



## Cannabis Quality Control Standards Work Group

January 5, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*This meeting was held via web conference*

### Meeting Minutes

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#### ATTENDEES:

Danielle Rosellison  
Elly Sakura  
Amber Wise  
Megan Hall  
Doug Henderson  
Michelle Kelso  
Terah Ebie

Jay Burns  
Mercedes Zahler  
Cory Gregerson  
Jeff Kildahl, WSLCB  
Justin Nordhorn, WSLCB  
Kathy Hoffman, WSLCB

**Meeting called to order: 2:05PM**

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: FOUNDATIONAL SETTING

**Jeff Kildahl:** In August 2018, the LCB began the initial stages of rule development regarding Cannabis Quality Control and Product Requirements. So among these rule changes being considered were whether cannabis products would be testing for pesticides and heavy metals. So we went through a long rulemaking process, which we completed in early 2022. So among the rule changes that took effect were changes that affected the sample collection protocols for cannabis samples. It increased the maximum amount of marijuana or cannabis flower that could be represented by a single i502 panel of tests. We amended the rules to provide more detail about the testing levels required for i502 tests. And among these changes we also began the requirement to test all cannabis products produced and sold in Washington to be tested for pesticides. So that's a brief introduction to the scope of this rulemaking, and I'll turn it over to Justin Nordhorn, our Director of Policy and External Affairs, for a welcome. So go ahead, Justin. Thank you.

**Justin Nordhorn:** Thank you, Jeff. So good afternoon, everyone. This is kind of a new format and forum for us. We had a number of folks, as Jeff has indicated, who are on the workgroup. And we have quite a few people in attendance today, so that's good to see. We have about 52. Most of the folks here will be in the observation mode, and so we're going to have just the workgroup members be able to introduce themselves and join in that conversation. But the

unique component of this particular approach that we are doing is we are trying to take a look at not only -- for this workgroup, it's going to be this particular rule set around the cannabis quality control standards. And the scope of this conversation is not so far do people like the rules or not like the rules or like how it was implemented or not implemented. We want to focus on the effectiveness of the rules. Are they meeting the intended goals?

If there are suggestions moving forward, we want to be future focused and have a constructive conversation on how we can better the system if that is necessary. So we really want to focus on that future state and whether or not these particular rules are working not necessarily on the implementation. So this session isn't to rehash that particular area. The other thing is we're hoping that if this is successful, we'll be having more of these on rule evaluations. And so that is something that we haven't traditionally done, and what we would like to do is once some of the significant rules such as these are implemented to come back after six plus months and take a look at are they working the way we intended them to work, and should there be any adjustments that need to be made? So we're not just implementing something and walking away from it and then not adjusting as necessary, so really trying to be conscientious about the effectiveness of our rule development. And so that's what this process is hopefully going to demonstrate.

If it's successful, we hope to move forward with other projects in the same bank. Not every project that we put forward will have this type of level of evaluation. However, I think with these types of rules it's important to get that type of feedback. So really appreciate folks who joined the workgroup. Appreciate everybody who applied to join the workgroup. We had to limit the spaces, and we have a lot of interest, so I think that's a real positive. And thank you for spending your time with us today. And for those who are listening in, I hope we'll be able to provide some good information for you. Thank you.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTIONS**

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Justin. So we're just a little bit behind schedule so far, but I think we're fine. So let's move on and make an introduction so I'll start off. I'm Jeff Kildahl, an LCB Cannabis Policy and Rules Coordinator. I joined the LCB in May of 2021, and I have been the Rules Coordinator assigned to work on the Cannabis Quality Control Rules Project from the Summer of 2022 onward through the CR-102 and CR-103 stages where we finalized the quality control rules. I'm a lifelong Washington resident, and although I'm new to cannabis and new to the LCB, I've been amazed seeing the progress of the legal cannabis market in Washington as it has developed over the past decade. And I think it's a remarkable accomplishment to have the system in place now. So I'll go on to the next person. And Rebecca Corsino, you can go ahead and unmute and introduce yourself. And if you could too,

if you have ideas about what particularly interests you about the Cannabis Quality Control Rules, I would love to hear your thoughts as an introduction.

**Rebecca Corsino:** I'll keep it a little short and sweet. I'm Rebecca. I'm the Head of Operations over here at Heylo in Seattle. We are processor only, and one of my big questions that I am seeking to get clarity over is, as a processor, I work with a lot of products from the producer and other processors. And I would like to have clarity on testing requirements for B2B sales and for intermediate or byproducts when they are B2B or even to the retailer. Because right now, I find multiple interpretations from myself, officers, and partners.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Rebecca. It looks like next is Danielle Rosellison.

**Danielle Rosellison:** My name is Danielle Rosellison. I'm the co-founder of a Tier 2 producer processor in Bellingham. And I think what interests me most about the workgroup is that I want to have conversation about what is working, what is not working, and what the solutions are to those things.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Danielle. Let's see. Is Megan Hall?

**Kathy Hoffman:** Sorry to interject here. I'm wondering if the Committee or the Workgroup Members could turn on their cameras so we could see who they are while they are speaking. That would be great. Thanks.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yes, thank you. Okay, so next is Megan for Green Grower [ cross-talk ] –

**Megan Hall:** Hi. I'm Megan. I work at Green Grower Labs, which is a quality control lab here in Spokane. My interest in the workgroup is education as well as having education roundabout with producers, farmers. And also, I am interested in how we can work on remediation of pesticides. There is some technology to remove pesticides, and people are interested in that. And maybe we take a hard look at the science of that. Hi. Sorry. Again, I'm sick.

**Jeff Kildahl:** So next, Doug Henderson. Doug, are you with us today?

**Doug Henderson:** I am. How's it going? I'm Doug Henderson. I'm the CEO at Painted Rooster Cannabis Company out in Yakima. And I'm actually curious, something similar to what the folks over at Green Grower asked about pesticide remediation in a laboratory setting for processors. While we don't do that currently, it is a practice that we had earlier, and I was able to remove all sorts of things from products. And I think that stretches over into other processing activities through the industry. It would be interesting to get some clarity.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Doug. Let's see, next is Terah Barnes. Terah, are you with us today?

**Terah Ebie:** Hi, I'm here. My name is actually Terah Ebie, a recent name change. And I'm the Director of Operations at Landrace Brands, which is a sun grower and concentrate processor the east side of the Okanogan Valley. And prior to that, I worked in third-party public safety testing. So it's really interesting to see sort of the marriage of those two concepts in this space. And the thing that I'm really trying to gather out of participating in this workgroup is what the ultimate affect on consumer safety and public safety has been with the new rule changes and implementations.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Terah. Is Michelle Kelso attending here? Go ahead, Michelle. You should be able to unmute.

**Michelle Kelso:** My name is Michelle Kelso. I am the Inventory Manager at Peace of Mind Cannabis in Spokane on the South Hill. And one of the things I was just wanting to be a part of this meeting was to, I guess, have more communication. When the changes happened, there was a lot of confusion surrounding some of those changes in what our responsibility as the retailer was. So I just kind of wanted to get my foot in with the right group of people and maybe have some input or clarity to share for next time big things happen.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Go ahead, Elly. Would you like to introduce yourself?

**Elly Sakura:** My name is Elly Sakura. My fiancé, Deanna Faulkner. I'm from Washington State. For the last eight to nine years, I've moved up and down the west coast and helping with grow ops and quality control in multiple locations. I'm mostly here to see what the results and decisions are on pesticides and CBD testing becoming more of a normality again. Deanna has experience from Alaska, and the Alaskan Cannabis Industry is very, very small, so we come from two different backgrounds.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Elly. I think next, we have Cory Gregerson. Okay, I'm just admitting him now. I think he's here. Okay, Cory Gregerson? I think we just lost him again.

**Justin Nordhorn:** When you call the names, if your name is called, go ahead and raise your hand. We had a little technical issues, so I'm elevating people to presenters, and that way you can unmute yourself. So just to be able to find you easier if you can raise your hand once your name is called. Thank you.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Next, Mercedes Zahler.

**Mercedes Zahler:** Hi, I'm Mercedes Zahler. I apologize, I'm going to be off camera. But I'm with the Department of Health. I have worked with Washington State for a year now. I'm originally from Minnesota, but I have been in the state for the last three years, working in youth prevention.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Mercedes. Let's see, Jay Burns?

**Jay Burns:** I'm Jay Burns. I'm the Lab Director for Treeline Analytics. I've been there since the beginning of about five years. And I have a lot of things I'm interested in, but I guess to say one thing in the interest of time, my main thing would be the sample sizes, the changes in the sample sizes going up to the 50 pounds and the quality of the QA samples that we are seeing in the lab and sort of the lack of definition of a representative sample would be one of my biggest concerns. And we'll start with that.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Thank you, Jay. I appreciate you joining us today. And the final participant to call is Amber Wise.

**Amber Wise:** Hi, everybody. I'm actually going to get ready to -- I'm walking to my next appointment, so I will be off camera for the rest of the time, but I will be listening. I am the Science Director at Medicine Creek Analytics, which is a testing lab just outside of Tacoma. We are tribally owned by the Puyallup Native American Tribe. I have been in the cannabis industry in Washington state for over six years now, so I've seen a lot of changes and impacts of those changes. So I do have a short and concise list of things, maybe if we get to it later in the meeting I can go over, but essentially just interested in ensuring that database decisions get made -- science-based decisions get made in Washington State and hope to move some of that forward in a more standard way so we can be competitive if and when interstate commerce happens.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: CHARTER REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

**Jeff Kildahl:** I would like to spend a few minutes looking at the charter for the workgroup. I wanted to give this workgroup the kind of flexibility to be able to have some discussions about these rules. I'll share the charter right now. So the objective of the group is to evaluate the effectiveness of rule changes to WAC sections 314-55-101, 314-55-102, and 314-55-1025 that took affect on April 2, 2022. These changes update cannabis quality sampling and testing standards, and they introduced the new rule requirement to have laboratory pesticide testing for all cannabis products produced and sold in Washington.

Another requirement of this section 314-55-102 allows the LCB to conduct testing for heavy metals in a random fashion or as part of an investigation. So we're having this workgroup that is exploring these issues.

This workgroup may provide recommendations to LCB or to the Legislature or others about what may be needed in the law or rule about this issue. So we will be reviewing and discussing the effectiveness of those rule changes. Those changes took effect on April 2, and interestingly enough, the sell down period for cannabis products in retail stores extended through the end of December. So as of January 2023, all the products that are on the shelf in cannabis retail stores must have gone through the new testing standards. So it's just the beginning of having all of the product having gone through this testing. I will be sharing the workgroup. We have chosen members of the workgroup from applicants. We had over 30 applications, and we are expecting to have a total of six meetings. We are tentatively scheduling the next meeting for the workgroup for early March and then approximately every two months after that.

It may be necessary for us to divide up some work and tasks concerning specific issues and projects. But I will work to provide the groups if we do have those with good written direction and specific information for the work. So like I said, the workgroup is expected to continue for a year, so that would put the last meeting at the end of 2023. So I will be bringing forward any recommendations or reports to the Board or to anyone else who is interested in this. And we will be sharing meeting minutes, including the time and place of a meeting, and the items that we discuss in the meeting. So we will distribute the meetings in advance of the next meeting, and we will be posting materials on the LCB's website. So I'm looking again. Has Cory been able to connect? Cory Gregerson?

**Cory Gregerson:** Thanks for the invite. I would just like to share my appreciation for being able to participate in the meeting. And my main issues that I'm kind of trying to look at is how smaller technology software companies might be able to participate in the CCRS system and help keep those doors open going forward by paying close attention to all the changes you guys have going forward. So appreciate the opportunity.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Well, thank you, Cory. So I would like to ask participants if there are any questions or suggestions about the charter. It's really meant just to be a general guide for the work of this group and to give us a direction and be looking forward to anything that comes out of it that will be useful. So if anyone has any suggestions about the charter, please let me know. So I think we would like to talk about -- we have talked about some next steps, and I would like to ask Justin Nordhorn if he has any additional thoughts on this first meeting of the workgroup?

**Justin Nordhorn:** No. I think this is just a general overview as well as start of obviously the conversation. I think Elly had her hand up, and I think we were just missing one other participant. So if you utilized a business name and we couldn't identify your name, if you were selected, I think that was looking at it. Brenda Willett, you can raise your hand, [ cross-talk ] but you got -- and also Amber has her hand raised to participate with some comments.

**Amber Wise:** I was just going to sort of ask about decision making processes within the group structure, if there will be like consensus or votes? Or what might that look like if there might be disagreements on recommendations in the future?

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. Thank you, Amber. Go ahead, Justin.

**Justin Nordhorn:** We're just trying to collect information. And I think later in the process if there are any recommendations in a general sense, it would be probably looking toward what the group consensus would look like. However, what we hope to do is as issues arise or concerns are expressed that we can also provide obviously the regulatory context and so we can all work together to try to figure out, okay. Is there a viable solution to what those concerns are? So this isn't designed to be a full-on type of taskforce for that. What we are trying to do is just really evaluate the effectiveness of the rules, and that way to that end we're trying to collect as much information as we can from this particular workgroup. So I hope that helps. And, Elly, did you have a question?

**Amber Wise:** Thank you for the clarification.

**Elly Sakura:** No, you actually answered it beautifully.

**Jeff Kildahl:** If there is no other business to consider today, I think we can wrap up a little bit early. I really like to thank everyone for their interest in the group. And we will be working ahead and letting you know the next steps for the workgroup. So thank you [ cross-talk ] --

**Justin Nordhorn:** Hey, Jeff. Kathy would like to comment.

Jeff Kildahl: Oh, Kathy, go ahead. Yes, go ahead, Kathy.

**Kathy Hoffman:** Sure. Thanks, Jeff. There is a message from Doug Henderson. He requested that the charter be displayed.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Oh, okay.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS**

**Kathy Hoffman:** With respect to next steps, can we offer the group what they might be looking forward to in the next meeting? Maybe there is some framework we can provide about discussion topics, that kind of thing. What we're going to do with the materials from today, or I should say feedback, we have received from Committee members today? Thanks.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. Yeah, I will collect and put together any feedback that the people have from today. Do you care to add some more, Kathy?

**Kathy Hoffman:** I'm just wondering if folks, in some of the other workgroups we have done, folks have provided feedback. We provided notes of the meeting. What can people look forward to seeing from this group? Those same things? Thanks.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah, I will provide the notes from the meeting and minutes and share the feedback that is shared by the workgroup. And I will provide that in advance of the next meeting, which will be in the first week of March.

**Justin Nordhorn:** It looks like Elly. We have several hands raised. So I think Elly is next.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah. Go ahead, Elly.

**Elly Sakura:** So I did have a question. Someone here mentioned the implementing tech companies and such. In my past experiences, this would really come in handy. I was curious, is there a way that some of us participants can actually talk to each other, could better refine what we want to ask or what we want to present with some of each other if we have the same ideas?

**Justin Nordhorn:** You mean outside or inside the meeting?

**Elly Sakura:** Either/or. I get a lot of programming myself and had to talk to a lot of tech companies when I was helping with grow ops to become more automated so they can work on quality control more.

**Justin Nordhorn:** Yeah, I mean, whatever I suppose information that you are gleaning from outside of this particular meeting that you would like to bring forward to present for input. I don't see any issues with that.

**Elly Sakura:** All right, perfect. That answered my question.

**Justin Nordhorn:** And it looks like Danielle.

**Danielle Rosellison:** Hi. So a couple of questions. And I apologize if I missed this. Will you be sending everybody's contact information to everyone so that we can talk to each other? And if you were not planning on it, will you?

**Justin Nordhorn:** Yeah, I don't see why we couldn't.

**Danielle Rosellison:** And then my other question is, you know me and my spreadsheets. And I am wondering when a good time is to start presenting that type of stuff, who to present it to. Like how we kind of get on this Agenda you're talking about.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Please send it to me, Danielle.

**Danielle Rosellison:** Perfect, thanks.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. Thank you.

**Justin Nordhorn:** So we do have one other hand up, and I'm not sure if it is Brenda Willett or not. It looks like a company name. So I will bring them forward. But if you are not Brenda, we'll ask you to lower your hand. All right, go ahead and try to come on, Brenda. It must not be Brenda.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. Okay. Thank you. And I'm sorry. I will follow up with you and send you the charter because you weren't able to do it during the session here today.

**Justin Nordhorn:** Thank you. I'll make sure to update the necessary programs.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. Well, again, does anyone else have any questions or anything to share at this point? Terah, go ahead.

**Terah Ebie:** Just real quick. I saw that in the most recent email you gave us a list of like the next several meetings, and I was wondering if we can expect brand new invites with new team's links to be coming through, too, or if we needed to [ cross-talk ] -- okay, cool. I'll just keep an eye out for those invites then. Thank you.

**Jeff Kildahl:** I'll support the group by sending out the contact information for those. Yes. Thank you.

**Justin Nordhorn:** It looks like Jay has his hand up.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Sure. Jay, go ahead.

**Jay Burns:** Yeah, I just wondered. So basically, we've got two months until the next meeting. Are we going to be given some tasks between now and the next meeting that we can start working on so that we show up and have something to do? Or are we going to come in cold again? I guess that's --

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah. Yeah, I intend to support the group and be sending information. Unfortunately, this was just the inaugural session to bring us together. So, Jay, I will be following up with materials.

**Jay Burns:** Okay. Thank you.

**Justin Nordhorn:** We'll try Brenda one more time. So I see somebody from White Rabbit. But if you're not a workgroup participant, we're not actually taking comments at this point. I would offer for the observers, if you have any questions, feel free to send an email over to Jeff, and he will try to tackle those offline that way. Or if you have other feedback, so the meetings are set up and designed for the smaller workgroup to be able to interact, so we're not going to do public comment or have the chat open during the course of the meeting. But if you do have those questions, please reach out and send Jeff an email. And hopefully, you can see his name in the participant list, and it's [jeff.kildahl@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.kildahl@lcb.wa.gov) and he'll be able to address those questions.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah, everyone. Please feel free to contact me with anything.

**Justin Nordhorn:** I do not see any other workgroup members wishing to ask any questions.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Okay. All right. Thank you, Justin. I appreciate your assistance to helping the fill the messages.

**Justin Nordhorn:** No problem.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Well, thanks again, everyone. And I'm greatly looking forward to working in this group with you all. I will be sharing the minutes and other materials, as I said, so they will be posted on the LCB's own page for this group. I will send out links, and I will share the information as we have it. Unless anyone has anything else to share today, I can let everyone go a little bit early. So thank you, happy new year, and [ cross-talk ] --

**Justin Nordhorn:** Looks like Elly has one more comment it looks like.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah, go ahead, Elly.

**Elly Sakura:** It's not really a question. It's more of a comment. Thank you so much for letting all this groundwork. We know you guys are constantly working on this all the time. So I just wanted to say thank you, and we appreciate this a lot.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah. Thank you, Elly. Thank you, and I appreciate your extra interest in participating and know we had a member drop out, so I was happy to hear from you and be able to offer that spot to you. So I appreciate it. So I think we can -- it looks like we could go a little bit early. So, again, you can write to me at [jeff.kildahl@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.kildahl@lcb.wa.gov) or just to [rules@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:rules@lcb.wa.gov). So thank you everyone for attending. And I hope to have the format a little more refined the next time we meet. I'm sorry for a few technical glitches here. So it's just not the same doing this virtually as it is in person. So I'll say that. Again, thank you. And I will be in touch.

**Justin Nordhorn:** Thank you, all.

**Jeff Kildahl:** Yeah.

**ADJOURN**