



SLO County Food System Coalition Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2016, 4:00-6:00 PM
UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo

Attendees: Nicki Anderson, Karen Aydelott, Josh Ayers, Mark Battany, Bryan Brown, Becca Carsel, Joel Diringer, David Gross, Kylie Hensley, Teresa Lees, Kylie Hensley, Teresa Lees, Linda McClure, Eric Michielssen, Jen Miller, Montgomery Norton, Stephanie Teaford, Jeff Wade, and Emily Wilson

I. Ellen Burke - SLO Map Project

- See Ellen's slides. The project is funded by a grant from ArtPlace America.

II. Work Group (& Admin Committee) Updates

Admin Committee

- Welcome to our new member, Nicki Anderson.
- VOTED on change in language to our operating guidelines to remove the time limit on how long a volunteer can serve on the committee (two 2 year terms) (which Bryan has passed) to allow volunteers to serve on the committee as long as they want if there is a shortage of committee members. Everyone unanimously voted to support the change in language.

Farm to School

- This working group is going to host the tricounty (SLO, Santa Barbara, Ventura) Growing Edible Education (GEE) Symposium gathering in SLO County in the fall of 2017.
- The COE is putting together a survey for teachers about Farm to School.

EBT at Farmers Markets

- On April 1, NCFMA (Templeton, Paso, Baywood, Atascadero) started receiving Market Match funds (\$1 CalFresh → \$2 at the markets)
- They're administering the funds through a subcontract.
- The Gables are acting as farmers market managers and are showing tremendous leadership.
- Peter with the SLO Farmers Market Association is rolling out EBT in late May / early June.
- AG and Morro Bay are considering it, but their interest is contingent on a 3rd party helping with administration.
- The grant (which one? The NCFMA Market Match grant?) allows printing materials, and the Food Bank has a distribution of flyers with a list of farmers markets that accept EBT, but it's out of date. Info is distributed through the Food Bank and WIC.
- Jen - We need to increase CalFresh participation rates - ours are among the worst in CA, which is among the worst in the country. A handful of people are talking about systematic approaches for reform, understanding the population. The statewide Alliance to Transform CalFresh works with the CAFB and DSS to identify barriers. They're scheduled to have a 1st in person meeting for a county-wide collaborative and cohesive effort on May 9.

- Stephanie - Does Cal Poly skew the numbers? The CSU system is trying to increase students' CalFresh enrollment. Potential to collaborate?
- Joel - Thank you Jen and Food Bank for taking leadership in CalFresh participation.

Food Hub

- CFP grant deliverables are due August 15
- Brianna, Nicki, Niko, and Ellen are members.
- Developing business plans for a food hub and a food processing facility.
- 2 sets of activities:
 - a. Engage Harvest Santa Barbara distributor to service this area. They want to engage with small to medium scale farmers. This mechanism is essential for large institutions like Cal Poly.
 - b. Create mechanism to connect farmers with commercial buyers (hub without necessarily a physical facility).
- Nicki - There's an opportunity to fit consumer interests (fresh, nutritious, etc) with an educational opportunity for how local affects these desired qualities.
- Stephanie - Food system issues are potentially divisive; use broad definitions; focus on what you want, not what you don't want; affirmative rather than negative; not excluding anyone from the table.
- Nicki - Food hubs have been historically organized by farmers; now, food systems are cross-sectional work, which allows consideration of institutional demand.
- Jeff - daily 8 hrs/day farmers market as a potential form; maybe a commercial enterprise will help meet the need and not rely on a non-profit.
- Nicki - there's a facade of "local" marketing; Is there more local gleaned produce to the Food Bank than to restaurants, schools, hospitals?
- Eric - for example, restaurants use a token local farm
- Jeff - If consumers demand to know where food comes from, that shifts buying pattern (Chalk Board Revolution) (?) Mentioned Cal Poly start-up: fruitsquad.com

III. Announcements

CFP Update

- See Joel's handout.

UCCE

- New UC Garden Nutrition extenders program to work with school gardens and nutrition education
- Stephanie - school gardens rely on committed parents and lack consistency; this is a positive improvement

Policy Update

- AB 1810 Seed Saving - Featured speaker: Elizabeth Johnson from the SLO Seed Exchange - invited to share her opinion on if we should vote in support of this bill to protect seed swappers from regulation. She said the language has been in process for 2 years to clarify the difference between community exchange and farmer commercial trade. The Nipomo Seed Library has a green light from the state. She endorses the bill. We unanimously VOTE to support it also.

- AB 2751 Local Investment - Jeff - The bill makes it easier for small food businesses to get funding, it reduces the paperwork and protects the person loaning the money. He endorses the bill. We unanimously VOTE to support it also.

BOS Election

- Eric - On June 7, vote Eric Michielssen for BOS District 5 (by May 9 if by absentee ballot)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from 4-6pm at UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, SLO