



Emerging Farmers Working Group November 6, 2020 Meeting

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Webex Video Conference

Agenda

Meeting Called to Order 1pm by Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey

Instructions given for using WebEx by AC Bailey

1:02 pm Blessing given by Elder Gerry Huerth

1:05 pm Welcome from MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen

Commissioner Petersen provided background for the creation of the group and benefits to Minnesota Agriculture.

1:08 pm Tribal Liaison Shannon Kesner introduction

Shannon is responsible for helping implement the Executive Order for Tribal consultation between the Agency and the tribes. She facilitates conversations with the Tribes.

1:10 pm Commissioner Petersen thanked Shannon for her contribution to the MDA. Discussed upcoming grants becoming available to farmers.

1:12 Comments from Chief Inclusion Officer Chris Taylor

1:17 pm Introduction of facilitator Michael Birchard, Associate VP of Equity and Inclusion for Dakota County Technical College.

1:19 Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan (introduced by Commissioner Petersen) expressed her excitement for the group, and the importance of the work.

1:26 pm Committee Member Introductions, each member shared their name, location, why they want to be involved, and their favorite fall meal.

2:06 pm Ariel Kagan introduced herself. She is the Emerging Farmers' Working Group MDA lead

2:09 pm Thank you and Expectations to Committee by Michael Birchard who thanked all MDA folks who have worked to get to this point. Michael shared a slide show with the Vision statement, community agreements and values, structure of meetings info. The group discussed term limits.

Members are expected to attend at least 8 of the 10 meetings to be an active participant.

Term limits discussion: terms will be staggered. Eight members will have one-year terms and nine members will have two-year terms. This will need to be addressed by the next meeting, either by volunteer or random drawing.

Miah Ulysse joined late, she introduced herself.

AC Bailey covered stipend payments for member meeting participation. The MDA has agreed to pay for the time and expertise of the members. Members are encouraged to complete the process outlined in order to be compensated for their time in a timely manner.

2:26 pm Bylaws – Michael and Ariel Kagan outlined the bylaws.

Discussion of Robert/a's Rules for the formal process of the meetings. Denise King moved to accept Robert's Rules, Emily Reno second. Miah Ulysse voiced interest in finding a method that would be less "colonial, rigid and militant" and questioned the origins of Robert's Rules. Hindolo Pokawa was concerned that process would make it difficult to reach agreements among members. Lucas Kruse asked if there were alternatives that could be recommended. Michael instructed the group to email their suggestions to Ariel or Melissa Hyslop at least a couple of weeks before the next meeting. He expressed the importance of finding a structure for the meetings that could be laid out clearly in the bylaws. He proposed the group give it two weeks, email their ideas, try to get a consensus. If a consensus is not reached by email, it will be discussed at the next meeting.

2:40 pm Discussion of Meeting Logistics was led by Michael. Michael displayed the dates and asked for a thumbs up from members to gauge availability of members for the dates. Members were instructed to add comments to the chat if discussion was needed. Miah Ulysse said she may not be available on Fridays due to work responsibilities. Michael asked if Miah could do the meeting on Fridays if it begins

an hour later. She said she can make that work. Michael said that MDA will look at the calendar and have a discussion about working the meetings into a different time to allow Commissioners to attend also.

Michael mentioned that Peder Kjeseth, MDA Director of Government Affairs, will attend the next meeting to discuss Agriculture policy. Also Stu Lourey, with Minnesota Farmer's Union, will be present. For the January meeting, guests from Rural Finance Authority will discuss loans and grants available to farmers. February meeting will be Division Directors to get a better understanding of the MDA. March meeting will be focused on the DEI and Ethnic Councils and the work they do.

2:55 pm Open for Member Discussion – Members expressed interest in sharing their vision of a perfect outcome and a timeline for implementation of ideas.

2:57 Opened for Public Comment – Public expressed support and thanks to the members for their participation in this group in the chat.

3:01 pm Meeting Adjourned by Assistant Commissioner Bailey