



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL MEMBER (FARM) POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, April 8, 2022
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL ONLY

COG FARM Policy Committee Meeting Webinar

<https://mwcog.webex.com/mwcog/j.php?MTID=mf3c729b6fcfbd2c92afc6de556d69990>

Meeting number: 2432 683 0300

Password: FoodSec22

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 243 268 30300

DRAFT AGENDA

11:00 A.M. 1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL

Councilmember Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

11:05 A.M. 2. FARM PRIORITIES UPDATE AND MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Councilmember Cheh, FARM Chair

Chair Cheh will provide updates on the status of several legislative priorities that FARM has been tracking. She will also call for approval of the February 2022 meeting summary.

Recommended Action: Approve draft meeting summary.

11:10 A.M. 3. CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK: NORTHERN VIRGINIA FACILITY UPDATE

Radha Muthiah, CEO, Capital Area Food Bank

Ms. Muthiah will share an update on the progress of CAFB's Northern Virginia facility capital campaign and important operations notes since the February

meeting.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

11:20 A.M. 4. WHAT'S NEXT FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND OTHER FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS?

Crystal FitzSimons, Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs, Food Research Action Center

Michael J Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Hunger Solutions

Currently, the USDA's authority to provide flexibility for school meal service expires June 30th. A new bill has been introduced in Congress to extend needed waivers to schools to serve more children and students. Also, at a time of heightened need, SNAP enrollment is growing across the region. Currently, participants in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia continue to receive additional funds in addition to regular monthly benefits.

Ms. FitzSimons will provide an overview of potential changes ahead for schools and some highlights from the recently passed Omnibus Spending Bill on childhood nutrition. Mr. Wilson will discuss efforts to strengthen SNAP and reduce barriers to school meals in Maryland, along with some general updates on SNAP emergency allotments. Speakers will provide insights into how policymakers and advocates can support food insecure residents and strengthening state and federal responses.

Michael Ribar, Deputy Administrator, Division of Policy, Training and Quality Assurance, Economic Security Administration, D.C. Department of Human Services and Andrea Nannery, SNP Coordinator, Office of School Nutrition Programs, Virginia Department of Education will provide brief, on the ground perspectives on SNAP administration and school meals.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and participate in discussion

12:10 P.M. 4. LOCAL AGRICULTURE PERSPECTIVE: SAVING SPRING CROPS FROM ERRATIC WEATHER

Russell Shlagel, Shlagel Farms, Charles County, MD

Shlagel Farms has been farming for over a century in Charles County, MD. They are a diversified farm, raising fruits, vegetables, and animals for sale to grocery stores, produce brokers, and directly to consumers. The family's pick-your-own strawberry operation is one of few in Metropolitan Washington. Last week's unseasonably cold weather required them to work around the clock to protect this year's strawberry crop. Mr. Shlagel will provide a perspective on investments farmers have to make to maintain diversified farms like Shlagel Farms in a changing climate and uncertain business environment.

FARM Members are strongly urged to access [Shlagel Farms' Facebook](#) or

[Instagram pages](#) to see images and videos of the farm ahead of the meeting.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing

12:35 P.M. 6. FARM MEMBER UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

Zachari Curtis, Operations Director, Dreaming Out Loud

Ms. Curtis will provide a preview of a longer June meeting presentation on the USDA Urban Agriculture Federal Advisory Committee.

There will be time for additional FARM Policy Committee Member updates and discussion.

Recommended Action: Share updates

12:50 P.M. 7. FARM COMMITTEE: ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Lindsay Smith, Regional Food Systems Planner, COG

Ms. Smith will provide updates on the *Healthy Food Access Compendium for Metropolitan Washington*, new Work Groups, June's FARM Committee meeting, several site visit opportunities in 2022, and planning for the fiscal year 2023 work program.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and provide feedback

1:00 P.M. 8. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS AND ADJOURN

Mary Cheh, FARM Chair

The next FARM Committee meeting is Friday, June 10th at 11:00 am. The meeting will be in-person with a virtual option.

Meeting registration information for FARM Members and interested stakeholders will be forthcoming.