



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment & Production Subcommittee

September 15, 2022 1:00pm -2:00pm

1. Welcome

2. Group Discussion

- A. Lindsay Smith - Short update [on a regional and multi-state effort](#) to develop an application for a Mid-Atlantic Regional Food Business Center in response to [the multi-million-dollar opportunity recently announced by USDA](#). The deadline is November 22, 2022.
- B. Subcommittee Recommendation Voting using Polling Activity – All subcommittee approved recommendations will be included in the September 19th draft of the 2022 Nov 1st report
 - I. Regional Agriculture Centers (RACs) in four Maryland Regions (*Approved per polling*)
 - **Suggestions** : (1) Funding request language should designate either one-time, or annually. RACs funding is a one-time only funding request. (2) Clarify the language of the recommendation so that it identifies there are two requests. First, an assessment for a feasibility study, and second the RACs buildout.
 - II. Distributed Cold Storage for Food System Resiliency (*Approved per polling*)
 - **Suggestions:** Change recommendation language to state, “cold storage” only and remove designation of terms, “walk-in freezer, chiller, and/or refrigerator” from the recommendation.
 - III. Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste (*Approved per polling*)
 - IV. Maryland Farm to School Grant Pilot (*Approved per polling*)



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- V. Maryland Food and Agricultural Resilience Mechanism *(Approved per polling)*
- VI. Comprehensive Statewide Food Supply Value Chain Study *(Approve per polling)*
- **Suggestions:** (1) Change language to remove the UMD Hughes Center (initially included because the Hughes Center completed the Chesapeake Foodshed Assessment), the recommendation language should read, MDA and/or appropriate party. (2) Add the following language to the recommendation, incorporate the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic public health emergency, and environmental justice into the updated assessment, to build off the 2019 report. (3) Add language to clarify the term “Statewide” as State funds are requested, but the assessment would be performed outside the State as well (e.g. VA, PA, DC), ; new language could read, “ A Statewide food supply values chain study within a regional context”. (4) Stating a “competitive contract/grant process” leaves the options open to whoever is writing the RFA. (5) Add language to selected food products to include “small grains”, and “establish an advisory board for the study to include a broader group of stakeholders”.
- VII. Technical Assistance to Farmers Market Managers and Organizers
- **Suggestions:** (1) Is one person enough to support farmers’ market assistance? Per Steve, one person should be enough initially during start -up. (2) Add language to include supporting farm stands. (3) Add language regarding year -around access to food via farmers’ market.
- VIII. Online Resource Database for Local Maryland Agriculture
- **Suggestions:** (1) Add language to include a campaign to drive the public to the online resource. (2) Remove Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) as the administrative support, and add language for an independent identity.



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- IX. Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture
(Subcommittee will vote at the next meeting)
- **Suggestions:** (1) Several inaccuracies and language changes needed per MDA staff (specifics will be emailed). (2) The original recommendation proposed a program since there are programs, data, methodologies, and metrics available (e.g. USDA's research from NRCS). There is a narrow time frame (2030) for climate change; implementing this conservation program would incentivize producers to employ climate friendly practices, and to shift to climate friendly foods. MDA current pilot programs include Cover Crop Plus, and Healthy Soils Competitive Fund.
- X. Baseline Assessment of the State's Greenhouse Gas Emission of Public Food Purchasing
(Subcommittee will vote at the next meeting)
- XI. Support Maryland Agriculture Marketing and Urban Agriculture
(Subcommittee will vote at the next meeting)

~~C. Determining Subcommittee 2023 Next Steps~~

3. Next steps and adjourn

- A. An optional meeting will be held to discuss the Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture recommendation
- B. Placeholders will be entered into the September 19th draft for recommendations not voted on by the subcommittee
- C. Next meeting scheduled for September 29, 2022 the subcommittee will continue discussion on remaining recommendations