

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
July 21, 2015
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: August 18, 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at [HHS campus](#)

Attendees:

Steering Committee – Janet Brown (AllStar Organics); Alexandra Danino (SF/Marin Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); Cío Hernández (HHS); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin)

Committee Members – Becky Gershon (SF/Marin Food Bank); Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin); Domenica Giovannini (Marin City); Kerry McGrath (Marin Organic); Lori Davis (Sanzuma); Madeline Hope (West Marin Waste Education); Peter Healey (AIM)

Guests – Aidan Lynch with Assemblymember Mark Levine; Jannel Mariano (HHS intern); Sylvie Knepler (HHS intern)

Welcome & Introductions– Janet Brown

Council Member Announcements

- Julia: CERES Community Project - teaches teens how to grow, cook and deliver food for families in serious illness. Teen trainings from now through November for teen volunteers to commit to the program. Contact Julia for application info.
- Cío: HHS hired Rebecca's replacement Reba, who will attend the next MFPC meeting. Cío will be joining the MFPC Steering Committee in Rebecca's place and has a doctorate in health care leadership, is a licensed mental health care practitioner, and works with communities and policy makers to get our health needs met. Works for HHS and for BOS (Steve Kinsey).
- Becky: SF/Marin Food Banks are hiring, positions are posted on their website.
- Lori: "GROW Novato" (with hopes to expand to "GROW Marin" in the future). \$1.25 million dollars lost in Novato USD alone from un-claimed free and reduced school lunches. Starting this fall, teachers at every school in Novato will walk students to the breakfast line in order to increase breakfast participation and thereby increase federal reimbursements, which will then fund putting a school garden in every school. **Next steps:** Lori and Miguel to share in more detail on the August agenda.

CA Food Policy Council Report – Aidan Lynch, Field Rep for Assembly Member Levine

- Update on SB 367, AB 761, and AB 1321
- Legislation overview:
- SB 367: changes existing law from 1990 requiring CA Dept of Food and Ag to create Environmental Farming Program, giving grants to incentive farmers on climate issues and sustainable living – now there will be a name change of the Program, and people will be encouraged to do more because those who do more get more. Will also expand the Global Warming Solutions Act, enabling the Air Resource Board to give grants to farmers with good practices promoting ecosystem health. Will also require the Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation Program to give similar grants. \$25 million to be set aside in a fund for these

grants. SB 367 passed the senate and was amended twice in the Assembly. A few months before we see more news.

- AB 761: Compost Pilot Project by Levine. Use compost to sequester carbon and reduce water needs of agriculture. Establishes a grant program to fund pilot projects such as the Marin Carbon Project to expand compost application projects.
- AB 1361: MFPC has endorsed already. Requires the office of Farm to Fork to provide access to healthy food to underserved schools; this would establish a grant program and matching account to fund continue bridging the nutrition gap in underserved communities. This passed the Assembly but was amended in the Senate, so will have to return to the Assembly for another vote. Hopeful for its passing, and the amendments are minor.
- Follow-up items for the MFPC: CAL Leg Info to read full bills and see how legislators are voting. You can reach out to the authors and voice your support, which will add your name to a list that legislators look at before voting.
- *****NOTE:** CA Food Policy Council requested the support of the MFPC on SB 367 and AB 761. MFPC endorsed via an email vote on 6/29/2015.

Fairfax Food Security and CalFresh Resolution Take-Aways – Alexandra Danino

- 3 crucial community members: Maryann Sullivan, Gio Taylor, and Angela led the process.
- Collaborative effort to see a resolution on food security pass in such a short amount of time.
- Keys to success: understand community challenges, understand the bureaucracy, keep the focus, be an advocate for real humans, have a deadline, gather data, find political support, have organizational backup, press releases and media outreach.
- Accountability and support for implementation measurement is crucial.

Equitable Access Small Group Work – Equitable Access Policy Options Worksheets (POWs)

Group 1: Healthy Retail Food Access (Facilitator = Julia)

Group 2: Supplemental food Group A (Facilitator = Alexandra and Becky)

Group 3 ****Next meeting****: Land and water issues from the production side (Facilitator = Janet)

Equitable Access Report – Julia Van Soelen Kim

Becky: 2 POWs = Food Waste and Non-profit Food Programs.

- Food Waste: Need good data about food waste, work on a template of questions to send to grocery stores to assess their levels of food waste, draft a summary of Food Waste policy for next meeting.
- Non-profit Food Programs: Need to understand where the need is in the County, where we are lacking in services, etc. Ask to commission/request a study that would better inform solutions. Marin Strong Start County-wide initiative may be a good place to fold in some of our efforts. On the ballot of 2016, would generate \$10million directed at families with youth through elementary school age.

Julia: Healthy Retail in Marin City, Canal, and West Marin

- Challenged to find policy solutions to such a business-centered issue
- Need to revise language in Marin City document because group felt it is too narrow and solution lies in hands of all of southern Marin.
- New policy ideas for future POW: community-based grants around healthy retail solutions.

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

Parking Lot / Next Steps:

- Lori and Miguel to share in more detail on GROW Novato (August meeting)

Meeting adjured at 5:05 p.m.

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