



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.com

Established 2003

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 - 9:30AM (EST)

Zoom information:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/91003749758?pwd=T2pCQ1ZGRDBKQnZnOFArVWZXNWtjQT09>

Meeting ID: 910 0374 9758

Passcode: 989206

I. **Welcome, Introductions, & Membership Engagement** – Lynette Johnston

Welcome and agenda provided by Lynette Johnston.

- New attendee introductions: No new member introductions
- “Meet me in 3” member introduction: Daniel Gaines, NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division Worked with NCDA for 8 years, responsible for the food program which includes retail groceries, food processors, retail ice cream, etc. He also is responsible for outbreak and recall response for foods that fall under NCDA jurisdiction.

Task Force has helped to network and form relationships. Knows who to contact. Would like to see more engagement among local health departments and food processing businesses.

Lynette also would like to see more engagement and solicited for conference planning members or executive committee members

II. **May Minutes Approval:**

- May conference follow up: Veronica provided brief update from conference.

III. **Outbreak Update**

- Neeti: ongoing case counts for Salmonella in peanut butter, NC has 2 cases

IV. **Business:**

A. Committee reports:

- Executive Committee – **Lynette Johnston/Sarah Cope**

Executive committee met in June. Talked about the conference and nominations for the chair-elect. Lynette will move into past chair and Sarah Cope will be Chair beginning in September.

- FERC – **Food Emergency Response and Communication (FERC) sub-committee– Sean Silva, NC Dept. of Ag (NCDA&CS)**

Have discussed some recalls. Bumblebee Foods canned smoked clams, reason for recall is per and poly PFAS. Nationwide recall, company has been contacted. A&M Farms Vidalia onions for Listeria, only Sam’s Club. 9th Street Bakery located in NC had recall for undeclared wheat in white bread. Successful recall effectiveness checks. Recall effectiveness checks were conducted for JIF Peanut Butter recall. Other companies had to complete recalls for products that JIF Peanut Butter was used in other products. Found that some companies that use JIF peanut butter do not get product from manufacturer, product being purchased from grocery stores, this complicates recall. No Meat and Poultry recalls impacting NC. People interested in attending FERC meeting on Monday mornings should contact Sean Silva.

- Crop/Produce – **Chris Harris, NCDA&CS**

Chris not present due to conflict. On Farm Readiness Reviews and Inspections are being completed and are picking up. Fresh Produce Safety Task Force meets each month the second Thursday of the month.

- Conference Planning Committee 2023 - **Veronica Bryant/Lynette Johnston**
Lynette will take over official conference planning for 2023. Discussion about how to hold meeting. Comments were that people miss in person meetings. Lynette solicited volunteers for conference planning. Veronica stated that theme will need to be chosen
- Task Force Education and Exercise Committee – **Candice Christian, NC State University**
Thank you to speakers Helen Lawrence and Matt Perkins from FBI. Always looking for speakers. Speakers scheduled for the rest of the year. Candice said that we would be interested in hearing from anyone about their projects or work they are doing.

B. COVID Updates from all stakeholders

Veronica mentioned Covid food packaging article that was released on Monday. Provided links to the article and the supporting paper from China about 7 outbreaks linked to food packaging.

C. Other reports:

- Academic Reports
- Industry Reports

Lindsey Keuffner from Retail Merchants, only report is they are looking at peanut butter recall and supply issues. Some supply chain issues related to peanut butter recall.

- Agency Reports

Shane Smith gave update on rules. Institution rules are in public comment. Legislative update, change to language on how bars are regulated. DHHS working to write position statement or memo. Three rules to be written in 2023.

Donna Wanucha provide update from Office State Cooperative Programs – Seminar will be held virtually on September 20-22. Southeast breakout will be Tuesday. Theme of conference is all things norovirus. Food Code and 2021 Program Standards will be available in the fall. Food Code has some language on allergens in retail, but language is not yet available. Seminar information will be shared once available.

Daniel Gaines September 11-14 AFDOSS will have conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Agenda will be available on the website.

Amanda Osteen – filling in for Michelle Howard. Tracking adverse health effects from lentils and leak crumbles. Listeria in ice cream, North Carolina not impacted. Listeria outbreak associated with leafy greens, NC has one case. New Salmonella Braenderup outbreak with North Carolina having one case. New contracts are coming up and so they are working on those new contracts.

D. Additional business

- V. **Speaker** – Helen S. Lawrence, Chemical Biological Countermeasures Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation (speaker introduction by Matthew Perkins)
Goal of presentation is to provide overview of FBI programs.

- VI. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn by Daniel Gaines, seconded by Shane Smith.

NOTE: Our next full Task Force meeting is September 14th at 9:30am. Our regular meetings are scheduled for every 2nd Wednesday of the next odd-numbered month. If you have any questions, or would like to join the Executive Committee, please reach out to Veronica Bryant, Lynette Johnston or Sarah Cope. The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every even-numbered month (The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August 10 at 9:30am.)
