



# Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

## Communications and Coordination Subcommittee

Apr 25, 2022 1:00pm - 2:00pm

1. Welcome - Sydney Daigle, Subcommittee Vice Chair
2. Legislative Quick Look - End of Session Wrap Up
  - a. Noted bills passed supported by FSRC include:
    - i. Maryland FARM Program, Farms and Families Fund, Farm-to-School Grant Pilot
    - ii. Public School Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste
    - iii. Cottage Food Business Revenues
    - iv. SNAP State Supplement
    - v. UM Extension- Urban Farmer Assistance
    - vi. Baltimore Co. Supermarkets property tax credit
    - vii. Spat, Shells, and Substrate- Oysters
    - viii. Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and Fund Establishment
3. Legislative Session Debrief
  - a. Survey results were reviewed - 5 respondents
  - b. Feedback was generally positive, with some themes on areas for improvement
    - i. Bill tracker was used regularly
    - ii. Subject matter expert insight was most beneficial
    - iii. Additional synopsis information and summary of why the bill was being supported in the tracker would be helpful next round
  - c. General discussion - attendees discussed opportunities for improvement for next year. Themes included:
    - i. Interest in more analysis of bills including equity analysis, which may reduce the number of bills considered for support by FSRC
    - ii. A desire to understand the impact of FSRC action this session, and strategies for how to be more impactful next year
      1. Opportunities with new legislators and new Committee leaders



- a. Montgomery County holds a legislative breakfast with elected officials each year, which could potentially be replicated.
2. Increase visibility through briefings, one-on-one meetings, etc., noting that there are lobbyist registration considerations that will come with increased advocacy.
- iii. Lack of organizational structure/guiding mission/vision resulted in somewhat unfocused effort to support of legislation
  1. Participants want more specific structure around providing testimony, determining support, etc.
  2. Committee will need to determine whether the Council should be an advocacy organization, information sharing, or both.
- d. Action items
  - MDEM to organize a presentation around the rules/guidelines for lobbying and advocacy
  - MDEM to coordinate with subcommittee chairs and Anne Palmer regarding Dr. Pollack presentation on equity analysis
- e. Next Meeting: **Tuesday, May 10 @ 11am**