

Working Group Concept - MJ Industry/Government/Public (DRAFT)

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MAR 28 2016

**OKANOGAN COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Okanogan County Marijuana Industry Advisory/Oversight committee:

Purpose:

- Promote responsible MJ industry participation in Okanogan County
- Develop and provide Industry guidelines for new & existing MJ businesses in Okanogan County
- Facilitate sharing and resolution of industry-related concerns
- Promote positive industry image, activities, and local contribution

Primarily, the committee would compile, publish and maintain a set of "best practices", guidelines and useful information for the industry, and act as "funnel" and/or clearinghouse for validating and sharing industry/public/Government issues/complaints and vetting rumors/stories. The committee would be advisory only – having no legal enforcement power.

Participants:

Three main players:

- 1) MJ industry P/P/R (Active - 6-7 key individuals) – ask for volunteers
- 2) WSLCB Enforcement/Investigation (advisory, or better)
- 3) OK Planning/Building Commission and/or Department (advisory or better)
("advisory" - doubt at this time any entity would commit time or budget – but we still need their involvement)

Groups that may have or want input or involvement:

- Other MJ licensees
- City representatives
- Sheriff/Police support
- Concerned citizens
- Newspapers/Blogs?
- Others?

Committee Duties:

- 1) Compile, publish and maintain "Best Practices", guidelines, and useful information for Okanogan County's MJ industry ("The Okanogan Marijuana Industry - What You Need to Know"). This can be pulled from other groups that have already done a lot of the heavy lifting and adapted to OC.
- 2) Coordinate with the LCB, Planning Commission, Building Department and other government agencies as needed to ensure accuracy and compliance of guideline with existing rules. This would likely include:
 - List of basic steps needed to do MJ business in Okanogan County
Permits, Licenses – Summary of what is required, Departments/contact info
(Planning, Building, Water, Sewer, Electrical (L&I), etc.)
 - Suggestions/Advice - Meeting the rules AND being a good neighbor
 - Suggestions/Advice - Aesthetics, Noise, Light, Parking – ALL THOSE ISSUES
 - Common concerns/complaints – maybe ideas on how to avoid them, how to address them.
- 3) Act as "clearinghouse" for public complaints & "urban legend" stories – vet/validate/mediate – before escalating (suggested by LCB), share the truth.

Publication/Distribution:

- Provide to existing license holders and new LCB license applicants locating in Okanogan (or planning to locate).
(Per WSLCB database)
- Make available on a website, links to other orgs/gov sites.
- Email distribution

3/19/16

Paul Neir
Howling Dog Farms
206-406-1633

Misc. Details:

Voluntary - no paid positions at this point
Monthly meetings (minimum or more frequent as needed)
No enforcement authority

Funding:

Voluntary contributions from Industry
Government contribution/grant- County/LCB/State budget?

List/Advertise on website/info package:

- Heavy equipment operators
- Building Contractors
- Building material suppliers
- Grow/Gardening suppliers
- Rental shops
- Security installers/services
- Internet providers
- Website designers
- Legal/Accounting services
- Other suppliers/service

Possible Expansion:

County and/or WA State - Offer/Adopt in cities in Okanogan, other WA counties or cities with similar concerns.

This was a first cut – lots more to discuss.

Thanks-
Paul Neir
Howling Dog Farms
206-406-1633