



**SLO County Food System Coalition Meeting Minutes**  
July 19, 2016, 4:00-6:00 PM, UCCE Auditorium

Attendees: Nicki Anderson, Karen Aydelott, Bob Boar, Bryan Brown, Ellen Burke, Becca Carsel, Melissa Donehey, Linda Fraser, Bruce Gibson, Robyn Gable, Margaux Inma, Julie Lefko, Erin Lapes, Wendy Lewis, Kristin McMaster, Marjore Mata, Linda McClure, Eric Michielsson, Jen Miller, Polly Nelson, Jeff Nielsen, Aydin Nazmi, Lisa Paniagua, Maria Patino, Erica Ruvalcaba, Mary Jean Sage, Amanda Smith, Renn Strong, Stephanie Teaford, Jeff Wade, Emily Wilson

**I. Kim McCoy Wade: Improving CalFresh to Increase Food Access**

*See her powerpoint in the Resources section of the SLO FSC website for details.*

- She noted that this is one of the most diverse coalitions that she has worked with.
- She's planning to visit SLO in person in the fall.
- The CA DSS is building a website for resource sharing to encourage peer-to-peer learning (e.g., BMPs around reducing churn, telephonic signature) between county offices, starting with the 19 largest counties, to hopefully foster rapid replication of what works.

**II. Jeff Wade: Food Hub Update**

Jeff joined the Food Hub work group in January to help with the report they needed to create for the CFP grant. Nicki, Ellen, Brianna, and Niko are also part of the group. Their goal is to connect small local farmers with local buyers to grow businesses and sustainability. CAFF published a study that concluded that 3<sup>rd</sup> party food hubs not owned by farmers struggle financially without subsidies. Instead of focusing on a traditional brick-and-mortar food hub, the group is working collaboratively with farmers and institutions to facilitate "institutional matchmaking" to increase local sourcing. Wins so far: They connected a local distributor, Harvest Santa Barbara, with Cal Poly and Paso Robles schools so they are able to buy local produce. They also have conducted 14 farmer surveys in coordination with the SLO MAP Project to assess farmers' needs: education, business coaching, support connecting with buyers. The work group's next goal is to connect SLO farmers with Harvest Santa Barbara.

**III. Updates**

Updates from work groups and individuals. Attendance at the quarterly meetings is not required to join a work group; anyone is welcome to participate if they are interested.

**Becca – Food System Folio**

- The food system folio draft is almost done. Christina made an announcement about the folio on the radio show Central Coast Voices on July 22.

## SLO FSC Meeting Minutes

### Lisa – Farm-to-School (F2S) Work Group

- The group meets monthly for 1.5 hours at various locations. They started these regular meetings in January. Their vision is for every school to have a garden. They have connected with similar movements in Santa Barbara and Ventura. There is a tri-county Growing Edible Symposium in Ventura in October. Our work group will host the next symposium in 2017 here in SLO. They are planning to host workshop in Paso to involve the Culinary Arts Institute.
- Sidenote: Lisa is working with a group of 13 diverse volunteers to create a school garden support team similar to Master Gardeners that will eventually evolve into a statewide program. They will be at the Tomato Extravaganza on August 20 if you want to meet them.

### Robyn – North County Farmers Market Association

- 4 of their markets currently offer EBT with \$10/person/week market match: Baywood, Paso, Templeton, Atascadero

### Jen – Farm-to-Food Bank Tax Credit

- The current tax credit is 10% for only a small handful of farms, mostly large industrial farms
- A new tax credit policy passed that increases the credit to 15% based on the wholesale value of the product, which makes it available to small farms, and expands the credit to apply to eggs and other products.
- Senator Monning fought hard to help this tax credit pass.

### Ellen – SLO MAP, a project funded by ArtPlace America

- The project hosted a public workshop with an interactive display downtown that involved 200 people over 2 days.
- Exit surveys from the workshop provided great feedback. For example, a majority of people didn't know that food in grocery stores comes from centralized distribution warehouses and not local farms.
- The project is funding a farm stand to be built at SLO City Farm for Central Coast Grown, hopefully by September or October.

### Linda – HEAL-SLO

- For HEAL-SLO's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary they are hosting a Health Forum on October 7 from 9:30-2:30. Registration opens in August. They will feature a speaker about Victory Gardens and have a "veggie box" (like a soap box) for organizations to pay \$25 to perform a commercial/dance/jingle and win \$1,000.

### Eric – SLO Natural Foods Co-Op

- The co-op is trying to move to a bigger facility – perhaps the old Fresh & Easy building? They might also try to expand to Paso. Email Eric if you're interested in helping.

### Stephanie – New Research

- Stephanie is researching the economic impact of CalFresh on farmers markets.

### Kylie – CA Food Policy Council Statewide Meeting

## SLO FSC Meeting Minutes

- August 29-30 in Sacramento. Email [slofoodsystem@gmail.com](mailto:slofoodsystem@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend.

### **IV. Closing:**

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 18 from 4-6pm at the UCCE Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way**