

MCFARM Spring 2023 Operating Committee Meeting
April 2, 2023 11:00 – 12:30 via Zoom

Draft Minutes*

1. Call to Order by President Michael Foley @ 11:15 am

Attendance: Michael Foley, Julie Apostolu, Angela Harney, Gloria Harrison, Amanda Fairall, Scott Miller

2. Approval of Agenda with following Additions

#9 Earth Day
#10 Banking Issue
#11 Communications

3. Approval of Fall OC Meeting Minutes

There was unanimous approval by consensus of the minutes as written.

4. General Manager Report – Julie Apostolu

New Leaf – Senate Bill 207 would fully fund Market Match in all counties where it is supported. Julie has written a letter of support.

The decision of allow personal service booths, such as Reflexology, is totally up to Market Managers, though it should be by Donation.

Julie stated that Harvest Market in Fort Bragg has increased EBT on California Produce up to \$60/month.

5. Office Manager Report – Angela

Gloria Harrison assisted the OM by going through the paperwork for Online Vendor Application and a decision was made to retain the paperwork the same as last year, encouraging the provision of \$2 million in liability insurance with MCFARM named as Additional Insured.

Angela is working with applicants and the Market Managers on Vendor Application renewals.

Michael Foley commented that vendors should be checked for insurance after 3 months at Market.

Scott Miller commented that his vendor insurance is through George Peterson Insurance in Santa Rosa and costs about \$700 for \$2M worth of coverage.

Julie mentioned that the FLIP program in Arcada in Humboldt County is a reasonable insurance for food producers, but only food vendors. Even flower vendors can obtain FLIP insurance so long as their flowers are edibles.

Angela announced the MCFARM has a new Insurance Agency as the past agency was bought out by this new Agency. This new Agency has not yet asked for personal insurance by each of the vendors.

Michael Foley asked that an announcement go requesting vendors for membership renewal.

Angela noted that the MCFARM posters have been updated using the graphics from the older one.

6. Market Managers Reports

Julie – Fort Bragg: Reported that Environmental Health is inspecting the Markets now and are interested in health issues and are enforcing Temporary Food Permits for food preparation booths.

One of the Fort Bragg vendors started selling teas and required a EH inspection, also there was a CBD issue as well.

Julie announced that the Mendocino Town Market will begin on May 5th from 12 noon to 230pm.

Gloria – Laytonville: Reported Market is doing well and will stay open till 530 pm for the summer. She anticipates that there may well be an impact from the diminishing EBT now that the pandemic support is ending.

Amanda- Redwood Valley: Reported no update yet on Lions Park. There is a possible fee of \$150 for the whole season for use of the park. County Supervisor Maureen Mulhern suggested MCFARM submit letters and lots of them in support of the use of Lions Park. The RV Market is scheduled to open on June 4th from 930 am til 1230 pm.

Amanda commented there was some talk of the State taking over the County Parks. Michael Folley commented that a number of properties are under consideration and Parks was singled out however the Board of Supervisors deferred action for the present time.

Julie and Amanda – Ukiah: A problem has been cars left parked in the block utilized by the Ukiah Market. Julie will provide NO PARKING signs for Ukiah Market. Amanda reported that the numbers at Ukiah have been encouraging.

Michael – Willits: Reported the Market will remain in the Willits Grange for April. In May it will move back to the old Rexall Drug Store parking lot even though the building has a new tenant. The new tenant is agreeable to having the Market in their parking lot. Michael added that a new FNS# is required for the second location.

7. Review of General Meeting

Michael started the review by commenting it was an interesting meeting albeit a little tense. He thought it was advantageous that it was a Zoom meeting instead of in-person for such a tense session. Julie reported that due to the exclusion of produce from Solano County one of the Lake County vendors has decided to start a Farm Stand in Fort Bragg, which will require that he obtain an Itinerant Vendor Permit from the Sherrif's Office.

8. New Ag Dept Website

Julie reported that if you only have 4 items it will be easy, but its not going to be easy for vendors with mulitple items. She is committed to assisting vendors at Market.

Michael stated that he put in 2hours and only got to page 2 of 9. He believes it is clunky. He will also talk to vendors about the new website plus advise them of Amanda's G-mail notice on the matter.

Amanda commented that she has sent out information about the new Website on Friday March 31 to all vendors.

9. Earth Day April 22, 2023

Julie stated Fort Bragg will celebrate out of doors at the High School field. She intends to represent the Farmers Market with a booth featuring produce. She will feature participatory activities for kids and adults involving produce.

Michael asked if Ukiah Market was promoting Earth Day. Amanda commented Ukiah will have Market as usual but there will be an Earth Day event at the Plaza adjacent to the Market.

10. Banking Issue (the secretary did not fully understand the terms used or how the system works and as such this reporting may not be accurate)

Michael had a concern regarding a 1099 form he received from Financial Information Systems (FIS) for EBT reimbursement. His Employer Information Number (EIN) is under Friends of Willits Farmers Market.

Julie reported she has not received one, nor has the Mendocino Market.

It was Michael's understanding that contractors are supposed to get a 1099 if the amount is >\$600.

Angela asked if there should be a standardized system for dealing with the 1099 forms.

Gloria suggested that MCFARM could be added to all accounts.

No decision was made.

11. Communications

Michael stated he was unclear for what date this OC meeting was scheduled.

Julie suggested she may have dropped the ball and hopes to use Google Group for emails.

Amanda suggested everyone should use "Reply to All" in responses so everyone is kept informed.

12. Announcements

Julie announced the Quarterly CDFA Report is due. They need a vendor count and \$2 per vendor per Market.

Angela suggested the Anderson Valley Foodshed database of vendors goes to MCFARM Website.

Amanda commented that she uses a monthly spreadsheet and inputs her weekly stall sheet into that to make her monthly Market Reports.

13. Adjournment

came with a sputter and cough.

*MINUTES PROVIDED BY MCFARM SECRETARY SCOTT MILLER