who signed the ballot initiative so that Nebraska would have medical marijuana, have told her that they did so because they knew it wasn't going to be the same stuff that people use to get high and that it wouldn't be something that users would smoke. Ms. Ballard stated that she knows the ballot language addressed weight, but it did not specify whether the product would be smokable. Ms. Ballard spoke as someone who has asthma and knows a lot of people that are in recovery for addiction, and she expressed concern over the triggering smell of cannabis. Ms. Ballard expressed appreciation for the Commission's diligence in keeping dispensaries from smelling of the smokable flower. Ms. Ballard expressed frustration that this doesn't prevent individuals from smoking synthetic derivatives or smoking flower that they have received from other states or from a dealer. Ms. Ballard echoed her appreciation for what the Commission is doing for dispensaries and manufacturers on behalf of many Nebraskans who are either unaware of these meetings or do not wish to speak because they understand how polarized the topic has become. Ms. Ballard stated that she would like the media to do a better job of reporting on the hearings in a way that is not so polarizing.

d. Chrisy Knorr

Ms. Knorr is a resident of Omaha NE. Ms. Knorr quoted Governor Pillen stating, "My advocacy for it is that if you have a medical condition and you need it, you'll get it, but it's going to taste like crap. It's going to be a bitter pill to swallow." Ms. Knorr expressed that she was enraged after hearing Governor Pillen's statement. Ms. Knorr stated that as a nurse, she took an oath to do no harm. Ms. Knorr addressed Dr. Oldenburg and stated that she has taken an oath to do no harm. Ms. Knorr stated that limiting or restricting what individuals have voted on is harmful. Ms. Knorr told a story of her late wife being kind and loving when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and underwent chemotherapy. One day, Ms. Knorr's wife was in tears because she couldn't tolerate her bed covers due to her neuropathy. Ms. Knorr tried several solutions to reduce her wife's pain, but ultimately marijuana was the only solution that helped Ms. Knorr's wife feel relief from the pain. Ms. Knorr is a hospice nurse and assists people at the end of life. Ms. Knorr stated that all medications have side effects, and that she has witnessed individuals take marijuana in several different forms and believes that her patients deserve to make those choices. Ms. Knorr urges the Commission to follow the will of the 71% of Nebraskan voters.

e. Lynette Richards

Ms. Richards is the Executive Director of Monument Prevention in Scotts Bluff. Ms. Richards thanks the Commission for setting the guidelines to protect the children of the State of Nebraska from harm caused by marijuana use. Ms. Richards states that the Commission is setting guidelines for medical marijuana, but that there is no difference between medical marijuana and marijuana. Ms. Richards first addressed the harm of edibles, which can be appealing to children since they can look like candy. Ms. Richards then addressed smoking marijuana and the harm of secondhand smoke, stating that the American Academy of Pediatrics reported 7,043 exposures from 2017 to 2021. The exposures increased by 1,375% from 2017 to 2021, and that 97% of those exposures occurred in residential settings. Ms.

Richards stated that increased access to any product means increased exposure, and that marijuana

affects them more than the individuals who elect to use it. Ms. Richards urges the Commission to continue to make decisions using research, science, and data instead of emotions.

4. Review and vote on payment of invoice for publication of required notice for regulation promulgation (LJS – 9/11/25 \$68.37)

Chair Oldenburg stated that the next order of business is the payment of invoice for the Lincoln Journal Star for the publication of the required notice of the public hearing for the regulation promulgation process. The invoice is from September 11th and is for \$68.37.

Oldenburg asked for a motion and second for the payment of the invoice. Motion for the payment of invoice for publication of required notice for regulation promulgation was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

5. Cultivator application evaluations and approval of offers/denials of licenses

Chair Oldenburg stated the next order of business is to discuss the cultivator license applications. The evaluation team has reviewed and evaluated the applications based on the scoring results of 70 or more points. Two of the applicants, Nancy Laughlin-Wagner on Behalf of Midwest Cultivators Group and Patrick Thomas, are eligible to receive an offer of licensure.

Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second for the approval of Nancy Laughlin-Wagner on Behalf of Midwest Cultivators Group. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second for the approval of Patrick Thomas. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

Chair Oldenburg stated that two of the applicants, Christa Eggers and Casey Sledge on Behalf of Stonepine Works, had a score at or below 70, which means they are ineligible to receive an offer of licensure.

Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second to deny application and issue a denial letter to Christa Eggers based on the application score. Motion was made by Commissioner Mueting and seconded by Commissioner Coffey. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second to deny application and issue a denial letter to Casey Sledge based on the application score. Motion was made by Commissioner Mueting and seconded by Commissioner Coffey. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

Denial letters will be sent applicants the applicants dated October 8, 2025, and the applicants will have 10 days to appeal, which will extend to October 23, 2025. The Commission will not be able to award a license to the next applicant until the appeal period expires, but they can move forward with evaluating the next two applications during the appeal period. To prevent further delays, Chair Oldenburg recommends moving forward by evaluating the next two applications and opens it for discussion. Commissioner Mueting would like to expedite the process and move forward with the evaluation process. Commissioner Coffey agrees. Based on the discussion, Chair Oldenburg believes the Commission would like to move forward with conducting the evaluations of the next two applications. Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second to move forward in conducting the evaluations of the

next two applications. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

In moving forward in evaluating the next two applications, Chair Oldenburg discusses the need to designate evaluators and continue the process of scoring applications independently. Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion and second for each Commissioner to be on the evaluation team. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor.

6. Reminder of upcoming regulations hearing and the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting date and time

Chair Oldenburg announces that the public hearing for the formal regulations has been set for October 15th at 1:00 p.m. in the Meadowlark room, on the lower level of the Nebraska State Office Building. In addition, the date for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission will be November 3rd at 1:00p.m. in the Nebraska Liquor Commission Hearing Room on the first floor of the Nebraska State Office Building.

7. Closed Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation regarding regulations or licensing, if necessary

Chair Oldenburg seeks a motion to go into executive session to discuss strategy related to imminent litigation. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, and Oldenburg voting in favor. The Commission went into Executive Session at 2:25 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 2:52 p.m.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to be taken, Chair Oldenburg asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Mueting. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:52 p.m.