

Meeting Minutes- Full Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Food Lion Headquarters
2085 Harrison Road
Salisbury, NC 28145
Founders Hall room 1

The meeting began at 10:04 AM with Larry Michael welcoming all in attendance.

- I. All in attendance introduced themselves to start the meeting. A review of the meeting minutes from the January 15, 2014 and the minutes were accepted.
- II. Agenda
 - A. Food borne Illness Outbreak Update – Nicole Lee, DPH/DHHS
 - a. Nicole Lee discussed a recent outbreak of norovirus at a Union County Dunkin Donuts. Food handlers were working while ill and the drive through of the restaurant remained open during an interior sewage spill. Around 50 persons including workers, their family contacts and customers became ill. DHHS is confident this issue is now over
 - b. Nicole Lee discussed a norovirus outbreak that occurred last week at a school in Buncombe County. The outbreak was linked to a sewage spill and does not appear food related. As many as 150 of the 400 students were out sick, but as of Tuesday 3/11 that number was down to 32.
- III. Business
 - A. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Steve Tracey
 - i. The executive committee met February 12th at Constable Lab in Raleigh. Previous outbreaks of Shigellosis and Listeriosis were discussed as well as recalls involving tomatoes, Healthy Choice Chicken and Rice Soup, and Beef from Rancho Feeding Corporation in California.
 - ii. Grant funding for the May conference was discussed. \$8500 in funding is available. Eduardo Rodriguez suggested obtaining sponsorship for breaks and meals during the conference. Eco Lab and Food Lion have agreed to each sponsor a break, and there may be a sponsor for lunch. Details of the conference were discussed. There are currently 7 confirmed speakers. The Executive Committee agreed to pay the travel and lodging expenditures for the out of state speakers.
 - iii. The task force’s annual report was completed at the end of 2013 and sent to the Governor.
 - iv. NC ISAAC has offered to take over the task force web site that has been somewhat inactive.
 - v. The Executive Committee adjourned around 11:05 am. The next Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th.
 - b. Dairy Security Committee – Dan Ragan spoke for Jim Melvin
 - i. The NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division is working a lot closer with the dairy industry than before receiving the Grade A milk program. The agency has employed two new dairy inspectors.
 - c. Recall Enhancement Committee – Steve Tracey spoke for Annette Dunlap

- i. Steve stated he was not sure what direction Annette had in mind for this committee. Dan Ragan stated he thought the committee would be moving in another direction. Alan Wade noted the committee is one person short. Ben Matthews stated his agency, Department of Public Instruction, would like a presence on the committee and that he would contact Annette.
- d. Crop/Produce Committee – Steve Tracey for Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez
 - ii. Steve Tracey remarked that he was getting great impressions of Eduardo. Anita MacMullan announced that NC State will be hosting a workshop for growers April 15-17. There is a \$250 fee for 3 day course and participants will leave with tangibles.
 - iii. Anita MacMullan recently conducted outreach activities regarding the Food Safety Modernization Act in Myrtle Beach, SC and at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, NC. Anita stated the FDA is under court order to have end dates for rules. There are currently 7 rules out for comments and comment periods may be extended. The rules review process will continue through the fall. Dan Ragan elaborated that the unintended consequences are important for FDA to learn during the rule making process. Some rules thought to be simple end up being very complex. Alan Wade remarked that the Meat and Poultry industry went through similar changes in the 1990's during HACCP implementation. He stated laws are often geared towards the larger corporations and place unintended burdens on small businesses. Anita discussed that agricultural byproducts such as pulp from orange juice factories, and spent grains from breweries are currently being saved for animal feed. Such products would fall under the proposed animal feed rules and be required to incorporate food safety measures. Anita suggested everyone look at the proposed sanitary transportation rule. Proposed rules can be found at www.fda.gov or www.regulations.gov.
 - iv. Donna Wanucha recently participated in a SIFSAN call. They had 9,000 comments on the preventative controls rule and 15,000 comments on the produce rule. All comments are taken seriously and looked at by rule makers.
- e. Conference Planning Committee – Steve Tracey
 - i. There have been two conference calls since January 1 to discuss the conference. Anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Steve. A draft agenda was shared with all in attendance. Seven speakers are confirmed. Steve asked for Feedback on the topic for Dr. Amy Kircher to discuss. It was decided the Farm Took Kit and FIDES (Focused integrated Data for Early Signals) had the most interest of the committee members present.
- f. Outreach and Communication Committee – Steve Tracey for Ben Chapman
 - i. Steve stated he and Ben had discussed having a joint meeting with the Task Force and Carolinas Association of Food Protection (CAFP). Ben Chapman is the president of CAFP.
- g. Education and Exercise Committee – Steve Tracey for Annette Dunlap

i. Steve remarked that Annette had speakers lined up for all of this year's Task Force meetings.

B. Other Reports

a. Academic Reports – None

b. Industry Reports – Steve Tracey

i. Steve remarked that Food Lion had been involved in 3 class 1 recalls, most recently popsicles that had packaging exposed to milk products. Milk was not on the ingredients of the popsicle. Dan Ragan stated the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division is currently following 17 national recalls.

c. Agency Reports

i. Alan Wade discussed the recall of 9 million pounds of beef slaughtered without full inspection at Rancho Feeding Corporation in California. Alan explained the corporation allegedly slaughtered animals unfit for human consumption when the inspector was not present. This investigation is a criminal one. The company could not prove how long this practice had been occurring, which increased the scope of the recall.

ii. Nicole Lee stated she has been working with the Centers for Disease Control on Listeriosis outbreaks. Shopper card information has been requested by the CDC. Nicole would like to speak with supermarket chains about getting shopper information affecting outbreaks.

iii. Donna Wanucha remarked that the 2013 Food Code changed the definition of "packaged" and had more emphasis on allergen controls. It also streamlined the reduced oxygen packaging section. Donna stated there is a Conference for Food Protection meeting this year in May. This is the forum where changes to the Food Code are made. South Carolina will be adopting the Food Code in May.

iv. Larry Michael of the Division of Public Health remarked that NC adopted the 2009 Food Code and hopes to get legislation passed in the next long session so NC can automatically adopt Food Code updates as amendments come out. Larry stated his agency hired a new Food Defense Coordinator. Jennifer Stewart will be starting March 21. A Section Chief position will be announced soon. Their Division Director is Penny Slade-Sawyer and Dr. Cummings is still the Interim State Health Director.

IV. Presentation – Lori Jenrette – QA Supervisor & Recall Coordinator – Harris Teeter

a. Ms. Jenrette has been employed with Harris Teeter since 1980. She discussed recalls and food security issues. She stated their team takes 28 steps to initiate a Class I recall. Recent incidents discussed included: popsicle recall, caller alleging he poisoned cookies, someone spraying deer attractant in a store, a customer upset their ice cream didn't have enough chocolate chips, and bloody clothes found in a store rest room. She remarked that customers are now turning to social media to vocalize their complaints rather than calling. Ms. Jenrette answered several questions about how they use scanner blocks to stop the sale of recalled products and the steps they take to ensure recalled products do not get returned to store shelves.

V. Agenda items for next meeting and meeting date in time

a. The next regular committee meeting will be in July. The May conference counts for the May meeting.

VI. Adjournment – 12:25 PM