



FARM POLICY COMMITTEE AND MARYLAND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING

Friday, August 11, 2023
10 am to 12:15 pm

City Hall
7401 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Zoom Connection Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/91633932736>

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,91633932736# US (Washington DC)

+19292056099,,91633932736# US (New York)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

*** If you will be joining via Zoom, you may wish to ensure that you have set up a Zoom account ahead of time for signing into the meeting.**

AGENDA

9:30 A.M. 1. ARRIVAL AND OPEN NETWORKING

Coffee, tea, and morning refreshments will be available.

Zoom will begin at 10:00 am.

10:00 A.M. 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Councilmember Maria Mackie, COG FARM Policy Committee Member
Brittany Cook, Executive Associate to Secretary Russell Strickland, Maryland
Department of Emergency Management, Co-Chair, Maryland Food System
Resilience Council*

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

*Councilmember Jon Stehle, COG FARM Policy Committee Chair
Heather Bruskin, Director, Montgomery County Office of Food Systems Resilience
Co-Chair, Maryland Food System Resilience Council, and FARM Member*

City of College Park Councilmember, and FARM Policy Committee Member, Maria Mackie, will provide a welcome to College Park.

Ms. Cook, Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) will provide opening remarks and information about the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC), including structure, subcommittees, and priorities. He will ask FSRC members and staff to briefly introduce themselves.

FARM Chair Jon Stehle will share an overview of the COG FARM Policy Committee and facilitate introductions of FARM members and all other meeting guests. He will also call for approval of the June FARM meeting summary by FARM members.

MD FSRC Co-Chair and FARM Member Bruskin will provide a short of overview this first joint meeting and introduce speakers for Item 3.

Recommended Action: Approve June FARM Meeting Summary.

10:30 A.M. 3. PERSPECTIVES ON CRISIS AND OUR REGION'S FOOD SYSTEM AND ITS CAPACITY TO RESPOND: REGIONAL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

*Zachari Curtis, USDA Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee Member,
FARM Catalytic Opportunities Work Group Member, Washington, D.C.*

Ms. Curtis has an extensive background in the Mid-Atlantic region's food system. She has been an owner operator of a small farm and food business, staff at Bread for the City and Dreaming Out Loud, and more. Ms. Curtis has worked with a range of stakeholders, including Black farmers and food entrepreneurs, and residents of historically disadvantaged communities. She was also an Advisory Board member of the Mid-Atlantic Food Access and Resilience Coalition (MAFRAC), started during COVID-19 to connect our region's farmers with organizations and community groups providing emergency food assistance.

*Michael Protas, One Acre Farm, Montgomery County, MD,
In conversation with Brittany Cook, Executive Associate to Secretary Strickland,
MDEM*

Mr. Protas has been operating One Acre Farm since 2008, purchasing his own 34-acre farm in Dickerson in 2017. Mr. Protas will discuss his experiences as a small farmer who has provided food assistance to catastrophic events in the region and in other parts of the country, namely, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing. FARM and FSRC Members will share questions, observations, and perspectives.

11:10 A.M. 4. PLANNING FOR CRISIS AND OUR REGION'S FOOD AND WATER RESILIENCE

Mark Scott, Critical Infrastructure Specialist, District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DC HSEMA)
Philip J. Palin, Subject-Matter Expert and Consultant, Supply Chain Resilience

In 2019, FEMA awarded DC HSEMA a Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant to undertake planning for the National Capital Region's (NCR) food and water resilience. After several years of planning, HSEMA received subsequent implementation funding to continue building regional capacity.

Mr. Scott will give an overview of outcomes to date, including as they relate to the major grocery supply chains which provide most of the region's food. He will discuss project tasks and how it is leveraging data and information to equip emergency managers in DC and the NCR with new tools to plan for, and respond to, catastrophic events impacting food access.

Mr. Palin will provide an overview of the project's work to strengthen public private stakeholder relationships in the NCR and Mid-Atlantic, and the value of doing so.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discussion.

11:45 A.M. 5. MARYLAND FOOD BANK EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PROJECT WITH MDEM

Sania Shams, Director of Sourcing and Inventory, Maryland Food Bank
Daniel Sturm, VP for Learning, Measurement, and Evaluation, Maryland Food Bank (MFB)

Ms. Shams and Mr. Sturm will provide a high-level overview of MFB's new Early Warning System Reports (Cost of Goods) and how this information is being incorporated into the Maryland Department of Emergency Management's thresholds for awareness and mitigation.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and discussion.

12:00 P.M. 6. FARM AND FSRC MEMBER UPDATES

Heather Bruskin, Co-Chair, FSRC, FARM Member

Ms. Bruskin will provide brief, summary observations from the meeting. She will start and facilitate this open time for FARM and FSRC members to share updates and announcements of regional or statewide interest.

12:15 PM 7. ADJOURN TO LUNCH AND NETWORKING

Ms. Cook, MDEM and FSRC
Chair Stehle, FARM Policy Committee