

Food and Nutrition Commission Meeting Agenda
Monday, April 6, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Plato Office Building
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 55107

Members attending: Diane Dodge, Helene Murray, Metric Giles, Nadja Berneche, Pat Trotter, Rebecca Mino, and Tracy Sides

Members absent: Bernie Hesse, Colleen Schlieper, Hua Vang, JoAnn Tesar, and Kentalé Morris

Others present: Ann Luke, Erin Rupp, Jaya Ginter, and Julie Seiber

Nadja Berneche welcomed the attendees who introduced themselves.

Announcements and upcoming events included:

- Movie “Fed Up” about sugar and the obesity epidemic screening and discussion, Tuesday, April 7, 6:00–8:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, Saint Paul. To register call 651-744-3072 or register online
<https://stpaul.ce.feepay.com/course/winter-spring-2015/the-politics-of-food>
- Ramsey County Public Health Awards, Tues., Apr. 7, 9:00 am at Board of Commissioners meeting including two food-related organizations—Twin Cities Mobile Market and Urban Roots. For more information see the web site below
http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/au/rc_public_health_awards.htm
- Earth Day 2015 event, Wed., April 22, 6:30 pm, Metro State—film “Symphony of the Soil”
- Diane Dodge reported on the Pollinate Minnesota launch party, March 30
- Food hub seed distribution events will be at the East Side Enterprise Center and River Edge School
- Metric Giles suggested that the FNC have co-meetings with other organizations whose missions overlap
- Tracy Sides mentioned the need for an in-depth discussion about a state food policy council

A bill to make seed libraries and seed exchanges legal in Minnesota is moving through the State Legislature. It is being included in the Agriculture Omnibus Bill. There was discussion of other food-related bills outlined on the attached summary. A bill to raise the limit on cottage food production for sale is moving forward. This has been requested because Minnesota’s limit is lower compared to other states. Several of the other bills may move forward as a part of larger bills.

The group was interested in being a part of Food Day, October 24, 2015, as suggested by Tracy Sides.

The themes are “Food Day inspires Americans to change their diets *and* our food policies.”

“real food, just food”

Erin Rupp founder of Pollinate Minnesota talked about issues facing pollinators in the state and ways to be involved in solutions. The US is losing about 50% of bees annually and they pollinate about 1/3 of the food-producing crops. Minnesota has no native bees, but is home now to 425 different species. Minnesota has historically had many plants that feed bees and has been the fifth largest honey-producing state. That is being reduced by fewer plants being available for feeding them and the use of plants and pesticides that kill bees. By federal law, no governmental body smaller than a state can regulate pesticides. Herbicides are not toxic to bees but they kill plants that provide food for them. Saint Paul passed a bee-friendly resolution this spring. The city is purchasing plants for boulevards that are neonicotinoid-free. They are not using pesticides in parks.

Tracy Sides attended a March 28 food hub survey follow-up convening. She reported that about 20 people attended along with two staff from the City of Minneapolis. There were four small-group discussions using the aggregation/distribution lens including market viability, infrastructure and facilities, business training and technical assistance, and farmer and producer engagement. There is not a further meeting or next steps action planned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

2015 MTG. DATES	MEETING DETAILS: 90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, 551075:30 – 7:30 pm
May 4, 2015	
June 1, 2015	