

SLO County Food System Coalition Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2014, 4:00-6:00 PM, UCCE Auditorium

Attendees: Jenna (CCG), Adria (SLO FSC), Bryan (CapSLO), Dave (CapSLO), Jeff (SLO Money), Tee (Master Gardeners), Victoria (One Cool Earth), Jenn (GleanSLO), Janine (GleanSLO), Karen (HealSLO), Christine (UCCE), Andrew (Sierra Club), Carla (SB FPC), Stephanie (STRIDE), Linda (WIC), Andrea (Talley Farms), Becca (Grant writer for Food Bank), Montgomery (Paso Food Co-op), Stacey (Ecologistics), Shannon (Public Health), Kenta (Public Health), Tessa (CCG)

Introduction and Updates:

Jenna: April 6, Sunday on City Farm, Details to come (Jenna). Adria is new staff member for coalition

Tee: Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education (GENE) workshop coming up. March 8 Jen Miller- GleanSLO is starting harvest leader program, an enhanced volunteer opportunity.

Andrew- Environmentalist get together at Steinberg Gallery 7pm January 29th.

Becca- Maintain website- please email her with events! Utilize the forum on website.

Montgomery: Interested in hosting a forum event for North county food system.

Review of FSC structure:

Administrative Committee

Adria-Admin

Working Groups- people volunteer to get on them.

Working groups started by members.

Survey

How can we improve the meetings? Make them more effective?

*If you did not take the survey at the Coalition meeting, the link to the survey is included in this email.

Food Shed Assessment Presentation:

The SLO Food Shed Assessment report can be downloaded from CCG website.

Currently, the first half of the report is available and the second half of the report will be released soon.

<http://centralcoastgrown.org/projects/food-systems-assessment/>

Jenna shared select data points from each of the four goals: Profitability, Equitability, Resiliency, Health Promotion. Would like to work on recommended steps together as coalition to identify ways to move forward.

Breakout groups:

Group 1: It is important to prioritize coalition's goals to most valuable instead of time range, in relationship to Paradox of Plenty. There is a lot of agricultural surplus in the county. Would like to create an early warning system for purveyors to alert food bank and people in need. Currently, its mostly unscheduled and can be difficult to use all of the product received.

Group 2: We should work towards matching farmers and distributors and schools, and creating facilities for producing. Coalition meetings should incorporate more breakout sessions and foster more connections between members.

Group 3: The Coalition needs to create a new strategic plan with the new Food Shed Assessment data. What is the next step, what are the gaps, who are the partners? It is important to have some doable outcomes. Smaller successes. More definition

Group 4: The Coalition should create a food action plan. We need to evaluate the problems and solutions, and involve individual members organizations. We should send the report on to elected officials and organize a presentation involving supervisors and council. How to drive the recommendations into policy?

Group 5: Coalition should create food action plan for advocacy and policy. We should create networking opportunities around issues at meetings. We should have a regular review of working group activities. Could the FSC help by condensing information and making it easier to share?

Group 6: The SLO FSC should work to improve local distribution by increasing the number of distribution centers or co-ops in the county. We should identify stakeholders that will help implement these projects. Leadership SLO may be able to think creatively about action.

California Food Policy Council Update

SLO County FSC became a voting member last year. The next meeting is in Sacramento in February. They are looking for members to be on the Steering Committee. You can get the application form from Jenna. It is a self-nominated volunteer position that requires organizing regional meetings.

CA FPC report card was released about three weeks ago. Info is on their website. <http://www.rootsofchange.org/content/roc-releases-cafpc-2013-legislative-report-1>

USDA Community Food Projects Grant Update

Adria on behalf of Carl: The grant is functioning wonderfully. GleanSLO purchased a truck using \$25,000 from the grant funds. Adria is serving as Admin Assistant for 5.5 hours a week because of the grant.

Christine (UCCE): Have been hosting preservation workshops and Harvest of the Month program with Talley Farms. Side not: beginning Master Food Preserver program. Manuals come out spring 2014. Training for county is going to start soon.

Tessa (CCG): Several interns surveying farmers. Tessa is doing research on successful food hub and institutional purchasing programs.

Adria on behalf of Joel: As part of the grant, the evaluator will make quarterly reports to the FSC. Surveys for grant partner organizations have been created for use at workshops.

Working Group Updates

No update for Paradox of Plenty. Carl will do full report at next meeting.

No update for Food System Assessment

Education and Advocacy: Exploring what action items in the Paradox of Plenty report that should be converted into advocacy issues. Should we work on locally promoting the state level legislation that's coming up through the CAFPC? We think the larger group should help work through the Food Shed Assessment to identify the advocacy issues – what can we distill and convert into. How do we increase representation so we can figure out the best way to move forward? There is a great need for collaboration with Paradox of Plenty. At the next meeting we will give AGENDA TIME to the A&E group to bring to the larger group 2-3 items that we want the group to take a position on and allow sufficient time on the agenda to come to concrete direction for the A&E group. The A&E working group submitted a press release about the FSC to local publications, to increase education and membership.

Santa Barbara Food Policy Council Update

The original FPC originated from UCSB. They fell flat because they did not include local government in the conversation. Now they are involving different workshops and trying to increase interest in the community. They group just received \$2500 seed money to hire a facilitator. They are working on a spring event for NGOs to do 3 minute talk on what groups are doing and how to get involved. Harvard Law School, that developed Good Laws Good Food document (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/files/2011/09/FINAL-LOCAL-TOOLKIT2.pdf>), will be coming out at the end of October or November for a West Coast tour. SB FPC, with Harvard group, will host workshops for community members and for farmers. SB Food Bank just received a grant help create a Food Action Plan. The food policy council will help with that. SB FPC is working with farmers, processors, and the health department to work on policies on the tri-county level. They have had some distribution meetings, involving different stakeholders including local government. The FPC is looking at multi-stakeholder cooperative working with USDA to see if pilot program could work here. Can Santa Barbara use name food systems coalition? Yes.

Membership discussion

The Administrative Committee has created a new membership document that more accurately reflects the types of membership that the coalition has. Anyone can be a General Member. A Voting Member has to attend three consecutive meetings a year.

It was determined that the Admin Committee needs to clarify the purpose of the three meetings being consecutive; it used to be just three meetings a year. Voting Members can vote at their third meeting.

Can an organization have multiple members, or does an organization just have one representative on the coalition?