



Local Food and Farm Council

Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2024

Location		No. of Presenters	Start Time	End Time	Recorder
via Zoom Video Conferencing		0	9:05 a.m.	9:33 a.m.	Jacquette Maynard
This Council is composed of the following agencies, farmers, and restaurateurs:	University of the Virgin Islands (UVI)	Department of Agriculture (VIDA)	Department of Education (VIDE)	Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)	Economic Development Authority (USVI EDA)
	Farmer (TBA)	Farmer (TBA)	Farmer (TBA)	Restaurateur (TBA)	Restaurateur (TBA)
Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chair: Dr. David Hall – President (UVI) • Co-chair: Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr., – Commissioner Nominee (VIDE) • Member: Wayne L. Biggs, Jr., – Chief Executive Officer (EDA) • Honorary Farmer Member: Dr. Nate Olive – Ridge to Reef Farm • Honorary Farmer Member: Mr. Edmon Titre – New Breed Farm • Honorary Farmer Member: Mr. Royce Creque – Greenridge Guavaberry Farm • Honorary Farmer Member: Ms. Abeba Sellassie – The B-Hive Farm Collective • Local Food and Farm Coordinator: Ms. Sommer Sibilly-Brown – VI Good Food Coalition 				
Absent:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member: Jean-Pierre L. Oriol – Commissioner (DPNR) • Member: Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington – Commissioner • DPNR Designee: Dr. Nicole F. Angeli – Director of Fish and Wildlife • DPNR Designee: Dr. Sennai Habtes – Bureau Chief, Fisheries • VIDE Designee: Mr. Harith Wickrema – President of Island Green Living • VIDE Designee: Dr. Renee Charleswell – Deputy Commissioner of Curriculum and Instruction 				

I. Welcome, Member Introductions, and Charge

- Dr. Hall called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Meeting Minutes: May 17, 2024

- The minutes were reviewed, and no corrections or modifications were observed.
- Mr. Creque moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented, with Director Biggs seconding the motion.
- The minutes were unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.

III. Public-Private Partnership Investment Fund Processes

- Conflict of Interest Policy:
 - David Hall reminded members about the Conflict of Interest policy and the importance of submitting the signed forms. He stated that the policy was distributed through DocuSign to all members, but some were outstanding.
 - Director Biggs requested copies of the fully executed policy.
- PPPI Funding Application Selection Subcommittee:
 - Dr. Hall discussed the closing of the application submission period and outlined the selection process. He emphasized that the Selection Subcommittee will screen applications and make recommendations. He shared that an evaluation form was developed for the committee's use.
 - Dr. Hall emphasized that the review process should be completed within a month to allow time for final decisions within the selected time by July 31st.
 - Dr. Hall informed us that the selection subcommittee was scheduled to meet later today to discuss the evaluation process. Final recommendations should be presented to the full Council by mid-July.

IV. Request to Change the LFFC General Meeting Schedule

- Dr. Hall mentioned a request from a potential Honorary Fisher to change the meeting day from Friday to Wednesday. This change aims to accommodate one potential member from the fishing community, for whom Friday is typically a busy day.
- Dr. Hall referenced a poll conducted to gather feedback and noted that responses were mixed, with most existing members preferring to keep the Friday meeting schedule.
- During the discussion, members shared their preferences and scheduling conflicts. All viewpoints were considered, and there was a consensus to retain the current Friday meeting schedule.
- Dr. Hall requested that Ms. Maynard communicate this decision to Dr. Angeli and invite the potential new members to attend the Friday meetings.

V. Additional Membership and Updates

- Dr. Hall inquired about updates regarding potential farmer members from St. John and new appointments from the Governor.
 - Dr. Petersen responded that he would follow up on including St. John members and the status of permanent appointments from the Governor's office. He also shared that the Council may have the opportunity to present the farmer members to the Senate for Confirmation.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The following virtual LFFC meeting will be held **on Friday, June 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**