

Meeting Minutes – North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Wednesday, Sept 26th, 2018

Farm Bureau Federation

Board Room

5301 Glenwood Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27612

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 am by Beth Yongue

I. Agenda

- A. The meeting opened with each member introducing themselves. A sign-up sheet was circulated so current and new members could provide contact information.
- B. The minutes from the July 2018 Task Force Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes, a second was heard, one correction of including NC DOA with NCSU on work with OFRR was suggested and then the minutes were approved by vote with this correction.
- C. Food borne Illness Outbreak Update
Nicole Lee reported via conference call. There are no current foodborne illness outbreaks but she shared about the non-potable water incident at the World Equestrian Games(WEG). Shane Smith from NC Public Health volunteered to speak on the topic and shared with the group what had occurred. The water was potable, but the tanker truck used was not approved, and it was replaced with one that was suitable. Nicole shared that 2 food truck employees had reported being ill. One has provided a sample to public health, but the other has not.

II. Business

A. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – Steve Tracey
 - i. The executive committee met on August 8th. The 2019 Conference plans were suggested, financing of the new website was discussed, and trying to find a rep from DEQ was talked about. The executive committee also always discusses any latest outbreaks as well as upcoming events. Preparations for the WEG were discussed at this August meeting.
- b. FERC – No report – the committee continues to meet by phone weekly on Mondays at 10am. Sean Silva continues to do a good job leading the calls.
- c. Crop/Produce – Chip Simmons – deferred till speaker presentation
- d. Dairy/Egg/Poultry – no report
- e. Conference Planning Committee – Steve Tracey
 - i. The evaluations from the most recent conference have been reviewed by Andre Pierce of Wake County – thank you. A report will be provided at the November meeting.
 - ii. Dates for the 2019 Conference have been set – Tuesday & Wednesday May 7 & 8th, 2019

- f. Education and Exercise Committee – Kevin Hardison
 - i. Kevin not in attendance – no report.
 - g. Web site upgrade – Anita McMullan owes the exec committee answer as to if the grant allows \$ to be used for a website subscription.
 - h. Academic Reports – Storm related – NC Extension reported
 - i. Industry Reports – All participated in a discussion about Hurricane Florence and impacts on industry. Distribution centers affected, stores closed - some with power, some without power, and some with water intrusion. Clean up still on-going – some stores still not back open.
 - j. Agency Reports - reporting about their activity and response to the storm.
 - i. Public Health – 27 affected counties, staff assisted 200-300 establishments get back in business – most were found doing the right thing, County and state staff from other parts of the state came to the impacted areas to assist (Chatham County was one), well water still being
 - ii. Public Schools had a \$ 33 million damage impact, the food lost will be covered under insurance
 - iii. Ag & Extension – monitored storm daily, extension agents on duty at both emergency operations centers. Information regarding converting human food to animal food was being released today. Only \$ 4.1 million lost in poultry, only 5500 swine were lost. Lagoons now located on higher ground so environmental impact was minimal. 4 meat or poultry plants flooded and making their way back, but the good news was that many poultry hoses and meat plants were empty when the storm hit.
 - iv. FDA was out visiting food firms and drug firms in the impacted areas.
 - v. Cumberland County held a Food Safety forum in August for the local and nearby state stakeholders. The topic was recalls, and Sean Silva and Daniel Gaines from NC Ag were the presenters.
- III. Speaker Presentations – Chip Simmons and Chris Harris gave the annual update from the NC Fresh Produce Task Force. Many great accomplishments for 2018 so far including:
- a. PSA water summit participation - February
 - b. Produce safety professionals meeting – March
 - c. Work with NCDA soil & water conservation program on farms
 - d. Education opportunities for growers, industry and non - profits
 - e. On Farm Readiness Review – prepping farms for the FSMA produce rule inspections
- IV. The next task force meeting will be Wednesday, November 14th the Emergency Operations Center - Raleigh
- V. Adjournment: 11:30 am