

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, July 30, 2020

The meeting of the Equitable Food Oriented Development Work Group (Work Group) convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2020. The meeting was held by electronic communications means due to the state of emergency issued by Governor Northam as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting was held using Cisco Webex Events. Commissioner Jewel Bronaugh called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

### **WORK GROUP MEMBERS/DESIGNEES**

Amy Rose Foll  
Chad Martin  
Chelsi Bennett  
Chris McDonald, Esq.  
Curtis Byrd  
Cynthia Newbille, Ph.D.  
Del. Delores McQuinn  
Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green  
Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ  
Eddie Oliver  
Elizabeth Borst

Jeanette Abi-Nader  
Senator Jennifer McClellan  
Kelly Harris-Braxton, Esq.  
Laura Bateman  
Sam Crisp  
Michael Carter  
Norm Gold  
Sarah Collins, MPH, RD, CHES, CDN  
Shantell Bingham  
Toni Washington  
Twandra Lomax-Brown  
Del. William M. Stanley, Jr.

### **ABSENT WORK GROUP MEMBERS**

None

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Heidi Hertz, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Jewel Bronaugh, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)  
Charles Green, Deputy Commissioner, VDACS  
Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research (OPPR), VDACS  
Kendra Shifflett, Director, Office of Administration and Finance, VDACS  
Anna Seymour, Administrative Coordinator, Commissioner's Office, VDACS  
Katherine Coates, Administrative Coordinator, OPPR, VDACS  
Jennifer Perkins, Program Coordinator, Office of Farmland Preservation, VDACS

### **GUESTS**

Elizabeth Towell  
Trisha Chakrabarti  
Rudy Espinoza

### **JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Commissioner Bronaugh provided the welcome address to the attendees, thanking them for their participation. She went through the agenda for the meeting and discussed the legislation that brought the group together, House Bill (HB) 1509 and Senate Bill (SB) 1703. She discussed what she believes should be the Work Group's approach to food insecurity. Commissioner Bronaugh called on Kevin Schmidt to provide information on the WebEX meeting.

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### **KEVIN SCHMIDT**

Mr. Schmidt discussed the WebEX capabilities regarding muting and unmuting mics, the public comment period at the end of the meeting, and where to find the meeting materials.

### **JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Commissioner Bronaugh introduced Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring.

### **BETTINA RING**

Secretary Ring thanked Commissioner Bronaugh for the introduction. She also acknowledged Delegate McQuinn, Senator McClellan, and Senator Stanley for their efforts on getting the legislation passed. She addressed the importance of the issue of food insecurity in the Commonwealth, coupled with the impacts of the pandemic. She introduced and thanked Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz for her participation. She ended with her thanks to all Work Group members for making this possible.

### **JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Commissioner Bronaugh introduced and acknowledged the efforts of Delegate McQuinn, Senator McClellan, and Senator Stanley in getting the legislation passed.

### **DELEGATE DELORES MCQUINN**

Delegate McQuinn expressed her thanks to those who contributed to getting this effort up and running. She shared a story about a gentleman in her community who was unable to access food for him and his siblings. This story made her determined to affect change when it comes to food security, especially when she was elected to the Virginia General Assembly.

### **SENATOR JENNIFER MCCLELLAN**

Senator McClellan noted that much of her focus in the legislature has been on education, particularly the connection between education, hunger, and food deserts and expressed her excitement about the Work Group's future.

### **LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER**

In an email sent prior to the meeting, Work Group members were asked to think about the question "\_\_\_\_\_ is the reason I became committed to supporting local communities." Work Group members took turns sharing their reasons for involvement in local communities and their dedication to food access.

### **JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Commissioner Bronaugh briefly discussed the legislation that led to the Work Group, HB 1509 and SB1073. She turned the conversation over to Chelsi Bennett to discuss the legislation at greater length.

### **CHELSEI BENNETT**

Ms. Bennett noted that legislation funded program amount totaled \$1.25 million dollars. She provided details on how the grant will be administered and the greater purpose of the legislation. SNAP and incentive programs must be accepted by retailers who are funded by the grant. This work will be done in conjunction with a community development financial institution (CDFI).

### **KEVIN SCHMIDT**

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Mr. Schmidt detailed what VDACS's role is regarding the legislation. The bill directs VDACS to establish the Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD) Stakeholder Work Group and to create recommendations for the design elements for the newly created Virginia Food Access Investment Fund (VFAIF) Program. VDACS is to establish the program and develop guidelines to meet the intent of the VFAIF. Additionally, VDACS is required to submit reports regarding the program progress.

**TRISHA CHAKRABARTI AND RUDY ESPINOZA**

Ms. Chakrabarti and Mr. Espinoza of DAISA Enterprises and Inclusive Action, respectively, provided a presentation on EFOD. DAISA Enterprises is a consulting firm that provides strategic, operational and evaluation services to social enterprises and investors, and innovates new programs and technologies to develop a more equitable food system. Inclusive Action is a CDFI that does lending to entrepreneurs of color in low income neighborhoods and policy advocacy. EFOD provides a framework for community based food systems work to provide market opportunities in underserved areas. The EFOD structure will provide the framework for the Work Group's efforts. After the presentation, Ms. Chakrabarti and Mr. Espinoza took questions regarding determining and selecting successful projects and mapping resources across the state.

**JENNIFER PERKINS**

Ms. Perkins discussed the structure and timeline for the Work Group. The full Work Group will have three meetings and a subcommittee of the Work Group will likely meet additional times. The goal of the group is to open the grant round by September and announce recipients in November.

**JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Commissioner Bronaugh suggested the formation of a subcommittee to begin drafting the grant guidelines and approval rubric. Work Group members with EFOD background experience volunteered to be a part of this subcommittee. Those who volunteered to be on the subcommittee included the following: Chad Martin, Norm Gold, Amy Foll, Shantell Bingham, Jeanette Abi-Nader, Michael Carter, Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Chelsi Bennett, Elizabeth Borst, Delegate Delores McQuinn.

Jewel Bronaugh moved to approve support of the subcommittee members.

**APPROVE:** Foll, Martin, Bennett, Ivey-Green, McDonald, Byrd, McQuinn, Oliver, Borst, Abi-Nader, Bronaugh, Harris-Braxton, Gold, Gould-Champ, Collins, Bingham, Washington, Lomax-Brown, Carter, Newbille

**OPPOSE:** None

Mr. Schmidt motioned back to Commissioner Bronaugh.

**JEWEL BRONAUGH**

Due to the time, Commissioner Bronaugh decided to wrap up the meeting and move the remaining agenda items to the next meeting of the full Work Group.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was introduced.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

The next full Work Group meeting will take place on September 10, 2020 from 10:00 – 12:30 p.m. The subcommittee will meet August 12, 2020. Both meetings will also need to be open to the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Work Group adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D.  
Commissioner