



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Hemp Cultivation Task Force Holds Second Meeting

JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi Hemp Cultivation Task Force convened for the second time at the State Capitol today. The Task Force, chaired by Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson, was established by the Mississippi Legislature to consider the potential of hemp cultivation, market potential, and potential job creation in Mississippi.

“Today, we had the opportunity to hear valuable information that has been gathered thus far as we examine all of the issues surrounding the cultivation of hemp in Mississippi. The Mississippi Hemp Cultivation Task Force will continue evaluating the various issues, opportunities and challenges in order that we make recommendations to the Legislature that are in the best interest of Mississippians, including our farmers, law enforcement and other stakeholders, as well as the general public,” said Commissioner Gipson.

Task force members and members of the public heard presentations from each of the four committees established during the first meeting. The Economics, Marketing and Job Creation committee discussed the potential market value of the crop and the industry infrastructure needs. An overview of hemp was provided by the Hemp Agronomy committee. The Regulations and Monitoring committee reported on the requirements needed to regulate hemp, noting the current regulatory uncertainty. The Law Enforcement Committee addressed concerns of law enforcement officials and the possible consequences of hemp cultivation in Mississippi.

The meeting was available for viewing through livestreaming on the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce’s Facebook page. A recorded video from the meeting along with presentations will be made available at <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/hemp-cultivation-task-force/> in the coming days. The public can submit comments by emailing MSHempTaskForce@mdac.ms.gov. The Mississippi Hemp Cultivation Task Force will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on November 20 at the State Capitol in Room 113.

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Photo attached.



The Mississippi Hemp Cultivation Task Force, chaired by Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson, convened today at the State Capitol. Task force committees shared reports with the task force members and members of the public various topics regarding hemp including the regulation and cultivation of hemp in Mississippi.