

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

AFSAC Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2013

I. Attendance

Kimberly Stryker - FSS	Michel Villon – Culinary Institute
Morgan Poloni - FSS	Nancy Fuller - Microbiologist
Lorinda Lhotka - FSS	Susan Sery -
Randy Pfeuffer - FSS	Terrance Buza -
Steve Lacy – Fred Meyer	Captain Fanjoy - JBER
Ginger Provo - Epidemiology	Sgt Ascension - JBER
Kate Idzorek - CES	George Mayberry – Homeland Sec.
Dale Yamnik – Yum! Brands	Mark Wilson – Safe Kitchen
	John Walker – JTAK, LLC

II. Opening Remarks

- **Personnel Changes**

- Fairbanks EHO I/II recruitment closed recently
- Anchorage EHO III recruitment on-going
- Dutch Harbor EHO III – recently vacated, recruitment pending
- Valdez EHO III – vacated since last meeting, recruitment closing later in the week
- Kodiak EHO III – Rebecca Stephany

- **Budget/Funding**

Applied for continued grants for Voluntary National Retail Food Program Standards and Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards. Anticipate funding, but waiting for FDA response and award. Over the past year, EHOs have been working hard to travel to remote locations and perform inspections of facilities that had never been inspected, or hadn't been inspected in at least three years.

- **Training**

We had hoped to obtain a grant to bring staff in for FDA training (Special Processes at Retail), but did not get the grant. Instead, we are working to plan video-conferenced training in April.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Section of Epidemiology – Ginger Provo

Epi has been busy investigating several outbreaks

1. Salmonella on the North Slope
2. Raw milk on Kenai Peninsula, 36 people ill
3. Norovirus outbreak in schools, 2500 district-wide ill
4. Botulism, 5 ill
5. PSP case in Southeast, 1 ill– one of the highest concentrations of PST recorded.
6. Salmonella enteritidis, 5 ill.
7. Salmonella Heidelberg, 13 ill (Foster Farms chicken)
8. Hep A – many ill – pomegranate seeds, none in Alaska

Member Updates

- Dale and Lorinda attended the National Environmental Health Association's educational conference and were part of a panel discussion on Norovirus. There were extensive lists of references. Norocore is a great reference site for information on Norovirus control and prevention: <http://norocore.ncsu.edu/>
- Alaska Environmental Health Association is sponsoring an integrated pest management conference in Anchorage, August 6-8, 2013.
- John Walker of JTAK, LLC in Soldotna, gave a brief update of his start-up food safety business. He now has a storefront for some retail sales along with food safety consulting, training and testing.

School Handwashing Poster Competition - Michel Villon

Michel shared his planning efforts to establish a food safety handwashing poster contest in some regional elementary, middle and high schools. Michel thought the project through, but would like assistance in developing a budget, identifying funding sources and partners, and other logistics surrounding the campaign. Perhaps AFSAC could promote for next year's National Food Safety Education Month in September. Randy volunteered to help.

Small Processor Committee Update – Morgan Poloni

The committee has met three times since the last AFSAC meeting. Kate is working on developing checklists to assist small processors in understanding the requirements. The group also hopes to develop plain language guidance documents and develop a plan review guide for processors that can build on work on the seafood plan review guide

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

that is in development. The group also hopes to develop guidance for developing information about tracebacks, recalls, and product coding.

Food Safety Program Outreach

Morgan gave updates about our efforts to improve our communication with operators.

- Cottage Food (Home-Based Businesses)
http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Cottage_Foods.htm - will be changing
- Plan Review Application -
http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Docs/Plan_Review_App_2013.pdf
- Plan Review Guide -
http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/Docs/Plan_Review_Guide.pdf
- Risk Factor Resources - http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/Food/RF_Resources.html

Next Meeting & Action Items

- Meeting times on the same quarterly schedule, with alternating meeting times, 10:00 a.m. and 1:30p.m.
- Next meeting date: Oct 8, 2013 at 10 a.m.