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Posted At: Tuesday, November 14, 2006 4:50 PM

Conversation: Consultation on Fee Changes

Posted To: Natural and Economic Resources

Subject: Consultation on Fee Changes

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

FROM: David S. McLeod, General Counsel
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

DATE: November 9, 2006

RE: Consultation - Fees

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has proposed the following fee increases for the rental or use of facilities:

I. Western North Carolina Farmers Market at Asheville:

A. Monthly Holding Fee - To hold a space in the Farmers or Truckers Sheds during the winter, a person can pay a \$25 per month holding fee.

Proposed change would eliminate the holding fee.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Change: To encourage greater utilization of spaces; avoid tying up unused spaces; improve management of space rental.

B. Annual Delivery Permit Fee - Persons making deliveries to the Market can currently purchase an annual delivery permit for \$400 for vehicles with six or less wheels, or \$500 for vehicles with more than six wheels.

Proposed change would eliminate the annual delivery permits. Truckers would pay the delivery fee for each delivery, which ranges from \$1 to \$15, depending on the size of the load.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

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Reason for Change: To improve efficiency of Market operations and to make the delivery fees more equitable, i.e., based on the volume of deliveries.

II. Western North Carolina Agricultural Center at Fletcher:

A. Discount for Arena Rental for Equine Educational Clinics or Seminars - Currently, these clinics receive a 50 percent discount from the regular arena rental rate. Proposed change would reduce the discount to 25 percent.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Proposed Change: To allow the clinics to bear a greater portion of the cost of operating the facility.

III. Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center at Williamston:

A. Coliseum Rental - Current rate is \$900 per day.

Proposed change would increase the rental rate to \$1500 per day for commercial events, while leaving the rate at \$900 per day for equine and livestock events.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Change: To cover increased operating expenses consistent with the Center's mission of promoting agricultural events.

B. East Building Rental - This is a new building, and the proposed rental rates would be:
\$350 per day when rented in conjunction with the coliseum, but without stalls;
\$250 per day when stalls are rented; or
\$500 when rented without the coliseum.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Fee: To cover operating costs.

C. Recreational Vehicle Hookups - This would be a new fee of \$12 per day.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Fee: To enable us to provide this service in response to user demand.

IV. State Fairgrounds - Raleigh:

A. See attached schedule of proposed changes for many of the buildings located on the Fairgrounds.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-6.1

Reason for Proposed Changes: To provide additional revenues for operation, maintenance and improvements at Fairgrounds facilities.

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B. Proposal to increase the price of adult gate admission to the State Fair from \$6 to \$7.

Statutory Authority: G.S. 106-503

Reason for Proposed Change: The price of an adult admission ticket has not increased since 1993. The State Fair is a receipt-supported program. Additional revenues will be used for operation, maintenance and improvement of the State Fairgrounds. Other ticket prices, such as advance purchase, seniors and

children, remain unchanged.

DSM/gr

Attachment

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