

La Plata Food Policy Council Minutes
15 Dec 2015, 12:00-1:00, La Plata County Fairgrounds
(minutes by Jim Dyer)
revised as underlined below

1. Participants: Werner Heiber, Marla Luckey, Katrina Blair, Dick White, Joni Podschun (via phone), Darrin Parmenter, Marcus Renner, Rachel Landis, Kristi Streiffert, Lauren Pope, David Golden, 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

Food access remains a key focus of most local food groups here. USDA Commodity Foods Distribution, Manna Soup Kitchen, and the Durango Food Bank are among the ongoing local programs. Rachel reported that the FLC Environmental Center is looking at food access and trying to compile a list of all potential donors of excess food for their food recovery project. She also reported that the Real Food Challenge continues, and that a new faculty member is focusing on access. Growing Partners is considering food access policy training.

Dick said that the City is looking at some of these issues as well as related issues of livable wages, affordable housing, etc. Werner suggested that we need a good directory of all the local food groups and what they do as well as the groups working on these related issues. We discussed whether the Sustainability Alliance was willing and able to do so, and without a clear path forward, we tabled this for later discussion.

b. Farm to School and Preschool

Jim gave an overview of Farm to School in the three LP County districts. Use of local products has grown, but financial constraints continue to be challenging. 9R has received USDA funding to complete the local foods receiving center which may serve other schools as well.

Jim also explained the HCFS Farm to Preschool Project going on intensively in La Plata County with additional funding to spread the concept and lessons learned to Colorado's 17 southwest counties. He put in a shameless pitch for the new report, "The Promise of Farm to Preschool in Southwest Colorado" available as the top link on this page:

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

At this meeting and the Healthy Lifestyles meeting the next day, we had a discussion of recent news of 9R budget issues and the potential impact on Farm to School. Jim followed up with Krista Garand at 9R on how we could help, and she said she could use testimonials from "people eating in the lunch program that appreciate what we are doing" so she can share that with the school board when the opportunity arises. **If you could send Jim any such**

testimonials or leads on people we might contact for them, he will coordinate getting them to Krista.

c. Communications & Coordination among Local Food Groups

All agreed that we have a good number of groups working on various aspects of local food, but that coordination and sharing of information could be better (see discussion above of the need for a list of those groups). We focused on the upcoming Growing Partners Local Food Retreat in March/April as an opportunity to increase that coordination. We agreed in fact to have our next Food Policy Council meeting as part of that event.

d. Policy — City, County, Other

Dick reported that the City Comprehensive Plan Update will be underway in 2016. The overall theme will continue to be sustainability, with a particular focus of housing and economic disparities. We understand also that the County Planning Commission is currently moving through the County Comp Plan process. We hope that both processes will take advantage of our Food Policy Council to assist as needed.

Jim described the statewide CO Food Policy Network that has been forming over the last couple years. This will be an opportunity for our council to join with others on promoting statewide issues (such as double-up bucks for SNAP/food stamp recipients) and to learn how other communities (see link to the list below) have advanced local food policy. Jim and Joni attended an October meeting of this Network and will keep us connected as it develops.

4. Next Meeting:

It was agreed that we will try to have it in conjunction with the Growing Partners Local Food Retreat in March/April.

5. Adjourned: At 1:00

Resources:

HCFS Local Policy page:

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

Colorado Food Policy Councils & Local Food Coalitions List:

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

Farm to School and Preschool:

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