

Minutes

Work Group members in attendance: FDPIR Program Staff: Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR President), Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer); Anna Wright (NAFDPIR Secretary), Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Perry Martinez (SWR VP), Connie Martinez (SWR); Jenelle Gimlin (WR VP), Lorraine Davis (WR); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates (MPR); Gloria Goodwin (MWR - Proxy for Betty Jo Graveen); Lou Hankins, (FNS SWRO); Kathy Sweitzer (FNS MPRO); Melissa Baker (FNS WRO), Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO); Sara Hernandez (AMS), Lena Milton, Brad Hoppe (FSA); Laura Walter (FNS), Patti Schock (FNS) Stephanie Cooks, (FNS).

Work Group members not at the meeting: Susie Roy (MWR VP), Betty Jo Graveen (MWR); Desiree Bergeron (WR); Sharon Wheeler (SWR); Lucy Atteberry (MPR); NAFDPIR MWR Nutritionist – vacant.

Visitors: Matthew Martin (FDD), Barbara Lopez (FDD).

- I. **Welcome/Member Roll Call** – The meeting opened with member/visitor roll call.
- II. **Operations Update** –Pouched beef stew orders intended for CSFP went out to FDPIR by mistake (208 cases). FDD Household Operations is working with the warehouse to trade-out the pouches for canned beef stew.
- III. **Food Package Document Review and Planning for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014** – Workgroup members received draft minutes from the December 2013 meeting in Alexandria, VA. Any comments/edits to the minutes can be sent to FDD by February 28th. The work planning document was also revised and sent out to the workgroup. The planning document reflects workgroup accomplishments/action items for FY 2014. Any comments/edits to the work plan can be sent to FDD by February 28th.
- IV. **NAFDPIR Survey Results** – The NAFDPIR Board sent out survey links to programs for the pork chop pilot and preference for slow moving items, freezer space, and fresh eggs. The pork chop pilot survey received 62 responses and the preference survey received 42 responses. The original deadline for completion of the surveys was January 31, 2014. Workgroup members asked that the preference survey be reissued for two additional weeks since the holiday season and office closures due to inclement weather may have prevented some programs from responding. The NAFDPIR Board will resend the survey link to programs that were unable to respond. These programs will have until March 14, 2014 to complete the survey. **ACTION ITEM:** FDD will send the results of both surveys when the survey process is complete.
- V. **FNS Product Status Updates**
 - a. **Cost comparison of pouched beef and beef stew to canned product** – Although the workgroup voted not to include pouched products as an option in the FDPIR food package, information was requested on the cost difference between pouched and canned beef and beef stew. In the last solicitation cycle, the pouched beef cost was \$0.10 more per lb. than canned beef (average cost: pouched beef - \$3.07; canned beef - \$2.97). Pouched and canned beef stew were practically the same in cost (average cost: pouched beef stew - \$1.00; canned beef stew - \$0.995). Long-term cost trends have not been established for these products. Prices are subject to change with future solicitations.

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b. FSA Product Market Research –

- i. **Quick Cooking Rice** – Parboiled rice options are readily available in 2 lb. packages for consideration. FDPIR currently receives US #2 grade long grain rice in cases of 30/2lb packages. The average cost of the regular rice is \$0.4066/lb. FSA currently purchases parboiled US#1 grade long grain rice in 25 lb. bags. Average cost is \$0.3703/lb. Typically, more packaging due to smaller pack size can add, on average, 3 to 5 cents to the price per pound. Given the pack size change from 25 lb. to 2 lb., the price increase could be slightly greater than the 3 to 5 cents range. **ACTION ITEM:** Workgroup members will query tribes to determine if the programs in their Regions would prefer parboiled or regular long grain white rice.
 - ii. **Canola Oil** – Based on responses from the current vegetable oil vendors, canola oil will not be pursued for the food package at this time. There is question about whether there are sufficient domestic quantities available to meet FDPIR demand.
 - iii. **Mini-Crackers** – Based on the relatively short shelf life for crackers and the fact that vendors are not likely to be willing to supply small quantities of crackers, FNS cannot consider rotating mini crackers on a 6 month off/on basis. The BIUB date for crackers is 9 months from the date of manufacture.
- c. Complaint resolutions** - The apple juice, cranberry-apple juice, pinto bean, and pasta complaints from the last meeting have all been resolved. FDD is improving and clarifying the product disposal and reordering process. Another complaints webinar is planned for late March, early April 2014.

VI. DoD Fresh Update

- a. **Customer service surveys** – DoD will work with Field Representatives to get customer service surveys out to programs. DoD has received some survey feedback from Midwest tribes.
- b. **Product availability/delivery** – DoD will be working with vendors to provide information on current catalog offerings to avoid issues with programs ordering items that are listed in the catalog but not available for ordering.
- c. **Pre-packaged vs. bulk produce distribution** - FNS will be working with Regions and DoD to identify bulk catalog items that may be available in smaller pack sizes.
- d. **Fresh shell eggs** – The proposed pilot with Seneca has not been launched yet. Workgroup members asked if the proposed pilot could include tribes from other Regions. Language has to be added to DoD vendor contracts to provide shell eggs. Currently only one contract area (upstate New York, serving Seneca) includes this option. As more contracts come up for renewal, DoD can include fresh eggs as an option.

VII. Other Business -

Next workgroup call - The next workgroup call is tentatively scheduled for either April 9th or 10th. FNS will send an email out to confirm member availability.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned