



## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, February 9th, 2024  
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Virtual Only

MS Teams

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Meeting ID: 226 106 887 370

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Phone Conference ID: 410 127 065#

### **DRAFT AGENDA**

#### **10:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME**

*Councilmember Jon Stehle, FARM Chair*

*Councilmember Zachary Parker, FARM Vice Chair*

Chair Stehle and Vice Chair Parker will provide a welcome to the COG FARM Policy Committee and today's meeting. They will briefly review the meeting handouts, call for initial introductions in the chat, and facilitate discussion of Committee business.

A. Draft 2024 meeting schedule

B. COG Updates – *COG staff*

- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant update
- TPB TLC grants
- Legislative Updates

C. Member updates

D. Approval of the December meeting summary.

**Recommended Action:** Approve draft meeting summary.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.  
Visit [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

**10:25 A.M. 2. PRIORITIES FOR THE FEDERAL 2024 FARM BILL**

*Sydney Daigle, Owner, Lagniappe Partners in Health, LLC  
Consultant, COG FARM Policy Committee  
Ryan Losak, Vice President, Banner Public Affairs*

Mr. Losak will briefly review the U.S. Farm Bill's importance to food security and agriculture, when Congress should return to work on reauthorizing it, and key issues under discussion. He'll share insights on some opportunities for influence from the Metropolitan Washington Region, and recommended timing for outreach. Ms. Daigle will review how FARM examined this critical legislation in 2023. She'll also introduce FARM's priority letter to Metropolitan Washington's Congressional delegation.

There will be time for discussion of priorities and next steps for FARM's engagement.

**Recommended Action:** Discuss and approve next steps.

**11:10 A.M. 3. MEMBER UPDATES: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATE LEGISLATION**

*Jon Stehle, FARM Chair  
Zachary Parker, FARM Vice Chair*

Chair Stehle will facilitate brief updates from FARM members on state legislation before the Council of the District Columbia, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Virginia General Assembly on the following FARM priorities:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Healthy School Meals for All (free school meals)
- Legislation supporting small farmers and the region's food system
- Child Tax Credit

**Recommended Action:** Provide initial recommendations on legislation FARM may wish to learn more about, and support or oppose.

**11:30 A.M. 4. FARM MEMBER BUSINESS: NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND 2024 PRIORITIES**

*Zachary Parker, FARM Vice Chair  
Jon Stehle, FARM Chair*

Vice Chair Parker will facilitate new member introductions. New members will share a brief bio and two of their interests and priorities as they relate to FARM's 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. Chair Stehle will discuss a hybrid New Member Orientation in March.

**Recommended Action:** Provide feedback on New Member Orientation.

**11:55 A.M. 7. WRAP UP AND ADJOURN**

*Jon Stehle, FARM Chair*

*Zachary Parker, FARM Vice Chair*

The next regularly scheduled FARM Policy Committee meeting is Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Members are asked to hold the morning for a possible in-person meeting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

The MS Teams chat will remain open until 12:15 for any additional announcements or updates FARM members and other participants may want to share for follow-up from today's meeting.