



August Board Meeting, 8/6/2025, 1:00 pm

1. Welcome

- a. Thao Schlichte – present
- b. Bambi Press – present
- c. Ellen Ciarimboli – present
- d. Michelle Clausen-Rosendahl – present
- e. Jim Dickson – present
- f. Michelle Boyd – absent
- g. Merri Cross - present

2. New Members added - **Thao**

- a. Jessica Bullock and Brian Johnson, Iowa HSEMD
 - i. They take the place of Mark Shearer, who retired last spring.
- b. Luke Meier and Dan Riskowski, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (Carpenters Union)
 - i. Luke had reached out to another division at DIAL and his email indicated interest in outreach to industry and the Task Force. Currently a member of the MN Task Force.
 - ii. The brochure he provided on his email was discussed, *Controlling Contaminants*. Merri emailed the brochure to the Board prior to this meeting.
 - 1. Their website is: <https://northcountrycarpenter.org/controlling-contaminants>
 - 2. Merri invited Luke and Dan to speak to the group during the open discussion. The Board agreed to leave the brochure sharing up to them at the Open Discussion time of the meeting. Share as “Partner Resources” but not open endorsement of them.
 - a. The moderator of the Open Discussion could also invite other members to share resources with the group at that time. Merri can revise the name of this on the agenda: “Open Discussion/Sharing of Partner Resources”.
 - iii. They also sent an email regarding an upcoming course on controlling contamination, to be held in October in Altoona. Merri screenshared the flyer they sent with the email.



1. The Board agreed not to share the course announcement with the membership.
3. November 3 General Membership Meeting Prep - **Thao**
 - a. Finalize topics of interest and potential speakers, in order to reach out to speakers
 - i. Merri reviewed the draft agenda with time estimates
 1. Based on the time estimates, the Board agreed to limit the number of presentations to two, depending on speakers' acceptance to present at the November meeting.
 - ii. The June Board meeting identified the following topics [Merri shared the spreadsheet during this part of the meeting]:
 1. Freeze drying
 - a. There is still interest in this topic. The equipment is cheap and there is a definite uptick in preservation of foods using this method, then selling the products. FDA has done a study on freeze drying showing that *L. mono* isn't killed but in suspended animation. It is likely any other bacteria would react the same way.
 - b. Jim said he is confident he can request the speaker from U-NE talk on this since it will be virtual. He emailed the speaker during the meeting and will share her response with the Board at or before the September meeting.
 2. The speaker from FBI who cancelled his presentation at the April meeting, due to lack of permission from the Bureau.
 - a. Thao will reach out to the speaker and determine whether or not he is approved to present. If he is not approved, the Board can try a different topic/speaker.
 3. Panel discussion on "ag products on the farm". Panel could be Ajay Nair (chair of horticulture dept, ISU). Center the discussion on human food then do animal topics at a future meeting.
 - a. Ellen is seeing more interest in mushroom farming, and more varieties of mushrooms being sold.
 - b. The Board agreed to save this for the future.
 4. Other ideas since June?
 - a. Ellen thought it would be a good idea to discuss the trends shown in social media, such as misinformation spread



through TikTok or YouTube/SnapChat. Canning meats/soups in hot water baths. Cooking in residential dishwashing machines. Third party delivery.

- b. The Board said recalls are always a good topic to discuss
- b. Does the Board want a welcome poll or meeting rooms to break up people into smaller groups for networking, at the beginning?
 - i. Ellen likes the idea of small groups to network to meet people.
 - ii. Bambi wondered if we would leave it open to discussion in each room, or have some facilitated networking such as an ice breaker, or questions to prompt discussions in the breakout rooms.
 - iii. Thao said question prompts is a good idea for each room.
 - iv. Ellen said a simple ice breaker will be good – how long have you been in your particular role; what is something that keeps you up at night in regards to food safety?
 - 1. Bambi said the social media discussion is a great ice breaker: what have you seen on social media that keeps you up at night (related to food safety).
 - v. Merri and Thao will discuss and come up with a plan to share at the September meeting.
 - 1. Could have a facilitator in each room.
 - 2. Thao will let everyone know at the next meeting how this could be executed.
- c. Will November 3 still work for everyone? The Board gave a suggestion of November 5 as the backup date. No invite to members has been sent yet.
 - i. November 3 still works for everyone.

4. Set date for September Board meeting - **Thao**

- a. DIAL has tight availability due to SAFHER implementation and the RRT Annual Meeting. Right now, there is no schedule of SAFHER meetings for September, so these dates/times are tentative and may be subject to change.
 - i. **Monday Sept. 22:** 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 3-4 pm
 - ii. **Tuesday Sept. 23:** 1-2 pm, 3-4 pm
 - iii. **Wednesday Sept. 24:** 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 3-4 pm
 - iv. **Friday Sept. 26:** 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm
 - v. **The date for the September meeting will be Monday September 22, 1-2 pm**



- b. October will also be a tight month. The October Board meeting will be planned for the week of October 13th (TBD)

5. Open Discussion

- a. Thao said we should wait to do the ag panel next year, before farmers market season, at the spring meeting. And she said there is a lot of confusion on cottage food requirements. Also said the Task Force should provide more education to members on all this, and the typical questions DIAL gets from customers.
- b. Jim attended IFP and said attendance was down. This year was 3000 attendees. He said it was a good conference. This year it was in Columbus OH, next year it will be in New Orleans.
- c. Discussion on the traceability rule and FDA's pushback on implementation an additional 30 months.

Meeting adjourned 1:52 pm

Merri Cross, Grant Coordinator

DIAL