



September Board Meeting, 9/15/2026, 2:00 pm

1. Welcome

- a. Bambi Ramsey, 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 – present
- f. Michelle Boyd, DIAL – absent
- g. Merri Cross, DIAL, Board Secretary – present

2. Task Force Membership and Website Discussion - Merri

- a. New member
 - i. Anna Burner, ISU – CIRAS, Food and Feed Project Manager
 - ii. 94 members to date
 - iii. Discussion on suggestions for new members – keep this on the agenda each month – none suggested
- b. Task Force website updates
 - i. The “membership marketing” info on the About page on the Task Force website was updated with the suggestions from the August Board meeting.
 - ii. Review of website Links page
 - 1. Links tracker document in FoodSHIELD
 - a. Discussion of review and determine next steps
 - i. The reviews were added to the document prior to this meeting. The Board suggested sharing results of the review with Julie Kraling.
 - ii. The Board also suggested doing an annual review – adding it to a calendar for completion in summer 2027.
 - b. Merri to share with Julie, and explain to her the Board’s interest in conducting a second review in a year. **DONE**
 - iii. Analytics and metrics collected on the website



1. Merri asked Julie Kraling if she was familiar with any data analysis. She was not aware. She sent an email to the developers for information. No reply yet.
 - iv. Announcements page on website
 1. Julie and Merri requested assistance from the developers to add a new page to the website. Merri suggested an icon on the Home page to be clicked and provide access to the page, and the page would also be listed at the top with the Meetings, Links etc. pages. No reply yet.
 2. Merri will screenshare at the next meeting, the possibilities discussed with the developers.
3. December General Meeting Prep - **Bambi**
- a. Feedback on speakers and topics, discussion from June Board meeting
 - i. Merri notified Bill Marler's scheduler on 8/14 of the confirmed meeting date and time. She replied she would notify Bill of the confirmed date/time, but no other correspondence has been received (as far as a final confirmation from Bill that the date/time is still valid). Merri did reach out again on 9/8 but still no reply.
 - ii. Jurgen Ehler, Dr. Jeff Kaisand, and Dr. Katie Rumsey were asked to present on the panel. Jurgen Ehler replied that they cannot attend as IDALS does not regulate raw milk. He agreed with the idea for the moderator to simply state "Raw milk is not regulated in Iowa per Iowa Code Chapter 195". Dr. Kaisand also replied saying he would not participate.
 - iii. Dr. Jim Dickson agreed to moderate the panel discussion. However, we may have him give Bill's introduction and state afterwards the quote in the previous paragraph.
 - iv. Should we keep the topic, or select an alternative? – **Merri screenshared the topic spreadsheet from FoodSHIELD**
 1. First suggestion from the Board was three breakout sessions, 20 minutes each. In the Meeting Topics spreadsheet, the sessions could include Hydroponic Farms, Choose Iowa and Construction Contaminants. Two of these might take more time at this meeting, but keep it in case Bill can't present.
 2. Second suggestion was Bill could talk unlimited (or up to an hour) and not add other speakers. One Board member suggested asking



him to talk on how we in Iowa can speak about the topic, provide tools/pointers on how to address this topic with the public.

3. We will plan to go forward with Bill for 1 hour and Q&A afterwards.
4. Merri could reach out to Luke Meier and Dan Riskowski (Contaminants During Construction), and Beth Romer (Choose Iowa) for two sessions if Bill is unable to present.
5. Merri will contact Jim about not moderating, since there will be no panel. **DONE**
6. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
7. The remainder of the meeting will be Welcome New Board Members (5-10 minutes), DIAL update (20 minutes), Advisory Board (10 minutes), RRT Update (10 minutes), and Open Discussion (15 minutes).

- b. Advisory Board Update presentation (determine who will present, who will make the PPT slides) – Tim Link has volunteered to present on: reviewing the links on the Task Force website, updated messaging on the Task Force website, updating the Governance Guidelines, etc.
 - i. Merri will send him the slide template. **DONE**
- c. Other discussion on the General Meeting
 - i. Merri will have a draft agenda available for review at the October meeting

4. Governance Guidelines Edits – **Merri/Bambi**

- a. Governance Guidelines Review pages 2-4
 - i. Due to issues with meeting access, and the late start of the meeting, the Board was only able to review and approve edits on page 2 and part of page 3.
 1. Will pick up with Advisory Board Structure 2.d (page 3) in October
- b. Next pages to review will be Pages 3-6 in October and 7-9 in November. Merri will add the page numbers to the October and November meeting agendas.

5. Set date for October Board meeting – **Bambi**

- a. Monday 12th: any time
- b. Tuesday 13th: any time
- c. Wednesday 14th: 2 pm, 3 pm



d. Monday 19th: 9-10 am

e. 1-2 pm Tuesday 13th

6. Items to add to October Agenda – **Bambi**

- a. Fall General Membership Meeting – speaker confirmation
- b. Progress on Governance Guidelines revisions
- c. Anything else?

7. Open Discussion –

- a. Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA): multi-state panel presentation on their states' Task Forces.
 - i. One state uses a Google form as an RSVP for attendees when they meet in-person. This way they know how many to plan. It serves as a registration document and is included in the email announcing the meeting.
 - ii. The Task Forces Manual was updated in May 2025. Merri uploaded it to the Iowa Task Force FoodSHIELD group. Take a look at it when you have time.
 - iii. One state meets in a hybrid format each time. They meet in conjunction with their annual Environmental Health conference for one meeting, and the other meeting is a Steering Committee meeting (1x per year, 10-15 people in the committee). The Board has discussed a joint meeting with IEHA in the past.
 - iv. One state sends monthly newsletters and meets in-person 3x a year – one meeting is cohosted with environmental health.
 - v. One state has an 18-member steering committee, with a 2-year term limit. However, they can have unlimited terms. The term runs January 1 to the January 1 two years later. There are 2 co-chairs. Steering Committee meets quarterly. They have one in-person annual meeting, and also do on-hour webinars as a Hot Topic series. They also do outreach at other conferences (environmental health, emergency management, other associations) by setting up a table advertising the Task Force.



Meeting adjourned 3:06 pm

Merri Cross, DIAL, Board Secretary

Next Steps for the Board (highlighted in blue)

- Review the draft Governance Guidelines in the FoodSHIELD Task Force workgroup for comments and suggested changes. Pages 3-6 will be reviewed at the October Board meeting.

Next Steps for the Secretary (highlighted in yellow)

- Merri will make note of the Links page review, to be scheduled for July/August 2027
- Merri will update the Board on communications with Bill Marler and add this to the October Board agenda, during the General Member meeting discussion
- Merri will create a draft General Member meeting agenda for review at the October Board meeting
- Merri will add a second host to the October Zoom meeting (Bambi)