

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
March 17, 2015
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: April 21, 2015, 3-5p.m. at [HHS campus](#)

Attendees:

Steering Committee - Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); Alexandra Danino (SF/Marin Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); Deborah Schoenbaum (YLI); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Collaborative)

Committee Members – Amy Ridout (Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden); Erendira Olivas (LIFT-Levantate); Gail Crane (CAM Marin); Lori Davis (LIFT-Levantate); Miguel Villarreal (Novato USD); Madeline Hope (West Marin Waste Education); Marv Zauderer (ExtraFood.org); Susan Martinelli (Marin Community Clinic)

Guests – Ayana Morgan (Marin County Youth Commission, Food Justice Advisory Committee); Elena Dennis (Marin County Youth Commission, Food Justice Advisory Committee); Michael Dimock (Roots of Change)

Welcome & Introductions – Janet Brown

- Solution that causes a ramifying set of solutions... We need to define the problem large enough to accommodate real solutions; define the problem BIG.

State-level Food Policy Report – Steve Schwartz

Vote on endorsement of the California Nutrition Incentives Act

- Disseminate formal [AB 1321 Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program](#) (Ting) language from bill.
- Assemblyman Levine has already signed on as co-author.
- Potential points of opposition: the Department of Food and Ag has no official funding (manager of the program) – BUT the program should only cost \$100,000-200,000, and could bring in up to \$5 million in federal dollars; the bill doesn't include large mainstream retailers; and/or people don't believe the public should go beyond the food stamp program
- CSA, farm stand programs, and locally owned small businesses are included as smaller, private businesses, hopefully that apply in a collaborated effort
- 2 other states are running similar bills, but smaller in scope than CA
- Regarding question around conflict of interest: 2 solutions (1) option to abstain, with the balance of the Council voting; (2) County staff can ask BOS for approval of a proposed policy, freeing County Staff up to advocate for support of a policy.

****Vote to endorse AB 1321: unanimously approved.**

Farm to School Act of 2015

- [Farm to School Act of 2015](#) will expand USDA Farm to School Grant Program by tripling funding from \$5 million to \$15 million.
- Act is a "marker bill" which will be folded into the Childhood Nutrition Act re-authorization.
- Health care providers, educators, non-profits could benefit as well as schools

- The [Request for Applications](#) for the 2015 USDA Farm to School Grant Program came out yesterday for this year, option to apply now even though program is very competitive; also hope for three times the funds in a year and a half from now
- MFPC can appeal that MCOE apply for all schools within the county for a comprehensive Farm to School program for the county, open the conversation for all school districts (Madeline, Lori, and Miguel express interest in working on this)
- Regarding the online sign-on form letter: can we amend the letter to particularly address the most at-risk youth populations? Perhaps MFPC can endorse it *as well as* send notes to the Farm to School Network and Sustainable Ag Coalition specifically asking this. Deborah will wait to see final language of the bill before voting

****Vote to support the Act: endorsed by consensus with one abstention, Youth Leadership Institute.**

CAFP Membership Update – Michael Dimock, Roots of Change and CA Food Policy Council

Overview of the statewide Council

- CA is hugely influential nationally and globally
- 2010 reconvened group of people working in different sectors to analyze the food system from farm to table for the year > map of our food system (online), and a diagnosis of the core of the problem, as well as the potential solution
 - Problem: our system subsidizes the wrong things, and those benefiting are controlling the politics and the
 - Solution: scale up local policies to create health and resiliency for communities, work for deeply with individual communities
- 25 of the state's food policy councils are ratified members of the CAFPC
- Ways in which CAFPC works towards its goal of getting communities access to healthy food
 - 1) share info between councils, 2) build regional (Southern CA, Northern CA, and the Great Valley/Mountains) collaboration to create enough support to build infrastructure to support local efforts, and 3) work to create a collective voice directed at the legislature and the governor (this was began with the annual report tracking bills of note, aiming to eventually create legislation from the CAFPC). This way the government knows there is a constituency that is watching their decisions around food and health. 31 representatives on the committee deciding which legislature should be tracked.
- As an advocating member, MFPC would be required to have a space on their monthly agendas for CAFPC topics. MFPC members that don't want to advocate can educate about their constituencies and other MFPC members can then advocate. Members have until May to decide if they are Collaborating or Advocating. All so far have decided to be Advocating Members.
- Things to avoid: leadership is sometimes difficult, Napa's FPC died because it didn't have enough constituencies. It is important to have clarity on goals and aspirations as an entity.
- Best Practices MFPC can borrow from? Polly Calhoun from LA interviewed FPCs on existing policies > this matrix of data is online, and working on an online database to access existing policy. Until then, check Johns Hopkins University's Center for Livable Future's project/document/database. But it is up kept by participating organizations, so not always current.
- CA is the nation's leading FPC at the nation-level; largest and most active.

- 15 years ago the first statewide FPC in the nation (Kansas?) was decided and appointed by the governor; nurturing small entities into a foundation from which a state council can arise (the CAFPC) is much more complex.
- MFPC identified challenge in Marin (i.e. transportation)... when do the solutions come back to the communities that they originally come from? What is the process by which an individual council can seed an issue that moves to the state and beyond, seeing results on the ground? CAFPC is relatively young, anticipates growing to the level of developing its own legislature in the next year or so. CAFPC meets each year, breaks into issue groups to select which to act on.

Equitable Access Policy Update – Janet Brown and Julia Van Soelen Kim

We are on a Glide Path to Success with Equitable Access Policy, including milestones and detailed timeline to bring our Equitable Access policy to adoption in October for World Food Day.

Equitable Access Policy Theme Areas:

1. Healthy retail food access
2. Community food production (smaller scale, local, urban, neighborhood-based)
3. Supplemental food programs (emergency as well as CalFresh, WIC, etc.)
4. Safe and adequate transportation routes to food
5. Education and emergency preparedness (facilities and infrastructure to respond to crises)
6. Monitoring and advancement (tracking themes over time, building the MFPC in as the monitoring body to keep our region accountable)

Timeline review (see attached handout):

- Community tours to identify needs led to current policy process
- Looking to create a county-wide resolution and 2 city resolutions (San Rafael and Novato)
- Sup. Kinsey agreed to be our first champion, and recommended a potential co-champion
- Going forward there are key areas we need MFPC engagement:
 1. check with communities that we're on the right track with our identified needs
 2. solicit endorsement from MFPC members
 3. data collection
 4. help with BOS presentation
 5. media and outreach
 6. prioritize funding needs to identify budget asks (if applicable)
- We want our declarations to be implementable, have real actions, provide reasons to reconvene, and include data to track over time.

Youth Commissioners Update – Deborah Schoenbaum, Elena Dennis and Ayana Morgan

Youth Leadership Institute background: YLI has been around for 25 years, was originally founded in Marin County and currently has their home base in SF. Serves over 1000 youth a year. Modeled around youth leadership development and assessment of community needs related to youth and campaigns to get those needs met. Legacy of elevating youth voice; staff are adult allies to the youth they serve, and encourage youth leadership and forge authentic adult-youth partnership. YLI has worked on food policy in Marin in the past regarding eliminating junk food and food trucks, and increasing school garden access.

Marin County Youth Commission background: group of youth from high, middle, and some elementary school youth, elected by BOS. Every year MCYC creates 3 sub committees to

work on aspects they want to see change. Food Justice sub-committee - also Education Equity and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD). Mainly work to change policy in Marin. This year's project goal: every school in Marin have access to a garden and use the produce in the actual school as snacks and/or lunch. Working now with San Jose Middle School in Novato, which has a garden but needs teaching and training to ramp up the program; food demos for using the produce. Also working with Marin Oaks to increase their knowledge of garden upkeep and produce use. Create a model at San Jose and Marin Oaks to demonstrate to other school districts for eventual universal policy recommendations to the BOS. Biggest challenge: how hard it is to maintain a running garden. What policies can help gardens stay sustainable? Offer school garden access to nearby community gardens with waitlists? Selected San Jose and Marin Oaks by looking at schools in Marin and their food access issues, asked school willingness and interest in their project. The Education Equity committee is working on a film project: disciplinary actions with youth of color and other community and school inequities. ATOD working on restorative justice programs rather than suspension for beginning ATOD infractions. April 10 Davidson Middle School will be preparing food from their school garden and kitchen to give away and thank funders.

Introduction to Marv Zauderer of ExtraFood.org

- 40% of food in this country is wasted. Greenhouse gases generated by food waste in our landfills ranks third behind the US and China. Goal is to end hunger in Marin by 2025. Food Rescue program picks up food and delivers it immediately to non-profits that feed the hungry. In 15 months 100 volunteers have recovered 192,000 lbs. of food to 51 no-profits serving thousands of Marin's vulnerable. Good Samaritan Act protects those donating food to non-profits. Circle of sharing among businesses, non-profits, community members, etc.

Council Representative Updates and Announcements – All

- Amy – **March 28** from 10 am – 2 pm: FREE workshop on Enhancing Edible Education
- Lori – **April 10** around 5 pm: Davidson gardening and cooking demo
- Julia – **March 31** from 7 – 8:30 pm Cultivating Justice in Food Systems: People, Power and Policy talk sponsored by the Berkeley Food Institute. **April 8** from 7 – 9 pm: Lecture Series 2015: Changes, Challenges, and Choices regarding Food Security. **April 24** from 8:30-10 am First 5 Marin's 13th Annual Policy Breakfast at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael.
- Miguel – Elena designed and held Camp Cauliflower last year in Novato, will run again this summer. Novato is expanding its cooking with families outreach, piloting program called Joyful Twelve. Next Wednesday **March 25** is their last program 1:30 – 2:30 pm at Lu Sutton Elementary School.

Closing remarks – Janet Brown

"It's 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 5:05 p.m.

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