

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REGIONAL COLLABORATION

COG Member Engagement

Craig Rice, FARM Vice Chair
Councilmember, Montgomery County, MD

Jon Stehle, FARM Vice Chair
Councilmember, City of Fairfax, VA

November 13, 2020

Formation of Ag Task Force

- Created an Ag Task Force with elected official members of COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC)
 - Provided regular updates at CBPC meetings
- Interviewed leaders across DC, MD and VA to develop Ag Task Force Working Paper
 - Recommended Regional Food and Ag Commission, developed fundraising plan

VISION

Our goal is a more resilient, connected food and farm economy across urban, suburban and rural communities in the metropolitan Washington region that provides more of the region's food needs: a disruption of current trends. This transformation to create a more certain food future will result in workforce development, economic growth, environmental, health, and cultural benefits, including as these relate to climate change. An increased number of diverse food and agricultural enterprises will be more visible, supported, and celebrated by residents, leaders, and visitors of all kinds

The Ag Task Force's Working Paper (November 2019) included a vision for the kind of food and farm economy a Regional Commission could work toward.

COVID-19 Reshapes Path Forward

- Confirmed need for regional collaboration
- Underscored need to bring more focus to food security and food access while advancing Ag Task Force, *What Our Region Grows* recommendations
- Necessitated different approach: Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad-Hoc Committee



A socially-distanced food distribution at the Vista at White Oak Apartments led by Kingdom Fellowship Church and partners in Montgomery County over the summer. Jewru Bandeh/East County Regional Service Center

Committee Charge

From Certified Resolution R37-2020:

The Board endorses the establishment of a Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Ad-Hoc Committee for a period of one year from its commencement (with necessary extension as approved by the COG Board), which would be charged with:

- 1) Making policy recommendations for member jurisdictions to support a more resilient, connected food and farm economy in metropolitan Washington;
- 2) Recommending how to provide long-term direction and collaboration through a regional food and agriculture committee representing diverse entities across metropolitan Washington;
- 3) Furthering the goals identified in the *What Our Region Grows* report to the benefit of member jurisdictions; and
- 4) Assisting COG in continuing its COVID-19 food security collaboration.

More Information

Craig Rice, FARM Vice Chair
Councilmember, Montgomery County, MD
craig.rice@montgomerycountymd.gov

Jon Stehle, FARM Vice Chair
Councilmember, City of Fairfax, VA
jon.stehle@fairfaxva.gov

Lindsay Smith
Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator
(202) 962-3307
lsmith@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002