

Food Safety Advisory Committee Meeting Summary January 18, 2017

Attendees

Shawn Miller, NW Grocery Association
Jenny Dresler, Oregon Farm Bureau
Connie Kirby, NW Food Processors' Association
Ivan Maluski, Friends of Family Farmers
Rebecca Landis, Oregon Farmers Markets Association
Stephanie Page, ODA
Rustin Rock, ODA
Monica Durazo, ODA
John Burr, ODA
Karel Smit, ODA
Frank Barcellos, ODA
Amanda Wright, ODA
Janet Fults, ODA
Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Tami Kerr, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Jovana Kovacevic, OSU
Paul Cieslak, Oregon Health Authority
Ian Tolleson, NW Food Processors' Association
Mark Wustenberg, Tillamook County Creamery Association

Budget Updates:

- Stephanie Page briefly summarized the committee's previous discussions about the program's budget, particularly the Other Fund balance and the concerns about the balance becoming vulnerable to sweeps.
- Today's update covers the Governor's Budget, agency reduction options submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office, and other measures that we think will reduce the OF balance.
- ODA supports the Governor's budget. The budget includes a proposed fund shift of \$538,950.00 from general funds to other funds. This is a one-time fund shift proposed only for the 2017-2019 biennium.
- The program is looking at reducing the number of FDA contract inspections. ODA has notified FDA that next contract year we will reduce the # of inspections from 500 to 400. This will reduce revenue coming into the program.

- Program is substantially reducing our participation in the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) program (brings in \$600,00 per biennium currently).
- The program has added 2 Limited Duration inspector positions; funding is available for these positions until June 30, 2019 and may be extended beyond that time frame. We invest significantly in training new inspectors so have a high motivation to keep LD employees if at all possible.
- The Governor's Budget includes our Program Option Package to add to permanent inspector positions. At the end of budgeting process we hope to have the 2 additional full time positions and 3 LD positions.
- These changes bring our projected Other Funds balance down significantly.
- Paul Cieslak asked what's the point of the shifting of funds? Stephanie Page explained that by reducing the amount of GF in the program for the 17-19 biennium, the program relies more on its Other Funds, reducing the Other Funds balance and making it less vulnerable to sweeps.
- We are collaborating with Market Access on the 3 full time positions (part of the produce safety grant- FSMA) a possible **Lead Worker position**- someone with experience with small and large farms. Then looking for NRS1, 2 inspectors.
- Shawn Miller- emphasized the importance of the 2 permanent positions helping to reduce the backlog.

Draft strategic plan to respond to Sec. State' Audit:

- Monica Durazo walked the group through several tables summarizing a draft strategic plan to address the recommendations in the audit.
- The group discussed the Food Safety Program's risk classification system for licensed establishments, as well as differences between the program's old and new databases.
- Discussed field supervisors going in the field with inspectors (one of the recommendations in the audit). Mark Wustenburg asked if there is a clear definition on what's expected by the inspectors, and whether there will be specific topics covered during the field supervisor audits of inspectors? He emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency between inspectors.

Draft Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) legislative concept:

- Stephanie Page explained that she compiled all of the stakeholder comments on the FSMA legislative concept and went through them with the Director's Office. Regarding several comments, we believe the bill should remain as-is, but we thought that amendments in a couple of sections of the bill were needed.
- One was revising language to make it clear that farms are not subject to HACCP as part of the produce safety rule and that ODA's authorities should focus on evaluating compliance with the relevant FSMA rules. The other change is restoring the exemptions that were proposed to be deleted from Oregon's commercial feed law, so that they remain in statute, and adding language stating ODA will only have authority over these materials if they are adulterated.
- SP noted that the summary and relating to clauses in the bill are broad because the bill combined two subjects - food safety and commercial feeds. Another question on the bill was whether it would give ODA broader authorities than needed to implement FSMA, and we believe this can be addressed by testifying as to our intent to stay within what is needed to implement FSMA.

Additional Discussion:

- FDA has issued updated draft listeria guidance. It appears to offer manufacturing firms multiple options to respond when they detect listeria in environmental monitoring.
- ODA and OHA worked together to investigate an outbreak associated with raw, cracked hazelnuts sold from a farm stand near McMinnville. The farm is now closed for the season and ODA plans to send the farm a letter with recommendations for the following season.

Next Meeting:

The committee agreed to have a short meeting in early March, after ODA's initial budget presentation to the Ways & Means Natural Resources subcommittee. Topics: Budget update, FSMA legislative concept further discussion, and introduction of new ODA Director Alexis Taylor. We'll make it a lunch meeting due to very busy schedules this time of year.