

FARM POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE & BUDGETS

A collaboration between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' members and local, state, and regional food and agriculture stakeholders.

January 1, 2023 – December 30, 2024

DRAFT

FARM POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Following the schedule below, 2-hour bimonthly FARM Committee Meetings are generally scheduled for the 2nd Friday of the month that the committee convenes, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. Several additional meetings may be added.

FARM Members and alternates are also encouraged to attend COG’s Annual Meeting held every December.

2023	Draft Topics
2/10/23	Strategic Planning for 2023 and 2024
4/14/23	New Member Orientation for FARM Members Regular Meeting: Schools, Food Security, Food and Agriculture Education, Policy, and Budget
5/12/23	Loudoun Farm Tour
6/9/23	Agriculture and the Farm Bill (virtual only)
8/11/23	Food System Resilience (proposed joint meeting with the MD Food System Resiliency Council, potentially in College Park, MD)
10/13/23	Annual USDA Forum
12/8/23	Main Topic(s): FARM Work Group(s) Assess Strategic Plan Progress
2024	Draft Topics
2/9/24	Abbreviated FARM Business Meeting Regional Farmers Markets Symposium
4/12/24	New Member Orientation for FARM Members Regular Meeting: Main Topic(s) TBD
6/14/24	Regular Meeting: Main Topic(s) TBD
8/9/24	Proposed Joint Meeting with Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
10/11/24	Annual USDA Forum
12/13/24	Main Topic(s) TBD
Spring or Fall 2024	Farm or Food System Tour

WORK GROUP MEETINGS

Will be determined and set by the following Work Groups:

- Catalytic Opportunities Work Group
- Regional Agricultural Work Group
- DMV Food Council Collaborative (formerly the Food Policy Directors/Food Security Coordinators Group)

The **Outreach Work Group** is proposed to be combined with the DMV Food Council Collaborative

FARM BUDGET

During 2022, COG’s Board created the member-supported FARM Fund to finance the FARM Committee’s work, beginning in FY23.

The FARM budget includes funding for a full-time FARM Committee Coordinator and several other COG staff who support FARM and its Work Groups. The budget also includes programmatic funds to support meeting expenses and speaker fees.

COG’s Regional Agricultural Initiative was the recipient of two local philanthropic grants in FY22. They are still being utilized for two purposes:

- To support the redesign and relaunch the [National Capital Farms website](#) to raise the profile of the region’s food and farm economy. National Capital Farms will also showcase COG member jurisdictions and state resources to connect with farmers and support a more equitable, resilient food system.
- To fund limited contractual assistance to support the organizational development of the Regional Agricultural Work Group and DMV Food Council Collaborative, including how these Work Groups can better support and inform FARM’s efforts. This assistance will also assess medium term opportunities to use COG member funding to leverage additional external funds to increase FARM’s capacity in support of COG members, FARM’s mission, and the region.

FISCAL YEAR 2023

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

BUDGET EXPENSES	
Staff Support	\$293,000
Meeting expenses/speaker fees/travel/misc	\$10,000
Contractual assistance	\$22,602
Total	\$325,602
REVENUE	
FARM Fund	\$325,602

FISCAL YEAR 2024

July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024

BUDGET EXPENSES	
Staff support (includes intern)	\$304,800
Meeting expenses/speaker fees/travel/misc	\$10,000
Contractual assistance	\$36,000
Total	\$350,800
REVENUE	
FARM Fund	\$338,800
Federal grant(s)	\$20,000
Total	\$358,000

FISCAL YEAR 2025

July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Staff will start building an FY25 budget in the next few months. For planning purposes, FARM Member Fund contributors can use a 5% increase over FY24 contribution levels. The exact rate will be determined by the COG Board during the fall of 2023.

OTHER

COG and FARM are part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Regional Food Business Center application submitted to the USDA in January 2022. The program is highly competitive, however, if the application is successful as submitted, this would change FARM's budget, increase staffing capacity, and deepen and expand work on several of FARM's priorities.