



# Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

August 4, 2022

Time	Agenda Item
10:00	<p>Welcome - Sydney Daigle, Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Roll Call - Brittany Cook, MDEM               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 16 members present initially, due to no quorum, the motion to adopt minutes from June, and motion to adopt today's agenda will be delayed until the next full council meeting.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● MD FSRC New Members - Sydney               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome to Lee Babcock</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Sept. FSRC Workshop Updates               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Equity Training – The first planning meeting is scheduled for the week of August 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>2. September 1st or September 15th hold dates will be sent to FSRC members – we are waiting on the task order from the contract facilitator before sending the official invite to FSRC members.</li> <li>3. Location TBD: 9am (open doors w/ breakfast), 10am - 3pm (training and discussion w/ working lunch), 4pm (one hour networking)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
10:20	<p>Council Budget Update: Information presented is taken from <a href="#">FY 2024 Operating Budget Submission Requirements</a>, DBM is requesting budget information by August 31<sup>st</sup>, but granted an extension for the FSRC until Sept 1<sup>st</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Budget Process through FY23               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Governor                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sets the revenue estimates that establish the basis for State spending (each department is provided a budget target)</li> <li>b) Required to submit a balanced budget proposal by</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>

- the 10th day of the Legislative Session\*
    - c) Traditionally the governor cannot veto the budget
  - 2. The General Assembly
    - a) *Traditionally* MGA could not add or move funding, they could only cut
    - b) Holds budget hearings with each Department in each chamber
    - c) Approves the balanced budget by Sine Die
- Budget Process FY24
  - 1. Due to changes in 2022 the following is allow:
    - a) Can use line item vetoes for both additions and increases
    - b) Budget vetoes may be overridden using normal 3/5<sup>th</sup> majority rules within 30 days
    - c) The MGA may now increase or add, as well as decrease items within the State Budget
    - d) Changes may not exceed the total proposed budget submitted by the governor
- State Department Budget Process
  - 1. April – June: State department update performance measure and data related to the Managing for Results program
  - 2. July – September: DBM provides fiscal targets; Stat departments put together and submit over the target requests (OTRs) for the upcoming fiscal year (**request are considered, but there is no guarantee of approval**)
  - 3. September – December: DBM works with Departments to understand OTRs and works with Gov's office to build budget for the upcoming Session
  - 4. January – April: The Governor presents the budget; the General Assembly considers and amends the budget, the budget is passed.
  - 5. Questions:
    - a) Is there a deadline by which the legislator has to override a veto, does this happen within the 90 day session? Override must happen within 30 days of the veto, which requires a special session.
    - b) If there are line item vetoes where the Governor has removed or included items, is there a provision for the legislator to respond? Yes, in the normal veto override process, automatic responses

include, if an increase on an existing line item is vetoed by the governor, then the budget returns to the baseline amount recommended by the governor for that line item. If an item is added then vetoed by the governor, the item is removed unless overridden by the general assembly.

- FSRC Budget Items Unfunded From FY23
  1. Note: There were not any budget requests last year, so it is unclear whether the council will be submitting its own request for funding, as done during the supplemental budget. The other option is the council budget request being submitted under MDEM. (This is relevant to the budget request for items that are not the product of MDEM, i.e. FARM Program)
  2. FARM Program – this program is managed by another agency, therefore a budget request to provide the residual funding amount totaling 1.25M from MDEM is unusual (if a request is made, the request will indicate this is the request of the FSRC, funding is to go to the managing agency)
  3. Funding the FSRC – Received 100,000 (one-time funding) for consulting processes, further funding must be requested again. Current ask: 550,000 Food Policy Director and three support personnel; 5500,000 to fund research and assessment initiatives
  4. Cold Storage Capacity – 3M in infrastructure investment in accordance with the assessment result in the State
  5. State grant-funded program for food council start-up, sustainability, and expansion cost 250,000. *D&A subcommittee will present an updated recommendation, which may suggest an increase in funding for this item.*
  6. Source separation of food waste education – 200,000 initial investment with 150,000 sustainment; established a grant program to award county boards and public schools to develop and implement programs for reducing food waste and establish composting efforts
  7. **Next Steps** – Schedule a meeting with the leadership group to discuss funding, whether items should be added or removed, council will have an opportunity to

consider funding on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to be submitted to DBM

8. Questions:

- a) How does a new governor impact this process?  
Transition plans are developed and implemented once the governor elect is determined. This is an opportunity to scope the priorities of the council.

11:00

Communication and Coordination Update

- Summary Update – The subcommittee continues to work on recommendations regarding the FSRC’s future organizational structure, during monthly meetings. Research and a panelist discussion was completed with several State Food Policy Councils (including: Delaware, Rhode Island, and Colorado). A document was developed and will be provided as a read ahead item for the FSRC workshop.
- Heather Bruskin is the new co-chair for the C&C subcommittee
- Originally the subcommittee began examining five structural options, but the subcommittee determined (*tentatively*) three structural options for full council consideration, including:
  1. Choice One: Become a formal, established body within MDEM
  2. Choice Two: Remain an independent Executive Branch Council
  3. Choice Three: Transition to Independent Agency or Commission

Distribution and Access Update

- Proposed Recommendation: The State should establish a requirement and supportive funding for Maryland counties to identify a local food system coordination body, commonly referred to as a local food council.
  1. Who should be included: noted change beginning with “At minimum, the body should include local government (including food security coordinators, health departments, school systems, social services, agriculture/extension, and emergency management), **non-governmental organizations including food banks and advocacy organizations**, and residents of the locality with lived experience from each jurisdiction represented by the body. **Note: Food banks should be replace with “food assistance organizations”, due to the other food organizations or groups who do not identify as a food bank.**

2. Previously existing groups are able to participate as a county coordinating group
  3. The funding should also provide stipends to allow residents with lived experience of food insecurity and food assistance recipients to participate in the local food council without engendering the burden of lost work time, childcare arrangements, or other hardships participation in daytime/normal business hour meetings and activities might bring. (Note: This is a challenge for the FSRC as the council is unable to pay an individual with lived experience)
  4. Local food council leaders should be required to attend coordination meetings with other local food councils and the FSRC.
  5. This recommendation was developed based on the following existing structures:
    - a) Local Management Boards and Community Mediation Centers
    - b) OOCC and OIT
  6. Suggested Funding: State funding for start-up and ongoing coordinating support for the council
- D&A subcommittee engaged in research, panelist discussion with existing food policy councils, local management boards, SPINE, and community mediation centers, to scope existing groups.
  - Funding ask 10M
    1. 200,000 – Per jurisdiction (24) for general operational support, and sustainability funding
    2. Remaining amount is a competitive application grant fund for special projects, focused programmatic work, etc.
  - Questions, Suggestions, and Considering:
    1. How is funding administered? Will organizations/councils be expected to begin operating without funding in hand? How will funding be split up into fiscal years? Some State funding is designed so that the organization absorbs work, before funding is available, which is not always possible for smaller councils.
    2. Recommendations could be written to align with the FSRC's goals and objectives without limiting the

council's ability to identify its own priorities.

3. Data can vary across councils, and best practices are based on local experiences
4. Consider expanding the stakeholders to farmers, waste management, etc.
5. What is the reason for requiring a coordinating group, instead of supporting funding a local coordinating group, if desired by the region or county? The specific language ask to establish a local food system coordination body, which is intended to allow flexibility for the group to be within county government, quasi-governmental, or nonprofit; this group could already exist. The recommendation is written with the intent that funding goes to where it is needed within the region. The coordinating group can be county or regional.
6. Consider looking at programmatic vs. operational funding, operation of the council will take more time/resources, which should be considered when assigning funding. Consider lower seed funding 100,000, concerns indicated for recommendation rejection due to a higher funding request.

#### Environment and Production Update

- Next meeting 8/4/22 at 1pm. The subcommittee consolidated the remaining parking lot items into three categories:
  1. Regional Production and Identifying the concentration areas to increase food resiliency (i.e., supply chain gaps)
  2. Climate Change, Regenerative Agriculture, and Food Waste
  3. Food Hubs, Farmers Market Associations, Internet marketplaces processing
- Regional Production and Identifying the concentrations areas to increase food resiliency (i.e., supply chain gaps)
  1. Processing (meat processing, grain processing)
  2. On farm equipment rentals or purchasing (crimper, salad harvester)
  3. Education/training
  4. GAP Certification
  5. Marketing and Distribution
  6. Bulk purchasing (packaging, shipping)
  7. Commercial kitchen for value-added

8. Research (on variety selection, timing, etc.)
  9. Access to special labor support (greenhouse construction, etc.)
  10. Aggregation of small carbon storage practices
- Climate Change, Regenerative Agriculture, and Food waste
    1. Pilot grant or loan program to support MD farmers to voluntarily transition to growing climate-friendly types of food (fruits, vegetables, legumes, fungi, etc)
    2. Collaboration between MDE and MDA on climate change strategies for agriculture
    3. Increase funding for enforcement and technical assistance around nutrient management plans for MDA. Including (but not limited to) incentives and decreasing policy barriers to food waste composting, digestion, and other re-utilization to allow for carbon-based fertilizers. Right now, there are not enough sites to take food waste to turn to carbon-based fertilizers and reduce waste in landfills.
  - Food Hubs, Farmers Market Associations, Internet marketplaces, and processing
    1. Leverage the resilience (solar) infrastructure of Resilience Hubs by expanding with cold chain infrastructure. Create community distribution channels connecting local farmers with consumers. These distribution channels will be in food secure and insecure communities.
    2. Create a full-time position to provide high quality technical assistance to current and future farmers' market managers and organizers across the State. This position could be housed either at D Department of Agriculture or UMD Extension.
    3. Comprehensive statewide value chain studies (including food processing) for selected food products (beef, poultry, fruit, dairy, vegetables, etc.) to identify local food supply chain gaps and make value chain specific recommendations. Perhaps a new task force should be established to make recommendations on this topic (include the Executive Director of the Maryland Food Center Authority as a member of this task force).
    4. Create a new 501c3 nonprofit organization to support the Maryland Market Money program. It is NOT recommended to reform the Maryland Farmers Market



Association at this time.

5. MDA Resource Conservation recently suggested to stakeholders that it hopes to launch a statewide urban agriculture grant fund program that would provide support for what was intended in House Bill 1216 (that did not pass). Additionally, MDA is planning to implement the urban ag water and power infrastructure funding program that will have funding available in FY 2024 (\$500,000).
  6. MDA has announced that it is planning to establish a task force to study the state meat inspection issue that was raised in legislation last session. MARBIDCO is also working on identifying new financial resources to support the enhancement of livestock processing capacity in Maryland.
  7. MDA has a grant application into USDA to fund a Maryland's Best update with a national organization, MarketMaker.
- Nov 2021 Parking Lot Issues not addressed at this time
    1. Farmer worker availability, worker condition, and worker housing barriers (limited expertise available to the subcommittee, topic will be tabled for future consideration)
  - Questions, Suggestions, and Considerations:
    1. Considering local infrastructure for processing, is there a resource available related to food processing capacity and potential gaps? FARM Bill funding should be able to support processing. Educating others on the importance of food system work and related resources needs to be shared with organizations. The E&P subcommittee has a developed resource list in a google document with various sources of agricultural information. The subcommittee is considering where to store the document, and maintain the document for public facing usage.

11:30

Lunch and Learn Updates - Brittany Cook, MDEM

- July - canceled
- August - Regional Food System Resiliency Efforts in the Mid-Shore: ongoing work in local food system resilience from a rural county perspective. This shared presentation begins with Christina Bartz, who will review the Food as Medicine grant, and



how Choptank is working with community partners to implement the program, as well as partnerships developed with CCPS and CCHD. Next, Beth Brewster will provide information related to the rural food distribution efforts, including the mobile food pantry, the blue catfish initiative, and bring light to the spirulina production (repurposing of vacant poultry houses).

- September - State Partnership Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) Presentation: The State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) Program is a national grant program that addresses food and nutrition security through sustainable and equitable actions that tackle economic and social conditions limiting food and nutrition security across the lifespan. As part of this program, the Maryland Department of Health has convened a food and nutrition security advisory working group to support SPINE efforts and guide program components.
- October – Maryland Food Bank
- November - TBD

#### Council Member Round Table & Updates

- Open discussion
  1. MDEM Staff will be attending the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Food and Water Resilience Planning Summit – Update may be provided during the October FSRC Meeting
  2. Montgomery County Food Council has begun project management to develop a strategic plan to end childhood hunger. 2022 goal for a release date of the plan. Meetings are open to the public (look for the website)
  3. Higher Education Commission – hunger free campus grant program, deadline August 26 to apply.