



## **SLO County Food System Coalition Meeting Minutes**

April 21, 2015, 4:00-6:00 PM, UCCE Auditorium

Attendees: Becca Carsel, Linda McClure, Jen Miller, Stephanie Teaford, Joel Diringer, Kylie Hensley, Jeanine Lacore, Christina Lefevre Latner, Teresa Lees, Karen Aydelott, Susan Singley, Pavlo Rudakevych

### **I. Food System Folio:**

Presenter: Christina Lefevre Latner, M.P.P., representing the ACTION for Healthy Communities project (actionslo.org). Email: [latnerchristina@yahoo.com](mailto:latnerchristina@yahoo.com). Phone: 805-286-2490.

Christina is working with the ACTION for Healthy Communities project to create a folio about the food system in San Luis Obispo County. She is looking for partners to help identify themes of data, source this data, and mock up an outline/story for the folio. If you are interested, please contact her directly at [latnerchristina@yahoo.com](mailto:latnerchristina@yahoo.com) or 805-286-2490.

The ACTION for Healthy Communities project is funded by the Community Foundation and aims to “raise public awareness of human needs, changing trends, emerging issues and community problems” by providing “accurate, credible and valid information on an ongoing basis to human services planners and those providing funds...to guide decision-making about creation, management, and redesign of programs; establish community goals using measurable Quality-of-Life Indicators that will lead to positive, healthy development for individuals, families and communities; [and] develop and support collaborative action plans to achieve the community goals.” (actionslo.org)

The project started collecting data in 1999 and has since published six comprehensive reports titled *Vital Signs – Understanding San Luis Obispo County*. In 2011 they began creating four short folios (1500 words max) per year that highlight specific topics to make the data in the comprehensive reports more accessible. The finished folios are socialized on the radio and made available in pdf form on the project website (actionslo.org) and in hard copy at locations such as the CAPSLO and United Way offices. The folio topics for 2014 included: The Status of Children in SLO County, Cost of Living, and Homelessness in SLO County. Their current folio is on water, and their next folio will focus on food systems and will probably be released in 3-4 months.

Christina and her project team have not found a lot of data about food systems, especially first hand data. They would like partnership from our coalition to help them identify 3-4 themes of data, source this data, decide how to create a story around the data, and mock up a folio outline.

We discussed maybe forming a small committee or appointing a representative to partner with this folio project on behalf of the SLO FSC. We recommended that Christina talk with Hunter or someone from the Food Bank who is already involved with the FSC. Joel and Karen recommended taking themes from our existing reports (e.g., Hunger Free Communities/Paradox of Plenty, CCG Foodshed Assessment, and the foodshed guide made by one of Hunter's interns). Other possible data sources mentioned: the ag commissioners report, labor report, and economic impact report. Other possible partners: the Farm Bureau. Christina has already talked with Becca and Adria about possibly using the SLO FSC's four goals from our 2015 goal setting activity as the folio's data themes:

1. All SLO County residents have access to nutritious food.
2. Improved nutrition of SLO County residents who experience food insecurity.
3. A sustainable local food system that is able to meet the food needs of SLO County residents.
4. Collaborative community efforts to address the root causes of hunger in SLO County.

Again, if you're interested in collaborating with Christina on this project, please contact her directly at [latnerchristina@yahoo.com](mailto:latnerchristina@yahoo.com) or 805-286-2490.

## **II. Announcements:**

### **First Time Attendees:**

- Pavlo Rudakevych, Slow Money SLO and SLO Natural Foods Co-Op
- Susan Singley, new program director with GleanSLO
- Christina Lefevre Latner, ACTION for Healthy Communities project

### **Community Food Project (CFP) Grant Update:**

See attached document.

### **WIC (Linda):**

- Linda is working with WIC to steer families to farmers markets that accept EBT. They are also engaging participating families in climate friendly education about buying fresh, local produce, especially at markets that accept EBT.
- WIC will continue their Harvest of the Month education program during the summer, funded by SNAP-Ed CalFresh money.
- Linda is looking forward to distributing 250-300 booklets of \$20 value checks that that they receive annually in the summer from the USDA to distribute to WIC families to buy fresh produce per at certified farmers markets.
- WIC wants to work with GleanSLO to invite families to help with gleaning because families have expressed interest.
- First Fruits Farm isn't planting this year because of the drought.

### **Living Schoolyard Network (Tree):**

- May is Living Schoolyard Month.
- Our local network is promoting related events (school garden workdays, etc) to raise awareness and support for a statewide legislative effort to provide consistent funding to design, implement, and incorporate living schoolyards into K-12 curriculum.
- For a calendar of events, visit: <http://creec.org/events> --> Region 8

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- Look out for more information in the May FSC newsletter.

### GleanSLO (Jen, Jeanine, and Susan):

- Welcome Susan Singley, the new GleanSLO program director! She moved here from Fort Collins, CO where she was involved in economic development around alternative food systems.
- GleanSLO printed new door hangers for their backyard harvest program.
- Check out the Wine, Waves, and Beyond Event on April 29-May 3, a fundraiser for GleanSLO. Visit <http://www.winewavesandbeyond.com/> for more details. (Admin Note: Sorry I didn't send these minutes out sooner!)
- The Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (POVE) is focusing on developing relationships with large scale farms. For more detail, visit their website: <http://pove.net/>
- GleanSLO is at 160 harvests to date for this year, an increase from this time last year.

### SLO Permaculture Guild (Tree):

- Sign up now for the SLO Permaculture Design Course (PDC) at <http://slopermaculture.weebly.com/>
- Workdays for the Our Global Family Children's Garden at SLO City Farm are every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and are open to the public.

### CREEC Network (Tree):

The CREEC network is environmental education resource for teachers: <http://www.creec.org/>

### New Event Partnership Idea – The Rotary Club's Rural Urban Event (Stephanie):

Every spring the Rotary Club of SLO hosts a Rural Urban event in appreciation for farmers. Monday lunchtime at Madonna. The owner of Farm Supply, the mayor, and Stephanie's husband are involved. Should FSC get involved next year? Maybe just hand out flyers to raise awareness for opportunities to collaborate? A lot of farmers come (75-100), and the event includes a fundraiser for ag scholarships. Rizzo from Café Roma cooks. → Contact the Rotary Club of SLO to follow up.

### Field Trip Ideas:

- Cal Poly meat processing unit
- Mobile meat processing truck in the county?
- Olive/honey – other local food/farm enterprises
- Glean
- Bee Wench Farms
- POVE (Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange)
- Our Global Family – next year
- Movies
  - Just Eat It
  - INHABIT
  - Yerka (Bob Banner)

### Guest Speaker Ideas:

- Sharing SLO local wiki

- Soil mineralization (Erica Reinheimer)
- Soil bioenergetics (Tim Hollingsworth)
- Organic farmers/CCOF – Eric Michielssen, Sarah from Bee Wench Farms, Ralph Johnson

### **III. Working Group Updates:**

#### **EBT (Stephanie):**

- **History:** This working group formed to advocate for North County to keep accepting EBT at their farmers' markets. Then once they decided to continue accepting EBT, the working group tried to help them keep their matching program going and expand EBT acceptance into other markets throughout the county.
- **Current Status:** EBT is currently accepted at farmers' markets in Grover and North County and at the SLO Grange Hall. North County had a fund matching program, but it ended because they didn't have a sustainable source of funding. They talked with Slow Money SLO, but they weren't able to help. \$30 million annually flows into our county through CalFresh (\$2+ million per month). We don't know what portion is spent on fruits and vegetables, but we do know that money spent at farmers' markets isn't being spent on processed foods. EBT is being underutilized in our county. We have one of the lowest CalFresh participation rates in the state, which has one of the lowest in the country. Incentives and education (like the California Nutrition Incentives Matching Grant Program) are important to stretch dollars to cook healthy on a budget with a lot of mouths to feed.
- **Current Goal:** Increase the use of CalFresh at farmers' markets and support the markets that are currently using market match to increase their matching capacities. Raise awareness and produce materials to share with markets countywide.
- **Possible Connections:** The Ecology Center received \$3.1 million grant to support market match, although not in our county. Stephanie met with 2 ag business professors at Cal Poly to discuss the potential for a collaborative project around the economics of agriculture and increasing access for low-income populations that the Ecology Center could support.
- **Action Item:** Ask SLO County to update their map of farmers' markets with information about which ones accept EBT and match funds (if any).

#### **Advocacy & Outreach (Becca, Kylie, Linda, Tree):**

- **Revisiting Past Successes:** the EBT work group, advocacy workshop, and SLO chapter of the Living Schoolyard Network started in advocacy/outreach work group.
- **May is Living Schoolyards Month:** See previous announcement about the calendar of events.
- **Upcoming Event:** The SLO FSC is co-sponsoring an advocacy training with the Food Bank Coalition of SLO County on Tues, June 9 from 9-12noon at the UCCE Ag auditorium on Sierra Way.

#### **Food Waste (potential new work group):**

- Idea: "Just Eat It" movie showing with HopeDance for future events
- Maybe form new working group based on May 6 Food Waste Panel event that Adria planned

#### **IV. FSC Membership & Internal Voting**

At the last quarterly meeting in January, we found no consensus about voting and membership type. Should FSC members represent their personal individual selves or their organizations?

##### **Admin Committee's Recommendation:**

At their meeting on March 10, the Admin Committee decided to propose that:

- Members are representatives of their agencies;
- Voting member requirements remain the same (3 of 4 meeting per year must be attended);
- Voting members will be given at least 2 weeks notice of an approaching vote, and background information will be provided, so everyone has ample time to seek guidance on their position;
- Yes, No, and Abstention votes will be recorded in the minutes; and
- Email voting shall follow these procedures:
  - Email subject will always be: SLO FSC VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_;
  - Two weeks will be given to vote;
  - Reminders will be sent at 1 week and a few days before; and
  - Admin Committee members or FSC staff may call to remind people to vote to make sure there is a quorum.

##### **Our Vote:**

Do we support the admin committee's proposed changes to membership and voting as listed above?

- YES votes: 8 (Karen Aydelott, Becca Carsel, Kylie Hensley, Jeanine Lacore, Teresa Lees, Linda McClure, Jen Miller, Stephanie Teaford)
- NO votes: 0
- Abstentions: 0

#### **V. FSC Membership in the CA Food Policy Council (FPC):**

##### **CAFPC Membership Update:**

At the statewide CA Food Policy Council (CAFPC) meeting in Sacramento on February 9, the council voted to create two categories of membership for participating local organizations: 1) collaborating members and 2) advocating members. Advocating membership requires active timely involvement in developing the annual CAFPC policy agenda and policy reports. Collaborating membership requires staying informed about CAFPC updates and calls to action, but is less of a commitment because it does not require direct involvement in policy analysis and reporting.

Here is more detailed language from the *Operating Guidelines for the California Food Policy Council* (revised Feb-March 2015, available at [http://www.rootsofchange.org/wp-content/uploads/RevisedOGs-final-edits\\_April-2015.pdf](http://www.rootsofchange.org/wp-content/uploads/RevisedOGs-final-edits_April-2015.pdf)):

##### **... Membership Types**

*The CAFPC recognizes that different regions may have different priorities driving their participation. In order to ensure all members can maximize the outcomes for the time and effort they commit to the CAFPC, two types of membership have been established.*

***Collaborating Members...***

***have the right to:***

- 1. attend all statewide meetings and any learning or capacity-building activity;*
- 2. participate in the planning of and attendance at regional meetings;*
- 3. sign on to any CAFPC letter, report or policy proposal or sponsored legislation issued by the Advocating Members in accord with the Sign-on Protocol (section 6c);*
- 4. receive reimbursement for travel and accommodations associated with the statewide meetings;*
- 5. rotate representatives.*

***have the responsibility to:***

- 6. brief new representatives on relevant information in order to maximize the value of participation;*
- 7. attend all statewide and regional meetings in order to maintain Collaborating member status: One (1) absence per year may be excused if due to illness, extreme weather conditions or travel system disruption, but the member must inform ROC of the impending absence as early as possible and seek to find a replacement if possible. One (1) unexcused absence or two (2) consecutive excused absences will disqualify the Collaborating Member from eligibility for travel and accommodation reimbursement. If a Collaborating member fails to maintain their status, a Steering Committee member will notify that Collaborating Member that their right to reimbursement has been suspended until that right is reinstated, as determined by the Steering Committee. During the suspension period the member will be identified as a Collaborating Member with limited rights.*
- 8. include an update on CAFPC activity in each of the Member's own local policy group meetings, including communication of requests for action from the CAFPC to the local policy group in a timely fashion.*

***Advocating Members...***

***have the right to:***

- 1. send one (1) representative to serve on the council. Advocating members are encouraged to select a representative that can serve for a period of one (1) year. If Advocating Members choose to rotate representatives, then they are responsible for ensuring that the representative has been briefed about the workings of and ongoing discussions of the CAFPC in order to maximize the impact of the Advocating Member's involvement;*
- 2. send multiple representatives to CAFPC state or regional meetings, but possess only one vote;*
- 3. receive reimbursement for travel and accommodations associated with the statewide meetings and other travel associated with Policy Work Group work, or advocacy campaigns, if approved by the Steering Committee and/or ROC.*

***have the responsibility to:***

- 4. deliberate on Work Group recommendations, vote on proposed policies or positions and participate in statewide advocacy;*
- 5. send a representative to all statewide and regional CAFPC meetings and participate in the Policy Work Group to maintain Advocating member status: One (1) absence per year may be excused if due to illness, extreme weather conditions or travel system disruption, but the Advocating Member must inform ROC or the Steering Committee of the impending absence as early as possible and seek to find a replacement if possible. One (1) unexcused absence or two (2) consecutive excused absences will end Advocating Member status and eligibility for travel and accommodation reimbursement. If an Advocating Member fails to maintain their Advocating Member status, a Steering Committee Member will notify the Advocating Member that their rights to vote and reimbursement are suspended until reinstated, as determined by the Steering Committee. During the suspension period, the Member will be identified as Collaborating Member with limited rights.*

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Admin Committee's Recommendation:

At their meeting on March 10, the SLO FSC Admin Committee decided to recommend that we choose to participate as a collaborating member because we only meet quarterly, which limits our capacity to track policy and make quick policy decisions as a coalition, which would be required to be a advocating member.

Our Vote:

Do we support the admin committee's recommendation to choose to participate in the CA Food Policy Council as a *collaborating member*?

- YES votes: 8 (Karen Aydelott, Becca Carsel, Kylie Hensley, Jeanine Lacore, Teresa Lees, Linda McClure, Jen Miller, Stephanie Teaforde)
- NO votes: 0
- Abstentions: 0

**VI. Policy Updates – Farm to School Act of 2015:**

Our Vote:

Do we support the Farm to School Act of 2015 (S.569, H.R. 1061)? (See attached flyer for more detail.)

- YES votes: 7 (Karen Aydelott, Becca Carsel, Kylie Hensley, Jeanine Lacore, Teresa Lees, Linda McClure, Jen Miller)
- NO votes: 0
- Abstentions: 0

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21 from 4-6pm at the UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way**