

RFSAC Council Proposal

October 2023

Background

The current Retail Food Safety Advisory **Committee** (RFSAC) is an advisory committee that advises the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DFRS) in identifying opportunities with retail food establishment operations to promote education, training, and consistency in inspection, and to address emerging trends in food protection. Members include Wisconsin regulatory professionals, educational institutions, retail food associations, and retail food entities concerned with food safety from around Wisconsin.

In 2022, it came to our attention that the committees work would have more permanence if it were to transition to an official "**Council**." The main difference between a council and a committee is that a council is meant to advise an agency on an ongoing basis, while a committee is intended to terminate at the end of its assignment. If the current RFSAC remains a committee, rather than a council, the risk is the loss of partnership/participation with DATCP. We believe the preservation of the committee and its mission are best sustained by this conversion to a DATCP council.

The following is the proposal of the RFSAC Subcommittee for our Council structure and bylaws. These would be presented to the office of DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski for discussion/approval.

Name

Retail Food Safety Advisory Council (RFSAC or Council)

Mission/Purpose

Promote a culture of food protection in the State of Wisconsin with open communication between government and industry.

Vision

The Council advances food protection, education, and food safety culture in the state of Wisconsin. The Council combines the time, resources, and educational connections of Wisconsin's top industry food safety professionals and partners with resources available at regulatory agencies to encourage improvement in the industry. It also provides a platform for food safety professional networking and forums that may not otherwise occur organically between regulatory agencies and industry.

Scope

The Council advises the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DFRS) in establishing, maintaining, and achieving food protection as it relates to food safety in the retail domain, food defense and traceability, allergen control, education, and new and emerging food protection policies.

The Council assists and advises DATCP in identifying opportunities to promote industry education, training, and consistency, and to address emerging trends in food protection. The following fall under the scope of the council:

- Food defense strategies
- Retail food safety education and training strategies
- Emerging trends in food protection and the impact they have in Wisconsin
- Allergen control strategies
- Identifying resources and solutions to challenges facing DATCP

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- Identifying resources and solutions to challenges facing industry
- Participation on Wisconsin Food Code rule revision committee
- Food protection risk factor reduction strategies

Membership

The Council shall consist of 20 seats. As the Council evolves, membership may grow to more than 20 seats based on need and DATCP Secretary approval. The Council membership includes retail food and other food industry associations, retail food industry stakeholders, and three local health departments that are agents for DATCP. The terms are one year for the Chairperson, with the Vice Chairperson serving a two-year term, one-year as Vice Chairperson and one-year as Chairperson. The Chairperson may serve two consecutive one-year terms if a Vice Chairperson is unavailable and then must wait two-years before being elected again to serve as a Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Council membership is a four-year term and members can be re-appointed to serve consecutive terms if approved by the DATCP Secretary. The Council meets on a quarterly basis. Ex-Officio members are invited to participate in Council discussions, but are not voting members. The 20 Council seats are broken into the following categories:

- 1-seat - Wisconsin Restaurant Association.
- 1-seat - The Tavern League of Wisconsin.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Grocers Association.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Fuel and Retail Association.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Bakers Association
- 1-seat - Retail food establishment serving meals industry member. (Large food facility or chain).
- 1-seat - Retail food establishment serving meals industry member. (Mobile food units, vending, bed and breakfast facilities, temporary restaurants, caterers, etc.) (Small food facility less than 50 units/locations).
- 1-seat - Retail food establishment not serving meals, such as grocery store (Large).
- 1-seat - Retail food establishment not serving meals, such as grocery store (Small).
- 1-seat - Convenience store industry member with significant food service.
- 1-seat - Meat establishment industry member with a retail food service operation.
- 3-seats - Local regulatory officials: Representing Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB).
- 1-seat - DPI Schools and institutions: Public and private early childhood, K-12, and institutions of higher education across the state that are a full service food facility, including private companies providing school or institutional food service.
- 1-seat - Wisconsin Technical College System or Universities of Wisconsin representing the culinary programs in Wisconsin.
- 1-seat - Member at large.
- 1-seat - DATCP/Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DFRS) Council Secretary.

Ex-Officio Members:

- DATCP/Division of Food and Recreational Safety (DFRS) management.
- DATCP Field Retail Food Sanitarian
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | Bureau of Communicable Diseases

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Current Committee Membership:

- Anthony Reams - WAMP (WI Association of Meat Processors)
- Brian Hobbs - Wisconsin Association of Local Department of Health & Boards (WALHDAB) Representative – Polk County Health Department - Rural health dept.
- Cheri Schweitzer - Credible Consulting – Member at large
- Courtney Kempfert - The Tavern League of Wisconsin
- Daniel Tew - YUM! Brands - National Restaurant Industry – Large retail serving meals
- Hsing-Yi Hsieh - Festival Foods - Wisconsin Grocers Association
- Jay Ellingson - Kwik Trip, Inc – Wisconsin Fuel and Retail Association
- Jessica Hoover - Wisconsin Bakers Association
- John Chastan - Kalahari Resorts - Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association
- Julie Hults - Wisconsin Association of Local Department of Health & Boards (WALHDAB) Representative – City of Milwaukee Health Department - Urban health department
- Katie L. Roberts - Wisconsin Technical College System
- Kirsten Homstad - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Susan Quam - Wisconsin Restaurant Association
- Todd Drew - Wisconsin Association of Local Department of Health & Boards (WALHDAB) Representative Menesha Health Department – Small Health Department

Current DATCP Members:

- James Kaplanek - Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – Section Manager
- Sarah Scanlan - Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – Advanced Sanitarian – Secretary.
- Chris Hinz Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection - Field Staff Supervisor.

We respectfully ask that the current membership of the committee be appointed for the first term of the council.