

# Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Meeting Notes- September 23rd, 2021 : 1-4 pm

1. Welcome & Roll Call
  - a. Council Members Present: Russell Strickland, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Michelle Williams, Mark Powell, Stephanie Lansing, Sydney Daigle, Theresa Stahl, Lisa Lachenmayr, Beth Brewster, Michael J. Wilson, Heather Buritsch, Dena Leibman, Diana Taylor, Anne Palmer, Chloe Waterman, Daphene Alterma Johnson, Moses Kairo, Adam LaRose, Janice Wiles, Meg Kimmel, Nancy Nunn, Stephen McHenry, Jeremy Criss, Les Richardson, Lindsay Adams for Holly Freishtat, Annemarie Hart Bookbinder for Heather Bruskin
2. Administrative Updates
  - a. Adopted agenda Mark Powell, second Theresa Stahl
  - b. Meeting minutes have been accepted
  - c. September 30th: Draft report due to council
  - d. October 10th: Comments due to MEMA staff
  - e. October 18th: Final draft due to council for review
  - f. October 25th: Vote to accept the report and send to council
3. Presentation by the Department of Budget Management on the American Rescue Plan Act Funding and Infrastructure Bill Funding
4. Presentation by the Maryland Department of Agriculture on Current Programs
5. Subcommittee Progress Report Outs
  - a. Communication and Coordination

- i. Focusing on Maryland Farm to Families/Farm to Food bank programs
  - ii. Improve mapping to use for food insecurity data
- b. Funding
  - i. Prioritizing ARPA and how we can use those funds
  - ii. Reviewing recommendations from other subcommittees to consider funding requirements they might have and how we can best stream those.
  - iii. Maryland Market Money and Farm to Families/Farm to Food Bank programs are high on the list to find funding for
- c. Environment and Production
  - i. Create a regional dashboard using stakeholder-determined metrics to measure food system health
  - ii. Continue and monitor results of existing policies to increase local food procurement in state correctional facilities, and advocate for a larger per meal budget allocation for meals for people who are incarcerated aimed at increasing the nutritional quality of meals and making prisons a more viable market for local producers.
  - iii. Use technology to create and modify platforms to connect producers directly with consumers
  - iv. Conduct feasibility studies on increasing processing and preserving facility capabilities and capacity within the State using established best practices for local products (e.g. Flash Freeze facility, Michigan; Value-Added Processing; Other techniques)
- d. Distribution and Access
  - i. Update requirements for use of state funds for food programs/resources, including implementing additional application requirements for food assistance providers, supporting client choice pantries, conducting additional educational outreach, and setting nutrition standards for state funded institutions that feed Marylanders.
  - ii. Complete an assessment of existing cold storage resources in the state and commit additional funds to increase cold storage capacity in areas with limited capacity.
  - iii. Provide Statewide Incentives to encourage institutions to purchase Maryland food, particularly local school districts

6. Wrap up and Adjourn

- a. Next meeting: Monday, October 25th, 2021
- b. Council Members are to be on the lookout for an email from the MEMA staff for the DRAFT recommendations. Council members are to provide their recommendations to MEMA staff by October 10th.