

§ 979.25 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

- (a) Shifts in melon acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;
- (b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;
- (c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts; and
- (d) Other relevant factors. No change in districting or in apportionment of members within districts may become effective less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than 6 months prior to such date.

§ 979.26 Nominations.

(a) *Initial members.* For nominations to the initial committee, the meeting or meetings may be sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by the Department. The nominations, resulting from these meetings, for each of the six initial grower and three initial handler members of the committee, together with nomination for the initial alternate members for each position shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to the effective date of this subpart.

(b) *Successor members.* (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held not later than January 15 of each year, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating at least one nominee for each position as member and for each position as alternate member of the committee which is vacant, or which is about to become vacant;

(2) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary at such time and in such manner and form as he may prescribe;

(3) Only growers may participate in designating grower nominees and only handlers may participate in designat-

ing handler nominees to the committee;

(4) Only growers and handlers who are present at such nomination meetings, or represented at such meetings by a duly authorized employee, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for members and their alternates.

(c) Each person, whether grower or handler, is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled;

(d) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the members of the committee. The public member and alternate member shall not be growers or handlers, or employees of growers or handlers. The committee shall recommend rules for receiving names of persons to be considered for nomination to the public member and alternate positions. Rules shall also be recommended for establishing eligibility of persons nominated to the public member and alternate positions. The persons nominated for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted by the incumbent committee to the Secretary by January 15, or such other date recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, of the years the terms expire together with information deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary. The names of the nominees for the initial public member and alternate shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the first regular meeting of the initial South Texas Melon Committee.

§ 979.27 Selection.

Committee members and alternates shall be selected by the Secretary on the basis of representation provided for in § 979.22 from nominations made pursuant to § 979.26.

§ 979.28 Failure to nominate.

If nominations, including initial nominations, are not made within the