



## **MEETING SUMMARY (DRAFT)**

Friday, February 14th, 2024

### **DECISIONS & ACTIONS**

- *FARM members approved the December meeting summary and the proposed changes to FARM's Bylaws.*
- *Staff will share resources and takeaways from the presentation on Avian Influenza.*
- *The full Citizen Centric Report will be shared with members at the March Member Retreat.*

### **WELCOME AND MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

*Councilmember Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair*

Chair Friedson opened the meeting by welcoming members and outlining the agenda, which featured a presentation on avian influenza's effects on agriculture and public health. New members introduced themselves, sharing their backgrounds and interests in food security. Returning members also provided brief introductions.

Outgoing member Hugo Mogollon, Executive Director of FRESHFARM, shared farewell remarks, highlighting the emotional significance of his departure. He discussed the critical role of food and agriculture in local governance and the complexities of balancing development pressures with the need for productive farmland. Mr. Mogollon expressed gratitude for the partnerships formed during his time and the achievements of FRESHFARM in supporting farmers and food access.

### **FARM COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

*Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair*

Chair Friedson initiated the approval process for the meeting summary and the proposed changes to the FARM's bylaws. After confirming a quorum, the committee voted unanimously in favor of both items. The changes to the bylaws were discussed and summarized, with no objections raised during the voting process.

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA'S IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND SOCIETY**

*Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair*

*Kevin Atticks, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)*

*Dr. Jennifer Trout, State Veterinarian, MDA*

*Dr. David A. Crum, State Public Health Veterinarian, Maryland Department of Health*

Andrew Friedson highlighted the significance of avian flu in relation to public health and agriculture, introducing key speakers for the session. Secretary Atticks discussed active cases in Maryland, emphasizing collaboration with neighboring states and the USDA to manage outbreaks in both commercial and backyard poultry.

Dr. Jennifer Trout provided an overview of recent cases, biosecurity measures, and the importance of routine surveillance in preventing the spread of the virus.

Dr. Crum discussed the public health concerns surrounding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), highlighting that food safety remains intact for products like eggs and poultry. He reported 69 confirmed human cases linked to exposure to infected animals but reassured that the CDC assesses the risk to the general public as low. Crum emphasized the importance of ongoing surveillance and collaboration with local health departments to monitor potential cases.

Charles Green, Deputy Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, addressed questions regarding avian flu's impact on Virginia's poultry industry, highlighting a significant case affecting 470,000 broilers. He explained that the commercial poultry sector remains a vital part of Virginia's agriculture, accounting for one-third of farm cash receipts. Additionally, he mentioned ongoing testing protocols for dairy cattle and the collaboration with neighboring states.

## **2025 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

*Supervisor Laura TeKrony, FARM Vice Chair*  
*Ryan Losak, Banner Public Affairs*

Laura TeKrony shared insights on Virginia's short legislative session, noting the governor's budget amendments and the anticipated Medicaid funding shortage affecting many Virginians. She encouraged farm members to support the hunger-free campus grant program and mentioned ongoing food security legislation, including a bill to expand restaurant participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Ryan Losak outlined the administration's strategy of prioritizing return on investment in policy discussions, which is influencing current legislative efforts. He detailed the contrasting approaches of the House and Senate in their budget reconciliation processes, with the House proposing a larger package and the Senate opting for a more focused approach. The importance of coalition building among members, especially given the slim margins in Congress, was also emphasized.

## **FARM'S 2-YEAR CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT**

*Jon Stehle, Past FARM Chair*

Jon Stehle introduced the citizen-centric report which aims to effectively communicate local government efforts in a concise format. He stressed the significance of sharing stories to illustrate the impact of government work, particularly in addressing food insecurity. Stehle also mentioned the collaborative efforts of the committee and the importance of strategic planning for future initiatives.

## **NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN**

*Andrew Friedson, FARM Chair*

Andrew Friedson provided an overview of the meeting schedule, emphasizing key dates such as the member retreat on March 14th and a virtual meeting on April 11th.

Heather Bruskin announced the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council's weekly meetings during the General Assembly, aimed at discussing food system-related bills.

Caroline Howe highlighted the DC Food Policy Council's busy schedule, including collaborations with researchers on urban agriculture and procurement practices.

The next regular FARM meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FARM MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Chair, Montgomery County  
Supervisor Laura TeKrony, Vice Chair, Loudoun County  
Councilmember Zachary Parker, Vice Chair, District of Columbia  
Marilyn Blount, Town of Bladensburg (Alternate)  
Heather Bruskin, Director, Montgomery County Office of Food System Resilience  
Tara Clemons Johnson, Montgomery County Council (Alternate)  
Council Member Jacinta Greene, City of Alexandria  
Caron Gremont, FRESHFARM (Alternate)  
Caroline Howe, DC Food Policy Director, DC Office of Planning  
Councilmember Jessica Landman, City of Takoma Park  
Stephen M. Liggett-Creel, Director, Prince George's County Social Services  
Carrol McBryde, Town of Bladensburg  
Mayor Pro Tem, Denise Mitchell, City of College Park  
Tom Gordy, Prince William County  
Julia Gross, MD Hunger Solutions (Alternate)  
Sara Hoverter, Georgetown University  
Meredith Ledlie Johnson, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Councilmember Rachel McQuillen, City of Fairfax  
Council Member Ralph Smith, City of Manassas  
Mike Scheffel, Director, Montgomery County Office of Agriculture (Alternate)  
Councilmember Roger Schlegel, City of Takoma Park (Alternate)  
Katie Stevens, Director, Frederick County Office of Agriculture (Alternate)

#### **SPEAKERS**

Hugo Mogollon, Executive Director, FRESHFARM\*  
Secretary Kevin Atticks, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)  
Dr. Jennifer Trout, State Veterinarian, MDA  
Dr. David A. Crum, State Public Health Veterinarian, MD Department of Health  
Charles Green, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services\*  
Ryan Losak, Vice President, Banner Public Affairs  
Jon Stehle, Chair Emeritus  
\* *denotes FARM Member*

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Aisha Salazar	Deborah Haynes
Ann Medford	Eleni Shepard
Annika La Fave	Elisa Solomon
Bria Hamlet	Emily Lacey
Brittany Cook	Emily Landsman
Carla Cash	Hansen, Warren
Corey Welcher (NIH/NIAID)	Harrison Palmer

Jason Sierra  
Jennifer Freeman  
Jesse Pearlmutter  
Jessie Lupo (DOH)  
Jocelyn Tidwell  
Joe Liu  
Kim Rush Lynch  
Lorien MacAuley, PhD  
Maria Huerta  
Mary Charlton  
Matt Mulder  
Max Broad

**COG**

Steve Bieber  
Sydney Daigle  
Sushanth Gupta  
Christine Howard  
Wyetha Lipford  
Lisa Ragain  
Eli Russ  
Lindsay Smith

Michelle Nelson  
Myeasha Taylor  
Nancy K Nunn  
Patti Anderson  
Russell Strickland  
Samuel Bonar (Council)  
Stacey Evers  
Stephanie Hopkins  
Sydney Garner  
Willie Woode