



June Board Meeting, 6/15/2026, 10:00 am

1. Welcome

- a. Bambi Press, Chair – present
- b. Ellen Ciarimboli, Vice Chair – absent
- c. Kyli Beaulieu, Member at Large – present
- d. Hannah Hansen, Member at Large – present
- e. Tim Link, Member at Large – absent
- f. Michelle Boyd, DIAL – absent
- g. Merri Cross, DIAL, Board Secretary – present
- h. Guest, Ellie Huls, HHS intern - present

2. Task Force Membership Discussion - **Merri**

- a. Review list of membership agencies and organizations represented on the Board
[Merri screenshared]
 - i. Request feedback on other suggestions for invitations
 1. Bambi suggested other Board members could conduct outreach to organizations they know. She suggested the Iowa Food Bank Association and Iowa Food System Coalition.
 - a. Hannah put a link in the chat
<https://www.iowafoodsystemcoalition.org/> because they had presented at the Public Health Conference this spring.
 - b. Iowa Food Bank Association link:
<https://www.iowafba.org/>
 2. Hannah also suggested <https://www.ceee.uni.edu/local-food-program> they could be on the academia list. Hannah also said she could reach out to the businesses she works with to see if there is interest.
 3. Midwest Dairy Association was also Bambi's suggestion,
<https://www.midwestdairy.com/>
 4. Hannah suggested putting information on the Task Force website to help market new members.
 - a. **Merri will look into this.**
 5. Kyli suggested reaching out to the other local contracting agencies about being members. **Merri will look into this.**



6. Bambi asked if other members would like a draft of the email wording to be used in an invitation. Merri said she will send a copy of what she's used in the past. **DONE**
 - a. Bambi asked everyone to cc Merri on the email invites, as Merri will need contact information, job title and agency/organization name to add people to the member roll.
 - b. New member
 - i. Jamie Lane, Disaster Program Manager, Volunteer Iowa, IHHS, recommended by Jessica Bullock, HSEMD
 1. Bambi used to work with her in the Iowa Dept. of Aging.
3. November General Meeting Prep - **Bambi**
 - a. Review topic spreadsheet [[Merri screenshared from FoodSHIELD](#)]
 - i. Discuss ratings of topics added in previous years and updating the list
 1. Bambi reviewed the list.
 - a. Discussed a panel presentation with a theme, or put speakers in breakout rooms, with a Board member in each room as a facilitator.
 - b. Bambi suggested 4 speakers, 2 break out rooms. Two 20-minute breakout sessions.
 - i. **Merri will research breakout room functionality and will report to the Board at the August meeting.**
 - c. Hannah and Bambi are interested in reaching out to Bill Marler about speaking on raw milk. Hannah said she will reach out to him, Merri asked to be cc'd.
 - d. Further discussion on this panel with Bill Marler included inviting the State Vet (Dr. Jeff Kaisand), IDALS Dairy Products Control Bureau, and Mark Speltz from DIAL to present on the regulations.
 2. Updates were made to the list to highlight potential breakout room topics in blue, and add a yellow highlight to the Raw Milk topic row.
 - a. Breakout room suggestions are:
 - i. Hydroponic projects and best practices
 - ii. Controlling contaminants in construction
 - iii. Choose Iowa program



- ii. The “must haves” topics and presentations for each General Meeting:
 - a. DIAL Update
 - i. At the Fall meeting, Mark Speltz wants to discuss SAFHER – it will go live in October and he wants discussion on DIAL’s work to get the new inspection and licensing database up and running. The hope is to have all our large industry partners in the meeting to hear his presentation.
 - ii. Merri said Mark will likely want to speak for about a half hour.
 - b. RRT Update – this will likely be 10-15 minutes, by Thao Schlichte
 - c. Advisory Board update
 - i. Can be the Chair or Vice Chair presenting this. Merri usually creates draft slides, which are edited by the C/VC.
 - ii. Not likely to be lengthy but an introduction of Board members, recap of the election, and work on updating the Governance Guidelines.
 - d. Open Discussion
 - i. The meeting always ends with Open Discussion, but there was a suggestion in the April 28 survey to open with this instead.
 - 1. This will be decided at the August Board meeting.
- c. In-person or virtual?
 - a. Prior to the pandemic, meetings were held in-person at the Johnston Public Library
 - b. Virtual meetings were held 2-3 times a year afterwards.
 - c. Have only had 2 hybrid meetings in the past 5 years
 - d. Bambi suggested doing virtual for the 2026 Fall meeting, because it increases participation and will be best if there will be breakout rooms. The Board was in agreement with this idea.
 - i. A final decision will be made at the August Board meeting.
- d. Set tentative date(s) for November General Meeting
 - i. Tuesday November 3 in the afternoon
 - ii. Tuesday November 10 (day before Veterans Day) – in the afternoon
 - 1. Bambi suggested not to meet on this date



- iii. Wednesday November 18 in the afternoon
- iv. Tuesday December 1 all day
- v. Wednesday December 2 all day
- vi. Thursday December 3 in the afternoon
 - 1. Kyli might not be available for the fall meeting due to leave at that time.
 - 2. All dates work for Hannah, prefers mornings
- vii. Based on feedback from Tim and Ellen, all dates work. Merri will communicate with Michelle Boyd to prioritize the meeting dates and will add to the August Board agenda.

4. Grant Update and Objectives for next year – Merri/Bambi

- a. Merri Current FDA grant ending June 30 has been extended to April 30, 2027
- b. Merri Future Grant
 - i. To be posted in FY27
 - ii. Suggestions for projects:
 - 1. Editing the Governance Guidelines
- c. The intent was to discuss edits to Governance Guidelines but there was not enough time to discuss
 - i. Tabled to the August meeting

5. Set date for August Board meeting (no meeting in July) – Bambi

- a. Tuesday August 4: 9-10 am, 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
- b. Monday August 10: 9-10 am, 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm, 2-3 pm
- c. Tuesday August 11: 9-10 am, 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
- d. Wednesday August 12: 9-10 am, 10-11 am, 11 am-12 pm, 2-3 pm
- e. Thursday August 13: 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm
- f. Selected meeting date is **Wednesday August 12, 11 am to 12 pm**

6. Items to add to August Agenda – Bambi

- a. Fall General Membership Meeting – speakers/topics, date
- b. Progress on Governance Guidelines revisions
- c. Current grant update and goals/objectives for next grant
- d. Nothing else was added to the agenda.



7. Open Discussion – none

Meeting adjourned 11:00 am

Merri Cross, DIAL, Board Secretary

Next Steps for the Board

- Bambi and Hannah reach out to identified organizations with invitations to join the Task Force
- Review the Governance Guidelines in the FoodSHIELD workgroup and add comments with your edit suggestions.

Next Steps for the Secretary

- Research adding local contracting agencies as members of the Task Force
- Research adding a membership invite/request to the Iowa Food Protection Task Force website
- Research breakout room functionality