



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.com

Established 2003

Wednesday September 8, 2021 - 9:30AM (EST) Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome, Introductions, & Membership Engagement** – Lynette Johnston, 9:31AM
 - A. New attendees and volunteer introductions
 - a. First, thank you to Veronica and Nicole for all of you work with the Task Force and welcome Sarah to the Executive Committee. Also welcome and a big shout out to any new attendees!
 - b. Volunteer introductions:
 - i. Warren Richardson, Durham County Health Department
 - ii. Chuck Martin, Quality Assurance with Food Lion
 - c. We will be updating membership lists in the coming months, please complete the survey to ensure your name, affiliation, and contact information is up to date. Please share this survey to any colleagues who might be interested in joining the Task Force. If you do not complete the survey you will be removed from the listserv.
 - i. Membership survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STGJZ8Y>
 - B. Meet Me in 3: Sarah Cope
 - a. Your new Chair-Elect
 - b. Outreach Coordinator for the Produce Safety Program within the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - C. Task Force Breakout Topic: *If you could change one thing about the Task Force, what would it be?*
 - a. Increased participation from industry- perspectives and challenges
 - b. Participation from a collaboration standpoint along with a list of contacts of the Task Force members
 - c. Develop an outreach committee to help boost membership and activity
 - d. Have more transparency as a Task Force in terms of the annual report to the Governor
 - e. Receive feedback from the Governor on the expectations of the group, have the Governor speak at one Task Force meeting per year
 - f. Increase participation from all parts of the industry, ex) meat and poultry
 - g. Utilize the virtual platform we must use at the time to provide the opportunity to increase participation without geographical barriers
 - h. Establish personal connections and conversations amongst the group
 - i. Embrace technology to expand the Task Force reaches
 - j. Provide more insight into recalls
 - k. Collaborations and partnerships with other groups, agencies, etc.
 - l. More networking and opportunities to get to know the members of the group- break out rooms on Zoom or small groups face to face
 - m. Have more opportunities to receive input of the Task Force members regarding problems that arise, ex) Have a distribution list easily accessible so we can reach out to certain individuals or groups about specific food safety issues we come across
 - n. Emailed update/newsletter on months the full Task Force does not meet to stay in the loop with things going on
- II. **Minutes Approval and Outbreak Update:**
 - A. July Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Lisa Benton
 - b. Second: Jeff Hawley
 - B. Foodborne Illness Outbreak Update – DPH/NCDHHS
 - a. Nicole Lee: No update at this time from the Communicable Disease Branch
- III. **Business:**
 - A. Committee reports:
 - Executive Committee – Lynette Johnston, NC State University

- i. The Executive Committee meets every month (the even numbered months) and we welcome anyone who would like to join and participate on the committee. The main objectives of the committee include making decisions regarding the annual conference, determining guest speakers for the Task Force meetings, and increasing involvement. Our current priorities include updating our website to include a member list and providing more information about what the Task Force is to the public to promote transparency, working on focused recruiting to ensure representation from all aspects of food safety, working on the annual report for the governor, working on planning the annual conference, and organizing two webinars to update industry on the 2017 Food Code.
- **FERC – Food Emergency Response and Communication (FERC) sub-committee – Sean Silva, NC Dept. of Ag (NCDA&CS)**
 - i. Hostess Brands, LLC soft white hamburger and hotdog buns- possible Listeria and Salmonella; recall check conducted by phone; affected retail: grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations; 1 distributor did not inform their partners right away about the recall so some affected items were still available- once they were reached out to they conducted an email blast to inform of the recall
 - ii. McCormick & Company, Inc. Italian Seasoning and Frank’s RedHot Buffalo Ranch Seasoning- possible Salmonella; recall check conducted; all stores were aware of the recall and removed product from the shelves.
 - iii. Environmental health boil water advisory
 - iv. Public health investigation of Cyclospora outbreak; 1 case in NC. No other updates given since first reported. No commodity has been identified at this time
 - v. We need more involvement in the FERC committee- would like to see representation from Food & Drug, Meat & Poultry, Produce, environmental health, public health, industry, etc. to discuss recalls and how they affect retail stores and restaurants in NC
 - 1. Meetings occur every Monday at 10AM- we can change this meeting time to ensure maximum participation if that is the issue
 - 2. The number to join the FERC meeting is: 919-850-2992
 - 3. Email Sean at sean.silva@ncagr.gov if you are interested in participating in the FERC committee and he will provide more details
- **Crop/Produce – Chris Harris, NCDA&CS**
 - i. We are continuing with initial, educational inspections of produce farms; conducting educational farm visits; conducting On-Farm Readiness Reviews; we have been in contact with produce growers and NC State Extension in Western NC in response to the flooding, mostly in Haywood County, to focus on outreach and education/distributing resources regarding flooded fields and produce safety; we canceled any inspections in the affected Western NC area out of respect to the growers; we continue to conduct collaboration and outreach/education for the common goal of food safety/produce safety to help produce growers become aware of the Produce Safety Rule.
- **Dairy Committee/ Egg & Poultry Committee – Daniel Gaines, NCDA&CS**
 - i. No report at this time
- **Conference Planning Committee – Lynette Johnston, NC State University**
 - i. At this time, it looks like we will be hosting the conference virtually in May of 2022, however our goal is a hybrid approach and we will keep everyone updated
 - ii. We welcome any member suggestions regarding the planning of the annual conference
 - 1. Suggestion: for a virtual conference when speakers are presenting could they please turn on their video so that those who are unfamiliar with them could see who they are
- **Task Force Education and Exercise Committee – Candice Christian, NC State University**
 - i. We welcome any volunteers or topic suggestions for presentations/guest speakers at our Task Force meetings
 - 1. Previous suggestions include: the impact of COVID on the food industry and disaster recovery as it relates to food safety in response to the flooding in Western NC
 - ii. Please email Candice with any topic or speaker suggestions at calescha@ncsu.edu

B. COVID Updates from All Stakeholders

- a. Steve Tracey: Tyson has put in place a mandate for all team members and employees at the company to get vaccinated
- b. Jeff Hawley: Food Lion is requiring masks for all employees and strongly encouraging customers to wear them with the use of signs on the doors
- c. Chip Simmons: NC State University has a mask mandate in place within all indoor campus buildings

C. Other reports:

- Academic Reports
 - i. Lynette, NCSU: Thank you to NC State University and the collaborators who participated in the “Who Regulates Our Foods” webinar series. Find the full series here: <https://foodsafetyprocessors.ces.ncsu.edu/who-regulates-our-food/>
- Industry Reports
 - i. N/A
- Agency Reports
 - i. Donna, FDA: register for the upcoming free 2021 FDA Retail Food Protection Seminar; there will be a Southeast regional breakout discussion Wednesday afternoon <https://www.afdo.org/events/2021-fda-retail-food-protection-seminar/>
 - ii. Shane, DHHS: 2017 Food Code adoption meeting Wednesday, September 16th with the proposed full adoption date as October 1st.

D. Additional business

- a. N/A

IV. Speaker – Lucy Love, NC Fresh Produce Task Force Chair

- A. Topic: Annual update from Fresh Produce Safety Task Force
 - i. Email Lucy Love at lucy.love@ncagr.gov if you would like to join the NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force
 - ii. Email Lynette Johnston at lynette_johnston@ncsu.edu if you would like to request a copy of the slides from the presentation

V. Adjournment: 10:51AM

- A. Motion to adjourn: Chip Simmons
- B. Second: Shane Smith

NOTE: Our next full Task Force meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of the next odd-numbered month (i.e. Wednesday, November 10) at 9:30am. 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.



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I. Attendance

Name:	Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Alexandria Rimmer	
Alexis Welch	X
Alice Isley	X
Allison Sain	
Alyssa Barkley	X
Amber LaRose	X
Andre C. Pierce	
Anna Allen	
Anne Lowry	
Ashley Miles	
Ben Chapman	
Beth Frith	
Betsy Meeks	X
Cameron Howell	
Candice Christian, Executive Committee, Member	X
Carla Catalán Day	
Carla Pressley	
Christopher Harris	X
Chuck Martin	X
Courtney Matthews	X
Dan Tew	
Daniel Gaines	X
Danny Thornton	X
David Buckley, Executive Committee, Member	X
Debbie Hamrick	
Diane Ducharme	X
Donna Wanucha	X
Ellen Reynolds	X
Garry Freeman	
Genevieve Sinclair	
Gordon (Ross) Jackson	
Hannah Byers	
Harold Jernigan	
Hillary Waldroop	X
Holly Haire	X
James Ball	
James Thomas Jumalon	
Jamie Stamey	
Jaymin Patel	
Jeff Hawley	X
Jeff Suggs	
Jennifer Hatley	X
Jessica Badour	
Jessica Zetlau	

Joan Sims	X
JoAnn Pittman	
Joe Doster	X
John Zeberan	X
Julie Schlegel	
Karen Beck, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	
Kevin Hardison	
Kristine Markulin	
Larry Michael, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	
Lee-Ann Jaykus	
Lindsey Kueffner	
Lisa Benton	X
Lisa Halbedl	
Lisa McCoy	
Lisa Morgan	
Lynette Johnston, <i>Executive Committee, Chair</i>	X
Mark A Kenion	
Marvin Lackman	
Mary Yavelak	
Matthew Perkins	X
Meg McGuire	X
Michele Howard	
Michelle Bouchey	X
Miranda Roehrig	
Monica T. Kiker	X
Neeti Karmacharya	
Nicole Clausen	X
Nicole Lee, <i>Executive Committee, Past Chair</i>	X
Nykesse Roberts	
Otto "Chip" D. Simmons, III, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Peter Sloane	X
Rachel McDowell	
Reagan Converse	
Rick Barney	
Roger Mozingo	
Rose Hoban	X
Sandra Bridges	
Sandra Saunders	X
Sarah Cope, <i>Executive Committee, Chair Elect</i>	X
Sean Silva, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Shane Smith, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Steve Tracey, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Susan M. Thompson	
Tammra Morrison	
Terri Ritter	X
Todd Taylor	X
Tommy Hyatt	
Traci Stevens	X
Valerie Lott	
Veronica Bryant, <i>Executive Committee, Past Chair</i>	
Warren Richardson	X
