

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
February 18, 2014
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: March 18, 2014, 3-5p.m. @ HHS campus

Attendees:

Steering Committee - Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); David Lewis (UCCE Marin); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); Rebecca Smith (HHS Nutrition Wellness Program); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin); Peter Healy (AIM)

Committee Members – Al Baylacq (Good Earth Natural Foods); Denise Trevino (YLI); Gail Crain (CAM); Jeffrey Westman (Marin Organic); Jennie Pardi (Conservation Corps North Bay); Liza Crosse (Aide to Supervisor Kinsey); Madeline Hope (West Marin Waste Education); Sheila Kopf (SF Marin Food Bank); Socorro Romo (Point Reyes Food Bank); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative); Susan Martinelli (Breastfeeding Coalition)

Guests – Domenica Giovannini (Marin City Community Services District); Lauren Klein (UCCE, Marin Master Gardeners); Germaine Kruse (LIFT-Levantate intern); Jennifer Judkins (HHS, HEAL intern); Torhalla Dabalos (HHS, HEAL intern)

Handouts:

- 8 Essential Elements of a Strong Prevention Strategy slide handout from the ChangeLab Solutions training, CX3 Canal handout

****2:00 p.m. – Optional pre-meeting training from ChangeLab Solutions on [Policy Making](#)**

Welcome (Janet Brown, Chair)

- Opening remarks, welcome to the rain, food security definition, introduction to meeting's agenda and Council members

Council direction for policy learning and development update (David Lewis)

- 2014 Meetings – shared list of dates and proposed content
- Madeline Hope suggested adding school nutrition support content to August's meeting

CWP policy review and working group formation (Janet Brown)

- There already exists extensive applicable policy in the Food and Agriculture Element of the Countywide Plan

- Subcommittee to familiarize with the low-hanging fruit that is ripe for implementation – that which would be feasible to enforce, and/or make the most difference – as well as to identify what policy is missing
- Interested in subcommittee: Madeline Hope, Denise Trevino, Susan Martinelli, Rebecca Smith, Jennie Pardi, Liza Crosse. **Email if interested in joining.**

- Some cities working right now on their general plans – Council could identify pieces to share
- ChangeLab Solutions policy webinar review/thoughts/questions: How do you capture data and how does it get shared with the County? How can we best translate our goals to the BOS? Remember cities and their general plans in addition to the CWP.
- **Next Steps:** Steering Committee will be in contact via email with those interested in subcommittee work.

Community specific policy (Rebecca Smith)

- Canal and Marin City CX3 report outs in March meeting, as well as West Marin (Socorro Romo, Madeline Hope and Jeffrey Westman)
- CX3 findings reports: The Canal February 20th from 3 – 5 p.m., Marin City March 7th 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Senior Center

HEAL Mini-grant update (Rebecca Smith)

- HEAL mini-grant recap – capacity building for initiatives that link to or support work that implementation teams are doing
 - HEAL supported the following mini-grant proposals (WIC, YLI, Marin Coty Community Services District)
 - Next cycle begins in July, new mini-grants will be available
 - Session of food and nutrition education services: March 10th from 9-11 a.m. at HHS Room 110

Community gardens policy and outreach (David Lewis and Lauren Klein)

- Introduction to work plan and roles people can play
 - Review of Council's Community Gardens policy work
 - 3 areas of policy needs: infrastructure, management, mapping
- Lauren Klein: share year timeline and draft working plan
 - Advisory committee
 - Mapping work = to find potential sites for gardens as well as people to support them
 - Permitted use for community gardens in CWP, not the case for 11 cities in the county. Lauren will talk to these cities and council members, attend monthly meetings
 - Meeting with Bob Brown and past advisory committee members.
 - Fall conference planning
 - Assess and report accomplishments and continued needs
 - Feedback: start with most receptive cities (Larkspur, with an existing successful community garden), because cities look to each other for examples. Council members can also give input as residents. Support BOS updates.

Council representative updates (All)

- Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative: Annual conference this Sunday at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin – how faith communities can be involved in food system issues.

- Question about sites accepting donated food and potential liability/food safety concerns. Homeward Bound and Canal Alliance can accept donated food; everyone is protected by the Good Samaritan Law. Food Banks prefer large quantities, and prefer not meat or eggs for food safety issues. Food Banks ask pantries to separate smaller private donations from food donated from Food Bank, and people are advised about the different sources. CCNB wrote report on Good Samaritan Law to increase education – schools fear liability so throw away unopened food! “No, thank you” bins, food recovery programs from cafeterias to food pantries. Huge issue: food access/justice as well as waste. **Topics for distribution meeting later in the year.

- Similar liability concern around shared use agreements, even though there is a similar law that prevents schools from being liable if grounds are used outside of school hours. Lauren Klein discussing shared use potential at MLK in Marin City.

Closing remarks (Janet Brown)

“It is not easy to cross boundaries to adopt a whole-systems approach to health. It means leaving the areas we know well and venturing into fields where we have to depend on the expertise of others. It means learning unfamiliar concepts and mastering new tools to engage complexity. It means asking people to take health into account in making decisions that usually depend on other considerations. It may provoke controversy. It may make people we approach uneasy and even angry. It requires patience, imagination, courage, integrity, and a sense of humor.”

- Dr. Richard Levins, John Rock Professor of Population Science, Harvard School of Medicine

Meeting adjured at 4:22 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2014, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the [HHS campus](#)