

Marin Food Policy Council  
Meeting Notes  
August 18, 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); Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)

*Committee Members* – Angela Struckmann (Marin County Public Assistant); Becky Gershon (SF/Marin Food Bank); Casey Poldino (Zero Waste Marin); Elaini Negussie (HHS); June Farmer (Marin City CX3); Lauren Klein (UCCE Marin); Madeline Hope (West Marin Waste Education); Marv Zauderer (ExtraFood.org); Reba Meigs (HHS)

**Welcome & Introductions– Janet Brown**

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

- **Three thematic buckets: food access, community food production, and food access assistance programs**

Today's focus: land access and water access (under food production), and food waste (under food assistance programs)

**Group 1: Access to food and water** (Facilitators = Steve and Janet)

Access to Water POW

- Consensus to recommend water districts develop a lower water rate for ag, community and school gardens, with the districts to figure out the metering
- Question on whether to include this discount to homeowners as well
- Also want to include the promotion of education and incentives on water conservation
  - Next Steps: Looking into cost of separate metering with UCCE Garden Walks program

Access to Land POW

- Local governments to provide a list of all public lands able to be used for food production
- Call on public agencies to make joint use agreements to make land available to interested parties in food production
- Provide non-monetary incentives for edible landscaping
  - **Next Steps:** Steve and Janet to revise POWs with Bonnie's notes

**Group 2: food access assistance programs** (Facilitators = Madeline and Casey)

Food Waste POW

- Biggest obstacle: collecting data on county food waste, which means measuring success will be difficult. Contact large waste generators such as schools, grocery stores, hospitals, to get some data and extrapolate to the County.
- Policy solution: we need residents and business owners in the county to have a food waste plan if they are selling food in the County. Promote a way for people applying for

their sales permit with the County to have a plan for food waste. Education on Zero Waste: waste is a resource (food for others, or compost). Permit process includes the responsibility of a food waste plan.

- The County already committed to zero waste by 2025, and food waste is part of the issue, so the County will likely be supportive, but there will likely be private businesses who won't know where to start. We could provide templates and resources to share what is working and what isn't. Marin Sanitary is doing this for commercial, Casey is doing this for schools. Recovering edible waste is also an issue of nutrition in addition to zero waste, as well as increases the likelihood of the County meeting their zero waste goal for 2025.
  - Next Steps: Casey to add to the Google doc a list of stakeholders who may be interested in viewing the policy, MFPC member to add people who may be interested in contributing buy-in and revisions. Also add the EPA Food Recovery Pyramid.

### **Equitable Access Volunteer Tasks – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

Marin Food Policy Council began this work over a year ago with community learning, and it will culminate with a Resolution and report to the BOS in support of equitable access to healthy food for Food Day (October 24). Team is working towards the most feasible and robust POWs to ultimately recommend to the BOS. As this report gets written, team will be coming back to Council members for their particular areas of interest and expertise. Volunteer aids are needed in the following areas:

- Editors for the report (AUG): [Lauren Klein](#), [Madeline Hope](#), [Reba Meigs](#)
- Write the resolution, done a week before Sept 15 meeting: [Cio Hernandez](#), [Liza Crosse](#), [Steve Swartz](#)
- \*\*\*Consider potential to present to the BOS in two separate meetings: report first and resolutions to come\*\*\*
- Manage formal endorsements from MFPC member organizations (SEPT): [Julia](#), [Bonnie](#)
  - Create a form for orgs to endorse
  - Each individual member to check with their respective org heads
- Meet with elected officials/BOS in 15 min mtgs (end of SEPT, beg of OCT):
  - Kinsey (champion): [Madeline Hope](#) and [Janet Brown](#)
  - Sears (possible co-champion): [Elaini Negussie](#) and other Marin City reps, [Lauren](#), [Julia](#)
  - Connolly: [Casey Poldino](#)
  - Arnold: [Becky Gershon](#) and [Alexandra Danino](#)
  - Rice (Board Chair): [Marv Zauderer](#) and [Steve Schwartz](#)
  - San Rafael mayor & city council: [Lauren Klein](#), [Steve Schwartz](#), [Promotores?](#)
  - Novato mayor & city council: [Lauren Klein](#), [Julia Van Soelen Kim](#), [Pam Shinault](#), [Bob Brown](#)
    - Material feedback OR support and buy-in? BOTH. Document could go to aides prior to the meeting.
- Help make a buzz (week before OCT 24):
  - Brown Miller Communications access til October 1
  - Latino Policy Forum meeting October 22 here at HHS
  - November 8 at HHS and in San Geronimo
  - Oct 16, 17, 18 event at Laney College for Black Urban Farmers

- Youth Leadership Committee
- Attend BOS hearing (OCT 13 to be determined): [EVERYONE who can attend](#)

**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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