

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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by the Secretary pursuant to §953.18, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee, which selection shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §953.19.

§ 953.21 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within the time specified by the Secretary.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.22 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate member, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in §953.18, or the Secretary may select such member or alternate member from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in §953.19.

§ 953.23 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is alternate during such member's absence. In the event of death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for the unexpired term of such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 953.24 Procedure.

(a) Nine members shall constitute a quorum of the committee and any action of the committee shall require nine concurring votes.

(b) The committee may provide procedure for meeting by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communications, and any vote cast at such a meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing: *Provided*, That if an assembled meeting of the committee is held all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 953.25 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of committee powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.26 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 953.27 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(b) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(c) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

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(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(e) To select subcommittees of committee members, a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to adopt such rules and regulations for conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(f) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;

(g) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

(h) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person; and

(i) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 953.28 Obligations.

Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office or to a trustee designated by the Secretary and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or trustee full title to all the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subpart shall apply to alternate members in possession of funds, property, books or records, or participate in the receipt or disbursement of funds.

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§ 953.29 District committees.

Potato producers and handlers in each district, as defined in §953.11, may establish and organize a District Committee of potato producers and handlers within each such district for the purpose of assisting in an advisory capacity the members of the Southeastern Potato Committee from their district. The size and composition of each such District Committee shall be determined by producers and handlers within each district. Reports on the size and composition of each District Committee shall be made available upon request to the Southeastern Potato Committee. The members of such District Committees shall not receive compensation from any funds dispersed by the Southeastern Potato Committee. Members of District Committees may be selected at meetings sponsored by the Southeastern Potato Committee. The terms of office of members of District Committees shall coincide with the terms of office of members of the Southeastern Potato Committee.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 953.33 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds may be necessary to carry out the functions of the committee pursuant to the provisions of this subpart during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by levying assessments as provided in §953.34.

§ 953.34 Assessments.

(a) Each handler who first handles potatoes shall, with respect to the potatoes so handled by him, pay to the committee such handler's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be necessarily incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning during each fiscal year. Such handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof, during the applicable fiscal year, and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as the first handlers thereof, during the same fiscal year. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by such