



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Draft Agenda for October 6, 2022

| Time | Agenda Item |
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| 10:00 | <p>Welcome - Sydney Daigle, Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call - Brittany Cook, MDEM Adopted minutes from June, August, and September Adopted today's agenda Lunch and Learn Updates The last Lunch and Learn Session is scheduled for October 19th, with Maryland Food Bank. We will take a break during the holiday season, then start again in the new year (next scheduled for January 18, 2023) |
| 10:20 | <p>Nov 1st FSRC Report Recommendation Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation 1.1 : <i>The Food System Resiliency Council will become a formal independent, established body within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.</i> <p><i>Summary change:</i> Specifying that the FSRC resides under the Office of Resilience. This would move the current statute (§14-1101 – 1103) to the Office of Resilience statute section (§14-1201-1203) and add on to the end of it. Functionally, this would place it under the responsibility of the Chief Resilience Officer and the Office of Resilience, which is designed to be an integrated, collaborative unit of State Government in line with the mission of FSRC.</p> <p>§14-1204 There is a Maryland Food System Resiliency Council WITHIN THE OFFICE OF RESILIENCE.</p> <p>Polling Results: Supported, 13 votes</p> <p>Voting process Concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will polling results be displayed during the meeting today? Polling results will be sent with the meeting minutes, so |

members joining the meeting via telephone can be included in the count.

2. Should State Agencies be removed from voting consideration, as done during the September 1st workshop? Motion adopted that State Agencies will not count towards quorum while voting on the recommendations with funding requested.
3. Since some recommendations were voted on during the September 1st workshop, are we voting on including these same recommendations in the report? What would be the significance if we vote against something that was included in the funding request? The funding discussion was separate and is related to the budgetary request. Today's vote is specifically related to what will be included in the November 1st report to the general assembly (not all recommendations were introduced during the September workshop, funding requests are not attached to all recommendations).

- Recommendation 1.2 : *Fully fund the Maryland Food and Agricultural Resilience Mechanism (FARM)*

The legislature originally passed \$200,000 but with food insecurity at the level we currently see, the full \$1.25 million can better accommodate the need, so we are requesting the rest with this \$1.05 million ask. The funds would provide grant money to food distribution sites for the procurement, processing and preparation, and transportation of food products and services sourced from Maryland.

Polling Result: Supported, 12 votes

- Recommendation 1.3 : *Online Resource Database for Local Maryland Agriculture*

Creation of the online resource, with regular updates and management of the website, and a promotional campaign including social media to direct people to the online resource. This includes a competitive grant process administered by Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), with funds for administrative support and a contract for the website content creation.

MDEM staff received critical feedback, which will be discussed at the subcommittee level for consideration. The final recommendation will be included in the final draft of the report, for the full council to vote.

Suggestions:

1. While discussing this recommendation at the subcommittee level, consider including ongoing management needs for the website.
 2. What is the timeline for subcommittee and full council consideration for this recommendation? The subcommittee will meet next week October 13th, and the full council will vote on remaining recommendations (e.g. recommendation 1.3) with the adoption of the report on October 26th.
- Recommendation 2.1 : Establish and sustain Regional Agriculture Centers (RACs) in four MD regions (Eastern Shore, Western, North/Central and Southern)

This one-time request would fund a regional agriculture center market assessment, and four Regional Agriculture Centers (RAC's) across Maryland which include core aggregation, marketing, sales, and distribution services for locally produced foods. The four RAC's would be located: on the Eastern Shore, in Western Maryland, in North/Central Maryland, and would build on the success of the one existing center, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), which would be expanded.

Polling Result: Supported, 10 votes

- Recommendation 2.2: Establish a Distributed Network of Cold Storage for Food System Resiliency

The total funding recommendation was calculated based on an average of one larger walk-in unit and two smaller walk-in units for each of the 23 counties and Baltimore City, with \$60,000 to administer and market the fund to receive proposals for building these units. The cost for this one-time investment could be supported by ARPA or a ilable recovery funding.

Suggestions:

1. It is prudent to indicate whether the recommendation is a one-time request or annual.
2. If this recommendation is a one-time request, how will the grant be sustainable? This recommendation is for a one-time grant program, however further consideration can be undertaken for additional funding support for maintenance. A minimum amount of funding is required for maintenance efforts. Another method is requesting one-time funding for initial

implementation, to show effective outcomes, which can be used to validate further requests in the future.

3. This recommendation will be voted on with the understanding that language may be updated to include the suggestions identified above.

Polling Result: Supported, 11 votes

- Recommendation 2.3: Fund the Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste

This grant program is designed to implement critical climate-protective efforts in schools throughout Maryland who wish to reach zero waste goals, compost organic materials, and place greater attention on fighting hunger with food recovery. Funds will be used to start food and organic waste collection programs at schools that wish to play their part in diverting organic waste from incinerators and landfills and collecting uneaten foods that can be shared with hungry children.

Polling Result: Supported, 12 votes

- Recommendation 3.1: 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.

The local food council may be county-based or regional, and it may be a government entity or a non-governmental organization. The local food system coordination body is responsible for organizing and convening local stakeholders to address systemic causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, including racial inequality within its locality.

At minimum, the body should include local government and municipalities (including food security coordinators, health departments, school systems, social services, agriculture/extension, and emergency management), farmers, adult daycare, non-governmental organizations including food assistance organizations and advocacy organizations, and residents of the locality with lived experience from each jurisdiction represented by the body.

The local food council should be required to establish a continuous food system coordination security plan which obtains and uses data, existing resources for food security policy council start-up, and best practices to determine the needs of

the jurisdiction and outlines strategies and tactics that are aligned with the Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC) goals.

The State shall provide funding for the setup and ongoing activities of the local food system through the chosen local government coordinating body. 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 exacerbating the burden.

Polling Result: Support, 12 votes

- Recommendation 4.1 : Fund the Maryland Farm to School Grant Pilot

This request would allocate \$500,000 to the pilot across applicant school districts to further provide local, healthy food for Maryland's school children.

Per SB121, to provide schools and school districts the opportunity to receive funds for serving foods with a Maryland food component through the Maryland Farm to School Grant Program (\$0.20 for every meal).

Polling Result: Supported, 12 votes

- Recommendation 4.2 : Conduct a Comprehensive Statewide Food Supply Value Chain Studies

Comprehensive statewide value chain studies that have a regional context are needed, to identify food processing needs for selected food products (beef, poultry, fruit, dairy, vegetables, small grains, etc.), local food supply chain gaps, and value chain specific recommendations. This study could use the Chesapeake Foodshed Assessment conducted in 2019, prior to the pandemic, as a starting point for an updated assessment with COVID impacts, and environmental justice incorporated.

Polling Result: Supported, 11 votes

- Recommendation 4.3: Expand Technical Assistance to Farmers Market Managers and Organizers

Farmers' market groups have identified a need for a high quality technical assistance for current and future online markets, farm stands, traditional farmers' market managers, and organizers

across the State to increase services, outreach, and innovation in this space.

Polling Result: Supported, 13 votes

- Recommendation 4.4: Baseline Assessment and Reduction of Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Public Food Purchasing.

Conduct a baseline assessment of the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with state-funded food purchases and pledge to reduce those emissions by at least 25% by 2030. The state will establish best practices for achieving emissions reductions, such as reducing food waste or shifting to climate-friendly menus. This assessment would be integrated into the 203 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA) Plan.

Polling Result: Supported, 13 votes

- General suggestions:
 1. Last year 2021 was an interim report, this year 2022 is a final or annual report, therefore this report should include recommendations from both 2021 and 2022, to present a full comprehensive draft of the council's work.
 2. Formatting should clearly identify which recommendations are from 2021, and 2022, since some recommendations build from one another.
 3. What is the potential for adding a new recommendation to the 2022 report? There are no bylaws, however consideration for new recommendations to be added to the report can be determined by the subcommittee chairs. Development of recommendations is a collaborative effort from the subcommittees, which are then presented to the full council for voting. Further discussion related to the TEFAP recommendation will be undertaken by the chair, and co-chair of the Distribution and Access subcommittee to determine viability (budgetary consideration will not be included). NOTE: The content of the TEFAP recommendation will be further discussed for future committee work, even if not included in the report.
 4. Is there a way to connect the recommendations to bills passed, and include this information in the 2022 report?

MDEM staff will attempt to format information as done in the June interim report.

5. Do we want to prioritize the recommendations, specifically recommendations with funding requests? (The goal is to provide a full, comprehensive scope of FSRC work, in one place for Budget & Tax/Appropriations, and the new administration.) Further consideration will be undertaken by the council at a later time.

11:30

DEI Follow-up

The FSRC determined several viable strategies moving forward:

- Define the Council's commitment to DEI
- Designate funding for ongoing education and support
- Encourage personal assessments to determine how individual and interpersonal racism impacts Council work
- Implement a systematic analysis to assess gaps within the food system
- Implement an equity analysis of existing and proposed legislation, Council recommendations, and policies within the food system
- Continue to invite members, organizations, and community residents to participate in discussions to gain insight from a variety of key stakeholders
- Determine a Council work plan with clearly defined benchmarks to measure success

MDEM staff will follow up with the facilitator to determine a path forward for the council, including ongoing group discussions and training. Meeting scheduled for October 10, 2022

Council Member Round Table & Updates

- Open discussion