

MN FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2016

Joe Scimeca called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. Members and visitors included: Joe Scimeca, Ben Miller, Katie Swanson, Purnendu Vasavada, Jane Jewett, Jim VanDerPol, Heidi DeBeck, Michael Dutcher, Courtney Bidney, Alida Sorenson, Kyle Posterick, Katherine Simon, Michael Karbo, Maya Walker, Rebecca Gallup, Jeff Luedeman, Kevin Meyers, Linda Prail, Steven Diaz, Brad Honold, John Larkin, Brent Kobielush, Sara Mortimore, Chris Gindorff, Niki Bostock Felix, Carissa Nath, Alison Behling, Ruth Petran, Shaun Kennedy, Tim Jenkins, Valerie Gamble.

1. Dates and Links

Dates:

- Food Safety and Defense Task Force Meeting, Thursday March 24, 2016, at the University of Minnesota Pomeroy Center
- Minnesota Farmers' Market Association Farmers' Market Academies:
 - Mankato, February 9, 2016
 - Rochester, February 10, 2016
- FPDH hosted workshop to develop a database of food emergency response professionals, February 16-17, 2016.
 - Contact: Penny Norquist (pennyn@umn.edu)
- HACCP Sanitation and Auditing workshop, February 17-18, 2016, Saint Cloud.
- Cyber Summit, March 15-16, 2016.
 - Contact: John Larkin (jlarkin@umn.edu)
- International Conference on One Medicine, One Science, April 24-26, 2016.
 - <http://cceevents.umn.edu/icomos>
- Annual Food Defense Conference, June 29-30, 2016,
 - <http://www.thefooddefenseconference.com/program-overview/>
- Links:
 - Food Safety and Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) online: <http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/alliance/>
 - Food defense certification course: <https://foodprotection.umn.edu/news/post/food-defense-certification-course>
 - FSDTF statute section (28A.21): <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=28A.21>

2. Attachments:

- MDH Initiatives for 2016, presentation by Steven Diaz, MDH
- Overview of MN rulemaking process
- Draft terms of reference

3. The minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

4. Member and Visitor Updates:

Ben Miller (MDA): FSMA is keeping everyone busy. Sat lead instructor course at general mills. Reminder that these regulations will come into effect in 2016, some in September. Food and animal food will both be covered. Produce safety rule, NASDA convening at end of March to talk about state implementation for this rule. Continuing to hire in new staff for the Food and Feed Safety Division at the MDA.

Katie Swanson (Consultant): Currently working with the FSPCA and led development of curriculum that is currently being taught. The Human Food curriculum is developed; Animal Foods group started with human curriculum but modified it. Primary differences; Animal Foods is spending a lot more time on the GMPs because it is a newer area, in the chemicals chapter, the section on allergens was removed (not an issue for animals!), but they added food supplements because of toxicity to different species. Both feed and pet food are represented in the discussion. Going to pilot courses for Animal Food in February of 2016, and then the course structure will be similar to the Human Food side. The Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption rule is not under FSPCA but there is conversation to make sure overlapping areas are consistent.

Purnendu Vasavada (Retired from UW River Falls, working with FSPCA): Preventive controls for animal food also doing train the trainer courses, and there are some people applying to be a lead instructor for animal and human food area. The goal is to have the courses taught the same way.

Jane Jewett (MISA): The Minnesota Farmer's Market Association is providing eight Farmers' Market Academies around the state this winter. Training for the cottage food exemption is a large component of this training. Very good turnout so far at these academies, with the last two in Mankato and Rochester in February.

Jim VanDerPol (Pastures of Plenty, Minnesota Farmer's Union): The COOL program ruling is considered a great loss because more information is better than less, and because customers have a right to know. Looking to patch something together to get it back, or something similar.

Michael Dutcher (FDA): FSMA is the main focus currently. Minneapolis office will cover food and feed following restructuring. There are 13,000 establishments in four states under the Minneapolis FDA office, and 200 employees currently. October 1 is the date when the transition will take place and food and feed will become the only program areas in Minneapolis.

Courtney Bidney (General Mills): Bringing in Quality Managers and conducting Preventive Controls QI training for that group in February. Supply chain and control side focus currently, especially focusing on written assurance and what that means for suppliers.

Alida Sorenson (MDA): No active investigations at the moment, spending time reflecting on the past year and looking towards prevention based on previous events.

Katherine Simon (MDA): Hired new compliance officers, working on getting written procedures to comply with standards.

Maya Walker (Sparboe Farms): HPAI is at a lull, currently looking at biosecurity updates and creating audits. NPIR (national poultry improvement regulations).

Rebecca Gallup (Target): Food recalls impacting Target are up 20% over the previous year. National brands are mainly associated with these recalls, and there are very few with in-house brands.

Jeff Luedeman (MDA): Joined the MDA at the end of August and was formerly on the task force as a local health agency representative. Primarily have been focused on hiring supervisors and field inspection staff.

Kevin Meyers (Hormel): FSMA on the radar. Very familiar with HACCP requirements so looking at similarities currently and getting plants ready that are under the FDA.

Brad Honold (MDA): Innovation Grants Project Lead for the FFSD. Leading development of recall and traceability efforts through the electronic inspection system to allow for better tracking and sharing of information with other states.

John Larkin (FPDI): FPDI is hosting its annual Food Defense conference June 29-30th of this year. More information is available on the website

- <http://www.thefooddefenseconference.com/program-overview/> and FPDI is accepting abstracts for presentations. The Food Defense conference this year is being jointly sponsored by Tyco Integrated Security and FPDI.

FPDI is hosting a workshop February 16-17th for the development of a database that maps and organizes the training that exists for food emergency response professionals. Those interested in participating can contact Penny Norquist (pennyn@umn.edu)

FPDI is hosting a Cyber Summit (March 15-16th) for the food industry and government to dialog on cyber security. The focus of the Summit is to identify opportunities for further collaboration, identification of needs and gaps, and barriers to cybersecurity implementation. FPDI is very interested in having those responsible for cyber security within the food industry to attend the meeting. Please let John Larkin (jlarkin@umn.edu) know of individuals interested.

FPDI is still looking to hire a researcher to help lead the EMA research program.

Before the Food Defense conference a food defense certification class will be offered.

Information about the class can be found at: <https://foodprotection.umn.edu/news/post/food-defense-certification-course>

FPDI has a DHS funded workforce student (Justina Schiroo) that is looking for a summer internship focused on food defense. Justina is a Human Factors and Ergonomics graduate student and is looking to apply the concepts of user-centered design and service design to food defense and emergency preparedness and response. Please contact Deb Freedman (freedman@umn.edu) for more information.

Sara Mortimore (Land O'lakes): aligning FSMA with internal processes. Purina animal nutrition division means more of a focus on Animal Feed at the moment. Last year first feed plant was certified, FS34 is a different certification process being used at another plant this year. Good to compare and see the rigor required. Looking at how ready suppliers are for human food, animal feed, and ingredients. Looking at whether or not Land O'Lakes will train them, or just use the FDA online training modules. Also attended Helsinki meeting where codex HACCP was reviewed, 18 months ago.

Chris Gindorff (Lunds Byerlys): Supplier assessments, working on risk based assessments for all ingredients and products, getting 90% of all retail documents electronically; within the next two days the program will roll out and allow electronic access for almost all records.

Niki Bostock Felix (Grain Millers): Import quite a bit of food and feed grains, so are looking at suppliers.

Carissa Nath (AURI): Co-instruct HACCP workshops with Teresa and Ryan Cox. Next workshop will be February 18-19, 2016 in Saint Cloud, followed by one in July, and one in November in Saint Paul.

Alison Behling (Ecolab): Looking at chemical food safety for cleaning and sanitizing products. Providing written assurances for products used, making sure they will meet the requirements and will be compliant.

Ruth Petran (Ecolab): Meetings coming up include the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) meeting in Berlin, and the University of Georgia Center for Food Safety annual meeting. A lot of good information will be presented at the CFS meeting with industry, regulatory and CDC people in attendance. The Conference for Food Protection is coming up in April; finalizing an issue on produce washing for this meeting.

Shaun Kennedy (NCFPD): International Conference on One Medicine, One Science at the University of Minnesota will be held April 24-26, 2016. It is cosponsored by FAO and has a main session and a workshop focused on food system challenges and solutions: <http://cceevents.umn.edu/icomos>

5. Presentations:

- Steven Diaz: MDH Initiatives for 2016 (Presentation attached)
 - i. Questions generated from this talk:
 1. What can we do to partner moving forward?
 2. Does the Food Safety Partnership steering committee need to be a separate group?
 3. Could this be a subcommittee for the FSDTF?

- Linda Prail and Jeff Luedeman: Food Code update (Overview of MN rulemaking process attached)
 - i. Overview of MN rulemaking process; very complicated and there are many steps involved.
 - ii. The delay for the updated version of MN Food Code is somewhat related to the process.
 - iii. Revision has been in progress for 6.5 years. Advisory committee met to review and provide recommendations to MDA and MDH. Notice of intent to adopt with public hearing.
 - iv. Contact Linda if you would like to be on the delivery list for Food Code updates and information (Linda.Prail@state.mn.us).

6. Request to members and group to review and read the terms of reference and bring comments to next meeting in March

- The terms of reference (TOR) are attached for review, along with MN Statute 28A.21, specifically Subd. 5
- Terms of reference are currently in draft form for 2016 and need to be formally adopted.
- The goal is to provide more structure for the group and mission.
- General discussion:
 - i. There was a request for comments to be put in writing and brought to the next meeting
 - ii. Comment from Representative of the Farmers' Union, Jim VanDerPol: believers in strong local food systems. Key point that should be addressed under the vision and mission part: Reference to the idea of decentralizing our food system. FSDTF can look to provide opportunities for others to enter the food system. Example of centralized food system and problem with an outbreak being more widespread... if more decentralized the reach of the outbreak could be less. Trying to provide access as much as possible from the producer end.
 - iii. A second call for review of the vision and mission.
 - iv. Clarification was requested for Subd. 6: Expiration date for the task force. Needs review by the legislature how often?
 - v. Frequency of meetings held mentioned twice in the TOR; not clear which would be the dominant decision maker.
 - vi. Membership discussion – if people are appointed by the Governor to serve on this task force and do not show up, the group consensus is a problem.
 1. Allowable percentage of absences for members, possibly more realistic.
 - vii. Question about modifying statute for adding a stakeholder group to the list of other members required (could use the at-large positions)

7. FSPCA training discussion

- Train the trainer session held at Land O'Lakes the first week in February (Wed, Thurs, Fri). This course was reserved for people in Minnesota and the local region
- FSDTF courses: will sponsor qualified individual courses, for these classes the planning would fall to the task force, price would be set by the task force.
 - The FDA will have all investigators attend open courses with industry, other regulators, and academics to get the cross jurisdiction discussions.
 - This would be encouraged; a concern was expressed that newer inspectors need the dialogue with industry to see the materials as suggestions, not regulation. FDA inspectors are required to go to the industry course before they can attend an internal FDA course on the same material.
 - Will be able to buy the manual once version 2.0 is released. You can also download it from the website.
- The first Qualified Individual course sponsored by the FSDTF is scheduled for March 21, 22, and 23 at Ecolab.
 - Ruth Petran will be one of the instructors for this course
 - Will be space for 25 people
 - When publicizing this course, stress that it is for businesses that fall under the rule (what are the criteria).

8. Reminder of donation opportunity in memory of Cyrus Irani

Cyrus Irani passed away at the beginning of October in a car accident. He was an appointed Task Force Member who previously worked for Supervalu and also did food safety consulting. The Task Force is collecting money to donate in his name to the Minnesota Food Protection Association. If you would like to donate please make a check out to the Minnesota Food Protection Association and put a note on it stating that it is for the Cyrus/FSDTF donation. You can mail a check directly to the following address:

MFPA
c/o Kevin Habas
15281 - 19th Street Court North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Next meeting to be held Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the Pomeroy Center, University of Minnesota Campus, Saint Paul, MN

2016 Task Force Tentative Meeting

Schedule

March 24

May 17

July 19

September 20

November 15