

April 9, 2021

Emerging Farmers' Working Group Meeting Minutes

1:07 – Introductions of EFWG and hopes for legislative session – Support for Emerging Farmers Office at MDA.

1:20 – Jeanne Poppe goes over the legislative inception of EFWG and the importance of it.

1:32 – Samantha Vang talks about the future of agriculture. She is interested in ag issues that used to be considered “other”, but going forward we all know that they can’t be considered that. Urges us all to contact your legislators about issues we care about.

- Why is the ag budget so small and how do we make the case to increase it? If it’s such a huge part of our economy, it seems like we should be able to ask for more.

1:54 – Rachel Sosnowchik presents on Second Harvest Heartland, Farm to Food Shelf is \$1.1 million per year, why they want to support emerging farmers – meeting our mission on both ends, opens up more opportunities to source more culturally relevant foods, part of the strategic plan.

2:15 – John Beaton presents on his work as Land Access Navigator with Renewing the Countryside.

2:30 – Melvin Giles and Maricella Xiong present on Urban Farm and Garden Alliance. Wants everyone to grow a garden, us to think differently about reparations. Co-director Maricella Xiong presents on their child education initiatives and the Art of Food Program, Program called GrowRx – growing veggie boxes for community members who need it.

2:50 – Lori Cox, member of the public asks Will EFWG statute (17.055), and this group expire in 2025? Subd. 2. Expiration. This section expires August 1, 2025. I ask this due to the Representatives discussing it was not a “one and done” which of course no one wants; however, looking at the statute this seems to have a limited timeframe?