

**Food Innovation Team
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020**

Today's meeting was held via WebEx due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members present included: Kathy Zeman, Jane Jewett, Lolly Occhino, Julia Selleys, Lauri Clements, and Blake Nordin

Visitors present included: Jeff Luedeman, Alida Sorenson, Natasha Hedin, Jane Knott, Noelle Harden and Carla Mertz (Food Business Owner)

Meeting started 9:30 a.m.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

1. Upcoming Dates

The next Food Innovation Team (FIT) Meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th via WebEx.

2. Membership

FIT members for the incoming two-year term starting on September 19, 2020 were announced.

Applicants were selected by the Task Force co-chairs and will also be announced at the FSDTF meeting this afternoon. Those members leaving the team were thanked for their service. New membership:

MDH Representative: Blake Nordin

Local Food Farming Community: Noelle Harden

MDA Delegated Agency: Joe Jurusik

MDH Delegated Agency: Jane Knott

Local/Regional Food System Expert – College/University Based: Jane Jewett

Non-Regulatory Food System Expert: Lolly Occhino

Local Food Maker Community: Vacant

MDA Representative: Incoming Licensing Liaison

3. Farmers' Market and Iron Shoe Farm Case Reviews

FIT membership and visitors reviewed the Farmers' Market case and the Iron Shoe Farm case, owned by Carla Mertz in Princeton, Minnesota. Case business models and key issues were discussed at length and options for moving forward were identified. The recommendation reports will be distributed once they are finalized. Updates on the discussion will be given at the MN Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) meeting this afternoon by Jane Jewett.

4. Administration Discussion

FIT membership and visitors discussed requesting bids for the translation of the Membership Application and Pre-Screening Intake Form into Spanish. This was deemed an allowable use of grant funds and will be proposed to the FSDTF members this afternoon. The team needs to have continued discussion about how to get this information out to local communities.

FIT membership and visitors discussed the interpretation that was received on [the law](#) regarding compensation for FSDTF members. The interpretation that MDA received is that members serve without compensation and that is interpreted to mean any compensation from any source. This is extended to subcommittee members, too. It was discussed that if stakeholders/FSDTF/FIT members want to modify the statute the best route would be to pursue legislative change and determine exactly what changes would be proposed. The Food and Feed Safety Division (FFSD) would be in a supportive role. A couple questions were raised that Natasha Hedin will coordinate following up on as the

FSDTF/MDA Administrator.

- Does “no compensation” mean that all FSDTF and FIT members have always been expected to attend meetings during their vacation or off-duty time; and have not received any stipend, hourly wages, or salary for the time they have spent at meetings?
- Does “no compensation” mean that, when meetings were held in-person, FSDTF and FIT members were not to receive mileage or parking charge reimbursement from their employer or sponsoring organization?

5. Potential agenda items for Nov 17th:

- White Earth Tribal and Community College - Food Service Director submitted a question to Jane Jewett.