

Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission Meeting

March 16, 2026

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

The Meadowlark Room Lower Level NSOB 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE
68509

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission landing page on the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's website on February 9, 2026, 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 Commissioner, Lorelle Mueting, on March 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Present were Commission members, Lorelle Mueting, J. Michael Coffey, Robert Synhorst, and James Elworth 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
James Elworth- present
Robert Synhorst – present

3. Revision of Approved January 5th Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mueting states that the next order of business is the revision of the approved minutes from meeting held on January 5, 2026.

Commissioner Mueting states that the Commission's minutes incorrectly reflected the testimony of Angelica Marsaglia. Summarily, the following edits have been made to accurately reflect her testimony:

- a. Correct the title of the book she cited;
- b. Correct the misspelling of her first name;
- c. Add additional narrative about the context for presenting the book she cited, as well as world history books. Namely, that the testifier wanted to communicate that she contended cannabis is and has been used as a form of control by different governments.

Mueting asked for a motion and second to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026, meeting,

Motion to approve the minutes from January 4th, 2026, motion was made by Commissioner Synhorst and seconded by Commissioner Elworth.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 2nd meeting

Commissioner Mueting states that the next order of business is the approval of minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2026.

Commissioner Mueting asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from February 2nd's meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from February 2nd meeting, motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Elworth with noted changes of his name being misspelled in paragraph one.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

5. Public Comment Period

Commissioner Mueting noted that there will be an opportunity for the public to comment. 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 period will be limited to one hour or less if there are not sufficient speakers. She asked each speaker to state and spell their name for the record and asked for a show of hands from the member of the public who wished to comment.

Public Comments were made by the following individuals:

a. Lia Post

Lia states she is a medical cannabis patient and wants to start off different by talking about the 10 reasons why she chooses to smoke medical cannabis. She states the first reason is that the results are instantaneous. She then goes on to mention that it is the most natural form to take cannabis into their body. She states she can combine different strains of medical cannabis for different effects on her body. She mentions it's the cheapest way to use medical cannabis and then states it isn't a felony, but any modified form of the plant is a felony, unless you have a doctor's recommendation. She mentions that it is a big risk for patients for simple

medication. She then mentions the ways she can control her intake and use medical cannabis to manage her pain. She mentions that she is an American, should have the freedom of choice of a plant or pharmaceutical any day, any century, and considers medical cannabis to be a religious sacrament that should not be denied under the First Amendment. She encourages Jim Pillen to pick someone in the field of medical cannabis and the commission to talk to industry partners for more knowledge. Then states, 5 ounces, not 5 grams, no THC limit. Patients, not criminals.

b. Lanette Richards

Lanette states she is coming to speak as a representative of Monument Prevention Coalition in Scott's Bluff. She mentions that she traveled to be there to speak. She states that she wants to thank the Commission for working diligently on safe rules and guidelines when it comes to medical marijuana. She mentions she appreciates the Commission because we have all seen the harm of marijuana use, recreational marijuana use, and so they appreciate the commission for looking at what is safe and healthy for our communities.

c. Georganna Schroeder Stanley

She starts by thanking the one Commissioner for attending the February hearing. She mentions that she was going to thank the commissioner while speaking but time did not allow and was surprised to see a commissioner present. She then mentions that the elections this year require fishing out where candidates stand on medical marijuana, if they haven't already broadcast their attitude. She mentions that she had been recuperating from two procedures, two months ago, unable to leave her house. She states that she turned on the early morning channel 1011 news to see Attorney General Hilgers disagreeing with President Trump about the misclassification of marijuana and it not having benefits. She states she felt thankful for the medical benefits of pain relief from medical cannabis. She mentions the war against THC is concerning for her and that Nebraskans did not vote for medical marijuana because they all wanted to jump into a medical marijuana program, they voted for what would help them just in case. She mentions that elected officials who refuse to implement to will of Nebraska voters need to be kicked out of office and like minded candidates need to be kept out.

d. Brett Mayo

Brett mentioned how we've been so focused on if medical cannabis is right or wrong, but the fact is, it voted passing forward. He mentions how the Commission is in a difficult position and appreciates the work they have done so far. He mentions how the Commission has little to no background in cannabis but points

out that they all know how to run a business and that is how we should move forward. He then spoke about how the commission should surround themselves with knowledgeable industry partners. He mentions that candidates should not be drawn randomly but based off the best credentials. He states that the low number of licenses should allow the board to do this. He mentions that if the Commission moves forward with the products offered the Commission will have a difficult time making the program successful because it excludes the products that people want. He mentions how he has spoken to current and potential license holders and they have described that it will be difficult to convert into a lucrative business. He then mentions that transport licenses make no sense and that manufacturers should be responsible for transporting. He ends by encouraging the Commission to make themselves more accessible to the topic and offer himself to be a part of the discussion.

e. Michael Johnson

Michael states that he is a Nebraska resident and has been a cannabis executive in Oregon and Colorado for over 10 years. He states that he is there as a businessman. He explains his want for there to be more engagement between the business community and the Commission to make sure the rules and regulations that are being forth are going to be economically viable so that the program is functional. He mentions how he does not want to make dramatic changes but wants to advocate for sensible and workable system. He mentions he is a part of the KRL Med LLC licensee management team. He then states and explains that there are significant threats to this being a workable program. He then offers his support and explains how he has robust assessments he can provide the Commission with. He mentions that the ISO certification for a testing lab must have a grace period built in. He then advocates for the Commission to have an advisory committee, as is common in other states. He then mentions that there is no way for physicians to know what products or new products are on the shelf, so how will they prescribe them.

The three-minute time limit had expired; however, Commissioner Mueeting informed the speaker that they could continue and finish their thoughts.

He then mentions that in other states the prescription is a general recommendation and then patients pick and choose from trial and error. He finishes by advocating for more collaboration between the licensees and Commission.

f. Crista Eggers

Eggers spoke about LB 933 and stated she was informed the Commission would not be taking steps to support LB 933. She urges the Commission to take steps to support LB 933. She mentions that the same protections in LB 933 are in every

state with medical cannabis. She states that these protections are vital to the program before it begins, and that LB 933 simply ensures that doctors cannot be punished for recommending cannabis or discussing it. Eggers states her fear is that if a registry is made it will remain empty without this legislation in place. She explains that late last week, she received a phone call from someone suffering from a horrific illness who felt hopeless, uncertain if they would ever live to see a time when cannabis might become a viable option for them. She then states days later they had taken their own life. She then mentions that the Commission shares the responsibility of making the program functional. She states that she wants to point out that delays matter and for some it is measured in their suffering and for others in their actual lives.

Commissioner Muetting states she is sorry for everyone's pain and suffering and if anyone or anyone they know is suffering they can call 988, the National Suicide Hotline.

The three-minute time limit had expired; however, Commissioner Synhorst asked Eggers, is there a similar protection for medical practitioners in the statutes right now?

Eggers responded with, yes, under the controlled substance act there are protections for doctors that recommend or that prescribe treatments or treatment options. She then states that it does not allow for recklessness. Then mentions the research on the handout and offers to email the research to the Commission.

g. Troy Burgess

Troy states that he feels like we are making progress because there are people speaking on behalf of the industry. Then he states how we can keep building off of this, how do we include people and their concerns around the industry and what we're proposing that will make this industry fail or drop. He spoke about how we can continue the conversation today to keep patients and practitioners in mind. He then states if there can be an off-site public meeting where there can be questions and comments. He mentions that he thinks that if we can be a dialogue going back and forth between professionals and the committee, we can build a program that is long lasting for the people of Nebraska. He mentions how the program is still a year if not more from getting medical cannabis to patients. He states that he is willing to answer any questions the commission has and offers his support.

h. Angelica Marsaglia

Angelica stated that she thanks the commission for correcting the minutes from the January 5th meeting. She stated that the website does not have the minutes from the February 26th meeting and that she was not able to attend. She spoke about how

patients want and need more modalities of cannabis. She mentions that she has quite a few illnesses and endometriosis is one of them and that March is Endometriosis Awareness Month. She stated that using cannabis in its smoked form is the only method that allows her to immediately regulate symptoms triggered by external factors. She spoke about how she would like to care for herself and children and fighting for topics in this legislation alone are becoming more of a burden. She mentioned she is saddened to hear someone has taken their life because they cannot access medical cannabis. She stated she appreciated the commission for sharing 988 as an option but that we are not asking for support in that way, we want actual change. She spoke about the unfairness to people and children. She spoke about how people are expected to give children FDA approved medications as if they are safe. She then mentions that there are many three letter agencies that are not doing what they are supposed to be doing, including the FBI. She mentions that in previous comments that they would rather protect patients away from this plant than they do children predators and with the release of the Epstein files that is evident.

6. Discussion and Approval of Executive Director Job Posting

Commissioner Mueting stated that the next order of business would be to discuss the Executive Director Job Posting and if any of the Commissioners will assist DAS Shared Services with the hiring process of this position.

Commissioner Coffey and Commissioner Elworth offered to assist.

Commissioner Mueting asked for a motion and second to approve Commissioner Coffey and Commissioner Elworth to assist DAS Shared Services in the hiring of an Executive Director .

Motion was made by Commissioner Synhorst and seconded by Commissioner Coffey.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

7. Discussion of DAS SOS temporary staff

Commissioner Mueting stated the next order of business is to discuss temporary staff support for the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission (NMCC) through the Department of Administrative Services, State Operations Services (DAS SOS). Commissioner Mueting stated the following:

During the March 3rd public meeting of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission, approval was granted to utilize DAS SOS temporary staff to support the NMCC.

The Liquor Control Commission will begin working with the Department of Administrative Services to hire two temporary positions that will serve as the first

staff dedicated solely to supporting the Medical Cannabis Commission. These temporary roles will have the potential to transition into permanent positions. The two positions that will be posted soon are a Program Officer and an Administrative Specialist.

8. Discussion and Approval of NMCC logo

Commissioner Mueting stated the next order of business is discussion of the NMCC logo. A copy of the proposed logo could be found in the back of the room.

Commissioner Mueting asked for a motion and second to approve the NMCC logo.

Motion was made by Commissioner Synhorst and seconded by Commissioner Coffey.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

9. New cultivator application evaluations: approval of offers/denials of licenses.

Commissioner Mueting discussed the cultivator license applications. During the February 2nd meeting the Commission denied the following application: Blue Ember Ventures LLC. There is no request for reconsideration for their applications, so the Commission will move forward with application 10, Meadowlark Medicinals LLC.

Commissioner Mueting asked for a motion and second for the Commission to approve the scores submitted by the Commissioners who graded the application, and, based on the final score being above 70, to offer licensure to the applicant?

Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Elworth.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

10. Discussion and Approval of License Renewal Process

Commissioner Mueting stated the next order of business is discussion and approval of the license renewal process. On October 8, 2025, the Commission issued two cultivator licenses. Under the current emergency regulations, those licenses expire six months from the date of issuance, since no fee is required to maintain the license. The emergency regulations require that the licensees submit their license renewal applications 30 days prior to the expiration date. The Commission has not published a license renewal application packet yet, so the two licensees have been unable to renew their licenses. Thus, it would be unfair to expect the two cultivators to have complied with the current regulations.

The Commission plans on issuing the license renewal application this week and will send the application to all licensees for their records. At this time, there is no cost to

the licensee to submit the license renewal application. But that may change in the future.

To rectify, the Commission would like to recommend the following: any potential sanction relating to the failure to submit a license renewal application against the two cultivators is waived for 60 days from the date the license renewal application is sent to them via email. This will give the cultivators the same window of time to complete and submit the application as the regulations provide. If any cultivator cannot complete the license renewal application in 60 days, they may request an extension, but an extension is not guaranteed and will be decided by the Commission.

Commissioner Muetting asked for a motion and second for the Commission to adopt the waiver of sanctions related to submission of a license renewal application for the two cultivators issued licenses on October 8, 2025?

Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Elworth.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Muetting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.

11. Discuss application timeframes for manufacturers, dispensaries and transporters with the potential passage of LB 1235

Commissioner Muetting states the following, the next order of business is to discuss application periods for manufacturers, dispensaries and transporters.

LB 1235 recently passed Select File and awaits a vote on Final Reading. If passed, then it would allow the Commission to collect fees for things like applications, licenses, and renewals. If passed, the Commission would need to pass new regulations to set prices for the fees.

Given the hiring of new staff, an Executive Director, and the potential development of new regulations, the Commission may resume the licensing process once the updated regulations are adopted. This pause will allow time for the Commission to onboard temporary staff, work toward hiring permanent staff, and onboard a new commissioner, while also making improvements to the regulatory framework.

Is there any discussion on waiting until the Legislative session has concluded before setting licensing timeframes?

Commissioner Elworth stated that they cannot proceed until LB 1235 is passed, as it will clarify the extent of the Commission's authority.

Commissioner Synhorst stated that by the next scheduled public meeting, the

Commission should have a clear indication of the legislation's status based on the legislative calendar. He noted that the legislature is expected to have adjourned and the bill signed by that time, allowing it to be added to the agenda. He also added that LB 1235 includes a clause that would put the bill into effect immediately upon the governor's signature.

Commissioner Mueting states the Commission wait until the April meeting to discuss timetables for potential proposed rulemaking and setting application periods for the next licenses based on the discussion.

12. Update on Public Comment Hearing for Proposed Regulations

Commissioner Mueting states the next order of business is an update on the last public comment hearing for the proposed regulations. A public hearing was held on February 26, 2026, to receive public comment on the promulgation of the proposed final regulations for the Commission. The Commission is currently working on responding to written comments and awaiting the transcript of the hearing so it may respond to the testimony provided at the public hearing.

13. Reminder of the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting date and time

Commissioner Mueting announces the next order of business is to remind the public of our next regularly scheduled meeting. The next meeting will be April 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the LCC hearing room on the First Floor Hearing Room, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509.

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

Commissioner Mueting states a closed executive session is not necessary, and the commission will move on to the next agenda item.

15. Adjournment

With no further business to be carried out, Commissioner Mueting asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Commissioner Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Elworth. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1: 50 PM.

The motion was adopted with Commissioners Mueting, Coffey, Synhorst, and Elworth voting in favor.