



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## Governor's Council for Agricultural Development Food Safety Modernization Working Group



### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD March 20, 2014

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Jason Hoagland, working group co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Call in participants include the three working group Co-Chairs: Jason Hoagland, George Hindinger, and Michael Keilty; and working group members:

Christine Applewhite	-	DPH-Food Protection
Nelson Cecarelli	-	Cecarelli Farm
William DellaCamera	-	Cecarelli Farm
Diane Hirsch	-	UConn Extension
Steve Souza	-	FDA
Kristin DeRosia-Banick	-	DoAg-Aquaculture
Anita Kopchinski	-	Hidden Brook Gardens

In attendance were:

Frank Greene, DCP	-	Working Group Member
Wayne Kasacek, DoAg	-	Working Group Staff
Mark Zotti, DoAg	-	Working Group Staff
Linda Piotrowicz, DoAg	-	GCAD Staff

The working group member that was invited but could not attend was Richard Rybczynski, Heart of the Harvest.

#### II. APPROVAL OF 02/27/2014 MINUTES

The working group members reviewed draft minutes from 02/27/2014. Co-Chair George Hindinger moved to approve them and Co-Chair Michael Keilty seconded. There was no discussion and the working group unanimously accepted the motion.

#### III. FINALIZATION OF DRAFT DELIVERABLES

Co-chair Jason Hoagland reviewed a rough draft of the Food Safety Modernization Working Group's report back to the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development. The working group discussed various suggestions to the council related to the group's assignments:

- Study/Review both proposed rules
- Gather input from producers on concerns about the rules
- Identify gaps/extraordinary costs for producers to comply with rules

The working group discussed suggestions within each of the following areas with a goal of providing insight and direction on specific objectives for co-chairs to consider when making suggestions to GCAD in their draft report.

The report/areas discussed were broken into three areas:

- Food Safety Modernization Regulation Suggestions  
Working group discussed possible programs to assist Connecticut Agriculture producers. It also discussed the importance of regulating agencies working together and meeting on a regular basis.

- Food Safety Modernization Education Suggestions  
Working Group talked about the importance of having adequately staffed UConn Extension with emphasis on hiring proper personal. Also discussed was the importance of working with additional education agencies to educate food producers in the state.
- Food Safety Modernization Funding Suggestions  
The Working Groups discussed the importance of program development to reduce the financial burden on agricultural producers. It also discussed the allocation of funds to help with food safety improvements on Connecticut farms.

In addition to the three areas listed above, Anita Kopchinski felt a suggestion related to Rapid Response Team to assist farms in disagreement with regulatory officials should be included in the report delivered by co-chairs.

#### IV. NEXT STEPS

Co-chair Jason Hoagland described the process moving forward which included the co-chairs presenting the 2014 Food Safety Modernization Working Group's suggestions to the council. Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation for the members' participation. Linda Piotrowicz, on behalf of Commissioner Reviczky, expressed appreciation for members' participation and the importance of the work completed.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Co-Chair Jason Hoagland adjourned meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Zotti  
March 20, 2014