

Meeting Minutes – Full Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mims Distributing – Conference Room,
8605 Ebenezer Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27617 919-879-4634

The meeting began at 9:35 a.m. with Steve Tracey welcoming all in attendance.

- I. Steve Tracey of Food Lion requested that all in attendance introduce themselves to start the meeting. A review of minutes from the November 13th meeting was held and the minutes were accepted.
- II. Agenda
 - A. Foodborne Illness Outbreak Update – Nicole Lee, DPH/NCDHHS
 - a. There were no recent foodborne illnesses to report.
 - B. FSMA Comment Updates – Joe Reardon, NCDA&CS
 - a. Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection, NCDA&CS provided an update on FSMA, the proposed rules issued by FDA and Department activities relative to the review of the rules. FSMA represents a historic change in the regulation of food; it moves food safety from a reactive model to one based on risk-based preventive concepts.
 - b. The FDA has issued several proposed rules mandated by FSMA; these rules cover produce safety, human preventive controls, animal food preventive controls, two rules regarding import safety and one of the intentional adulteration of food. (At the time of the meeting, the rule regarding safe transportation of food had not been issued; it was issued in January 2014.)
 - c. NCDA&CS has taken a strong leadership role in preparing comments for the rules working in conjunction with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Under the leadership of Ag Commissioner Steve Troxler (past president of NASDA) a technical working group was established to conduct a comprehensive review of all these rules to provide comments to FDA. It is critical that FDA hears these concerns and takes appropriate steps to make changes in several areas; these rules should not be made final until they are right.
 - d. Because the need to get the rules right is so critical, NASDA and several other national associations called on FDA to re-release the rules for a second comment period; they have agreed to a second comment period for key areas in the produce safety and human preventive controls rules. These key areas will include areas that have been identified in comments as requiring significant revision such as the water standards and water testing requirements in the produce safety rule. The revised language is scheduled to be released for public comment sometime in the summer of 2014.
 - e. There is no question that these rules will have an impact on NC industry from farm to fork and NCDA&CS is committed to supporting our industry in successful implementation of these rules. The department is committed to education before regulation and looks forward to partnering with NCSU in developing and delivering essential outreach and education programs. Not only will industry bear a significant cost of implementation, existing state agency and university resources will not be adequate to meet future outreach, education and research demands. NASDA has

called on FDA to develop a process to provide support/resources to industry and all impacted stakeholders such as state agencies and universities.

- f. The next couple of years will represent many changes to the regulation of food and food safety in general with many changes to industry and regulatory practices. NCDA&CS will continue to be engaged in the process of review and comment as these rules move from proposed to final rules and will take a leadership role as the rules are implemented.

III. A. Committee reports:

- a. Executive Committee – Nicole Lee, DPH/NCDHHS
 - i. Final draft of the 2013 Food Defense Task Force report was finished in the beginning of January 2014 and will be submitted through the same process as the report.
 - ii. It has been proposed to refocus the work of the recall committee to educate on how to develop recall plans with the implementation of FSMA.
 - iii. 2013 was the last year of the grant NCFSDTF will need to apply again for the grant if/when funds are available.
 - iv. The Executive Order was drafted and submitted by Larry Michael, Dan Ragan and Alan Wade. It has been renewed through 2015.
 - v. The NCFSDTF website is not currently being maintained. It has been identified as a current gap.
- b. Dairy Security Committee – Jim Melvin, NCDA&CS
 - i. This committee has been inactive for a few months.
 - ii. The current proposal is to reorganize the members and develop new strategic plan for 2014.
- c. Recall Enhancement Committee – Annette Dunlap, NCDA&CS
 - i. The Executive Committee proposed to refocus the work of the recall committee to educate on how to develop recall plans with the implementation of FSMA.
 - ii. Dr. Harry Wilson has recently retired leaving a void in this committee.
 - iii. Alan Wade is in the process of trying to hire Dr. Wilson's replacement. He has proposed we table this committee until we can get additional assistance.
- d. Crop/Produce (including NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force) – Fletch Arritt, NCSU
 - i. Gearing up for the rule through the development of training and curriculum.
 - ii. Chip Simmons reported on attending several vegetable growers meetings.
- e. Conference Planning Committee – Steve Tracey, Food Lion
 - i. The date has been reserved for 5/18-5/20/2014 at the Sheraton in Durham.
 - ii. Steve did note that last year and this year's conference conflicts with another meeting and will be taken into consideration for planning the 2015 conference.
 - iii. The theme is Food Defense – Prevent Intentional Contamination.
 - iv. Currently only have 3 speakers for a 2 day conference.
 - v. Steve is asking for volunteers for this committee.
- f. Outreach and Communication Committee – Ben Chapman, NCSU (not in attendance)
 - i. No report
 - ii. The Executive Committee will discuss the current gap in the maintenance of the website.
- g. Education and Exercise Committee – Annette Dunlap, NCDA&CS
 - i. Annette has been able to secure speakers for each Full Task Force meeting.

B. Committee reports:

- a. Academic Reports

- b. Industry Reports – no report
- c. Agency Reports –
 - a. Larry Michael – They are working to fill an empty position
 - b. Jim Melvin, NCDA&CS - Dorian Dixon is the new Food Defense Coordinator
- IV. Presentation: Dr. Lee-Ann Jaykus – USDA-NIFA Food Virology Collaborative (NoroCORE)
 - a. Dr. Lee-Ann Jaykus with NCSU provided an overview of NoroCore, the USDA-NIFA Food Virology Collaborative based at NCSU. NCSU received funding from USDA to establish a program to reduce food borne illnesses caused by viruses, specifically Norovirus. The team is working to develop tools, skills and capacity to understand and control food borne virus risks.
 - b. The NoroCore project has six objectives:
 - i. Molecular virology: Explore different cultivation methods and validate surrogate viruses
 - ii. Detection: Develop and validate detection methods in food, environment and clinical samples
 - iii. Epidemiology and Risk Analysis: Examination of viral food borne illness population data
 - iv. Prevention and Control: Examine occurrence and behavior of Norovirus in the food safety chain to determine best control processes
 - v. Extension and Outreach: Develop training/outreach targeting shellfish producers, fresh produce industry, retail, consumers, and public health professionals using new technology such as social media, apps, and Twitter
 - vi. Capacity Building: Develop ways to share information such as training resources, educational programs on virology
- V. Agenda items for next meeting(s) and meeting date and time
 - a. March 12th in Salisbury at Food Lion Corporate Offices
- VI. Adjournment – 11:30 AM