

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 2, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building

90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members Attending: Nadja Berneche, Lisa Jore, Linda Littrell, Helene Murray, Brett Olson, Leonard Russo, Hai Truong

Others Attending: Lily Alexander, Jim Ivey, Timothy Brownell, Elizabeth Dickenson, Katie Godfrey, Barb Grossman, Zach Hansen, Ann Hunt, Lisa Marshall, Rina McManus, Maggie Meyer, Heather Peterson, Merita Bushi, Erik Riesenber, Julie Seiber, John Springman, Nancy Hoyt Taff, Timothy Page, Cherry Flowers

Welcome and Introductions (Hai Truong)

Director of Public Health Rina McManus introduced herself to the commission and briefly described both her personal agricultural and professional public health backgrounds. She announced that the first week in April is Public Health Recognition Week with this year's theme, "A healthy America begins with active living and healthy eating". Director McManus thanked the commission for all the work they do around these issues and said it was "a privilege to our department to help and support this effort".

Discussion of organic matter recycling

(Zack Hansen, Manager, Environmental Health Section, and John Springman, Environmental Health Specialist, Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health)

Environmental Health Manager Zack Hansen presented information on Ramsey County's organic waste management functions. He described the county's organic matter recycling program, detailing both food waste and yard waste disposal. He explained that Ramsey County collects and yard waste, which it then composts and distributes to residents or transfers to outside solid-waste composters. Mr. Hansen reported on the new solid waste Master Plan and described the county's goal of increasing organic matter recycling over the next decades. After the presentation, commission members asked questions regarding food waste recycling and asked Mr. Hansen to post soil-testing information about the county compost material on the county website.

Follow up on meetings with individual City Council and County Board members

Commission Members Nadja Berneche and Lenny Russo stated that they visited with City Council members Russ Stark and Dave Thune who were supportive and willing to co-sign the resolution. Dave Thune is very interested in having fruit trees planted on public land. Other members will schedule meetings with their representatives over the next month.

Working groups: The group broke into task-forces and reviewed and selected top priorities from the Action Plan.

Chair Hai Truong adjourned the meeting at 7:30

Next meeting: Monday, May 7th 2012, 5:30 – 7:30, Conference Center, 1st Floor, Ramsey County Plato Office Building, 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN, 55017.