

**Food Innovation Team  
Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2019**

Today's meeting was held in Room B462, Orville L. Freeman, 625 Robert Street N, St. Paul.

Members present included: Molly Herrman, Kathy Zeman, Julia Selleys, James Roettger, Jane Jewett, Lolly Occhino, Lauri Clements (via WebEx) and Blake Nordin (via WebEx for James Backstrom)

Visitors present included: Levi Muhl, Alida Sorenson, Katherine Simon, Jeff Luedeman and Natasha Hedin

Meeting started 9:05 a.m.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

**1. Upcoming Dates**

The next Food Innovation Team (FIT) Meeting will be Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Orville L. Freeman building, room B463

**2. Case Review and Discussion – WillowSedge Farm**

FIT membership and visitors reviewed the case study involving WillowSedge Farm of Palisade, MN owned by Jane Jewett. The current business model and key issues were discussed at length and multiple options forward were identified by FIT members and visitors. A draft recommendation report was created, and the report will be finalized and distributed. An update on the recommendation report will also be given at the MN Food Safety and Defense Task Force meeting by Kathy Zeman.

**3. Administration Discussion**

- FIT membership and visitors discussed challenges with building a public facing database for FIT Recommendation Reports. It was decided that a simple table summarizing each case will be added to the FIT webpage on the Task Force website. The webpage will also link to each report and have combined report PDF to allow for a key word search.
- FIT membership and visitors also discussed requesting the Task Force to make recommendations to the legislature on items related to FIT cases. The FIT chairs will be asking the Task Force members to make a recommendation to request inter-agency discussion of statutes 28A.07 (Issuance of License - assessment for fitness to do business) and 31.175 prohibition against licensing if water, sewage and plumbing do not meet standards specified in statute.
- FIT membership and visitors proposed utilizing the next FIT meeting as a working session to put together a "Year in Review" presentation for the Task Force. This presentation would focus on trends, challenges and insights from the first active year of the subcommittee.

**4. Agenda items for January 7<sup>th</sup>:**

- Potential to have a working session to put together "Year in Review" discussion items for the Task Force