



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce,
Community,
and Economic Development

ALCOHOL AND MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marijuana Control Board

DATE: August 18, 2021

FROM: Glen Klinkhart, Director

RE: Director's Report

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

By the time this memorandum is published, the MCB board will have held its requested August 9th, 2021 special public meeting to obtain public comment in regard to the subject of licensing caps. My hope is that the meeting was informative and productive for all who participated.

PERSONNEL:

Although Ms. Craig will brief you on the details, I wish to express my pleasure with the news of two very qualified candidates who have joined the AMCO licensing team and have thus completely filled our staff ranks for the first item in my tenure. Please welcome Colleen Button and Lee Bulaong-Guinto to AMCO!

Additionally, after over a year of working solo and not having any direct assistance or support Melissa Walter has been able to hire her administrative assistant who will be starting at AMCO this month!

Please note being at full staff at AMCO is a huge gain for the board, the industry, and the public. That being said hiring the new staff members and elevating others to new roles and responsibilities means we will be less efficient and effective until the entire team can fully function in their new roles. My estimations are the licensing team will be trained and operational by the end of the year, so everyone's patience is appreciated as we fully "train up" our amazing staff.

With Investigator Chiesa moving from his most northern post to become the new Matanuska Susitna Valley AMCO Enforcement Officer next month we are now searching for a good candidate who can fill his very large and capable shoes in Fairbanks. In the spirit of community based enforcement, Officer Chiesa is expected to introduce himself and his new assignment to the MatSu chapter of the Alaska Peace Office Association (APOA), meet with the Wasilla Police

Department, and present to Palmer Public Radio where listeners can listen and ask him questions about his new role in the Valley.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH/ISSUES:

A continuing industry concern has been testing lab practices and procedures as it relates to testing their products. In response to industry concern our new Program Coordinator, Rick Helms, held a discussion group on testing lab practices with four industry representatives, other AMCO, SOA EHL and Agriculture personnel. Future discussion groups will include a testing lab group.

AMCO has recently joined the national Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA). CANNRA provides for cannabis regulators across the country to share institutional knowledge and lessons learned to navigate the numerous evolving policy and regulatory matters related to legalizing and regulating cannabis. CANNRA is an affiliate of the Council of State Governments (CSG).

Rick attended a national meeting with the FDA regarding emerging policy and legal issues on the drug and non-drug (food) side as it relates to cannabis.

We continue to meet with the Alaska METRC representative and encourage them to address particular issues.

We have partnered with the Tobacco enforcement office to develop a job class in state service and ultimately share a group of compliance decoys/underage buyers for tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana. Rick has written a job description and prepared supporting information to help move the process along.

In cooperation with the SOA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the AMCO office and Enforcement Unit is working with DNR and the Attorney General's Office to help create ways to curtail the ongoing issues with hemp-derived in intoxicating Delta-8 products.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES & RECORDINGS:

Just a reminder that all Marijuana Control Board meeting minutes and audio recordings are now online and available for the public to access. Each set of meeting minutes and audio recordings is saved with the meeting documents in their respective meeting date.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco/MCBMeetingDocuments>

NEXT MEETING:

The next MCB Board meeting is scheduled for October 27th and 28th, 2021 in Anchorage, Alaska.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Klinkhart". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent loop at the beginning and a star-like flourish at the end.

Glen Klinkhart
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