



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment and Production Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

Mar 31, 2022 1:00pm - 2:00pm | meet.google.com/feq-wpcj-evq

1:00 pm: Welcome

The E&P Subcommittee welcomed Brittany Cook, MDEM's new Food Resilience Specialist.

1:10 pm: Legislative update

- *HB147 (House FARM) - Senate EHE, favorable with amendments*
- *HB0156 (Urban Ag Zones) - Senate EHE, hearing 3/30*
- *HB0178 (Cottage Food businesses) - Senate Finance, hearing 3/29*
- *HB0456 (SNAP state supplement) - Senate Finance, hearing 3/29*
- *HB0540 (UME Urban farmer assistance) - Senate EHE*
- *SB0121 (FARM) - House E&T, no hearing scheduled*
- *SB0124 (School compost grants) - House W&M, hearing 3/31*
- *SB0229 (On-site composting permits) - House E&T, hearing 3/30*
- *SB0393 (SMADC) - House E&T*
- *SB0039 (Meat processing task force) - MDA is going to establish a task force without waiting for the legislature*
- *HB855 update from Steve: "We received some good news yesterday in that the Governor has included \$500,000 in FY 2023 for the Urban Ag Infrastructure Grant Fund in Supplemental Budget #4. So this program could start a year earlier than originally planned. The credit for this goes to the Maryland Farm Bureau who lead the charge on getting this included in next year's State Budget. (Let's hope the Conference Committee approves it – but I think its chances are very good indeed!)"*

1:15 pm: Review of the “Existing Resources” document

Where will this document “live”? Maybe UMD Ext can maintain, or MDA, or MDEM? Where will it get the most traffic?

Bring MDA into conversation once they are ready to revamp their website/Maryland’s Best.

Next steps - make the doc into more of a narrative/storyboard rather than a list

How do people envision using this document? People from your org, stakeholders, etc?

Does E&P want to collaborate with D&A on finding a home for this document?

1:30 pm: Discussion of parking lot/”sprint” project ideas

Dena - we need to think a little more cohesively about what the FSRC can do, how can we address large-scale food security, foodshed ideas, Bigger, more urgency - how will we feed ourselves?

1 or 2 next steps to move the council forward - have conversations with other counterparts in other states; USDA dashboard?; market manipulation that would give tax incentives to people to grow food locally

Steve - Hughes Center to receive \$500k for climate change study next year

*MARBIDCO/MDA is looking into restarting the Farmers Market Association - **what input can this group provide? What opportunities will there be for participation in this conversation?***

Stephanie - Chesapeake report card - looking at ag/food system health, funding for Chesapeake restoration (is health of regional food systems included?)

Nancy - as a food system council, how can we better express interest in hammering out these bigger questions and issues? Is this something that should be brought up in the Council meeting on 4/7?

Chloe - suggested a process idea - can we get individual volunteers to flesh out specific areas and policy items, almost like sub-sub committees or single-use ad hoc groups? This might help give us more direction as a group and use our shared knowledge more efficiently.

Dena - would love to see Council come together in person and think bigger - maybe an in-person retreat or longer meeting?

1:55 pm: Next steps and adjourn

Subcommittee Members

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Subcommittee Assigned Areas of Focus

| Environment and Production |
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| Increasing the quality and quantity of production as well as aggregation, marketing, and distribution of local food in urban, suburban, and rural settings |
| Increasing procurement of local food through schools, universities and other institutions |
| Creating additional market opportunities for Maryland food businesses |
| Expanding access to small scale manufacturing and food production infrastructure |
| Reducing food waste, increasing recycling, and encouraging other relevant environmental impacts |