

La Plata Food Policy Council Minutes

**26 Sep 2016, 12:00-1:00, La Plata County Fairgrounds
(minutes by Jim Dyer)**

Brief notes for the record. If you have questions or need background, contact me at jadyer@frontier.net

1. Participants: Dick White, Joni Podschun, Darrin Parmenter, Sloan Gingg, Kaitlin Fischer, Gwen Lachelt, Brian Kimmel, Jim Dyer

2. Status of Key Issues: These are the four areas we are monitoring and addressing (recommending & catalyzing action as needed):

a. Food Security & Access

Darrin reported that the Produce Bounty Food Distribution went very well – lots of produce from the Farmers Market. Brian expressed interest in helping determine the carrying capacity of the area for food production. Sloan reported that the free Manna Produce Market is going well and that excess early in the month is going to a similar event at Roberta Shirley Head Start for parents. Caitlin described the efforts of Thrive to support livable wages—which would support greater food security. Dick would welcome any input on local food access for a talk he is giving in the Spring. It appears that we need to know more about the local Food Bank and the opportunities for using more local food.

b. Farm to School and Preschool

Jim reported that the 9R local food receiving center is up and running at the High School. HCFS's Farm to Preschool project is going well with 5 preschools currently subscribed to CSAs for the season. See the HCFS link below and contact me, Jim Dyer, for more)

c. Communications & Coordination among Local Food Groups

Joni asked that people take this Doodle Poll to help schedule the Spring Food Retreat in March/April in Ignacio: <http://doodle.com/poll/zwybupduzndke3c2>

Growing Partners has expanded its geography to the counties of Montezuma, Dolores, La Plata, Archuleta, and San Juan (CO), and is discussing how to work best with other local foods groups in the area.

d. Policy — City, County, Other

Gwen said that the County hopes to have their County Comprehensive Master Plan done in the Spring. Completed chapters, meeting schedules, and background info can be found at: http://lpccds.org/planning/land_use_codes_and_plans/comprehensive_plan_update

Dick reported that the City of Durango is working on a modest update of their Comprehensive Plan, with a completed draft ready for review by January. See the timing of the next two meetings and an opportunity to submit comments online at": www.durangoplanupdate.org

Jim reported that the CO Food Policy Network has unveiled the Colorado Food Systems Hub which uses the national Community Commons data and mapping system — it is pretty neat. Check it out at: <http://www.communitycommons.org/groups/colorado-food-system/>
See the announcement from LiveWell below.

Also below, you will find an announcement of the CO Food Policy Network Convening in Colo Springs on 2-4 November. We can send at least 6 participants from this area with travel support, so contact Joni or Jim if interested.

4. Next Meeting:

It was agreed that we will try to have it in the Spring, perhaps after the Growing Partners Local Food Retreat

5. Adjourned: At about 1:00PM

Resources:

HCFS Local Policy page:

<http://healthycommunityfoodsystems.org/local-food-policy/>

Colorado Food Policy Councils & Local Food Coalitions List:

<http://www.cofoodsystemscouncil.org/local-food-coalitions.html>

Farm to School and Preschool:

<http://healthycommunityfoodsystems.org/farm-to-school/>

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Community Commons:

As many of you know, LiveWell has been working with the Community Commons (www.communitycommons.org) design team to create a customized Food Systems (Digital) Hub.

We are hoping this Digital Hub will be the go-to resource for food environment data, mapping, and reporting. The Hub is designed to facilitate information sharing and to help partners identify peer activities and actions being taken in food systems across the state of Colorado. It will include support for creating customized maps and reports with national and local food systems data, and tools such as "mapping the movement" of food systems activities across the state and a peer forum for connecting with one another.

We hope that this tool can be of assistance to you and your partners to ease access to data related to food systems and to find your peers and connect with them. The data and reporting tools can help in developing grant applications and making policy cases.

This tool will only be as valuable as it is used, so please encourage all members of your coalitions to join us ! The more the merrier, and we rely on everyone to keep the data and content current. Below here is information on 1) how to join the Hub (you do have to have a member log-in, but it is super easy) and 2) how to join the Zoom session webinar!

Many thanks and hope to hear from you soon!

--Wendy

To join the Hub:

Step 1. Go to Community Commons: <http://www.communitycommons.org/>

Step 2. In the type right corner, click on 'Register'. Then create a profile. (If you already have a user account, you can just log in)

Step 3: Go to the "Community Commons Colorado Food Systems Hub"

here:<http://www.communitycommons.org/groups/colorado-food-system/>

Step 4. Once logged in, you can click on the tabs at the top or colored boxes in the middle. You may run into a note that says "Private Hub," in which case you'll need to click "Accept Invitation"

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CO Food Policy Network Convening Info from LiveWell:

What:

2 1/2 days of networking, strategizing together on specific efforts, building policy skills, and developing technical storytelling skills with the Colorado Food Policy Network

Who:

2-4 members from your local food system coalition (reimbursements for travel and lodging – if needed - are available for everyone and we will feed you!)

Where:

CO Springs, hosted by the El Paso County Food Advisory Board

When:

- Wednesday Nov 2nd, 10:00am-9:00pm (because of happy hour and dinner together!)
- Thursday Nov 3rd, 8:30am-4:00pm
- Friday Nov 4th, 8:30am-12:00pm (optional day, for those who are ready to create a digital story and complete the storytelling workshop, see below)

More Info...

In these 2 1/2 days, attendees will be able to: participate in in-depth working group sessions on topics such as Double Up Food Bucks and Healthy Food Pantries; play in the CO Food Systems Digital Hub and discuss its uses as an organizing tool; attend a Farm Bill listening session; and, discuss upcoming state and federal food systems policy actions and how we can all be involved locally and beyond.

Participants will also have the opportunity to attend a training on how to listen deeply and share your story in a digital world, in a hands-on workshop led by Valley Food Partnership/LiveWell Montrose Olathe.

And there will be ample networking and socializing time.

Many thanks,
Wendy