

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
July 18, 2017
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: July 18, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m.

Attendance:

* = Voting members

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank*		Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*
X	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag, Pgm*		Lauren Klein, UCCE
X	Becky Gershon, SF-Marin Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
	Bonny White, West Marin Comm Services*		Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Cio Hernandez, HHS Public Health*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
	Davis Lewis, UCCE	X	Mimi Choudhury, AIM*
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness	X	Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
	Gail Crain, CAM*	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Susan Martinelli, WIC
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm Services District*
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		Veda Florez, Latino Marin*
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health		Wendy Pacheco, YLI*
X	Mary Munat, Green Mary	X	Jessica Bazan, YLI
X	Mimi Enright, UCCE Sonoma	X	Judith Silver, Zero Waste Marin

24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total

Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Julia: multi-state multi-year study on rolling out CSAs in rural grocery stores, plan to trial in Sonoma and Marin counties to increase food access for rural consumers and to increase distribution outlets for retailers.
- Jessica: YLI 8-10 youth help with Marin City CX3 program.
- Judith: working on reporting county recycling and waste stats to the state.
- Julia: Save the Date: Nov. 9 Equity Summit. Focus this year: youth equity.

Council Business

- Alex: Hunger Action Month (September) presentation to the BOS - BOS supported MFPC on food access issues in the past, MFPC will report back to BOS on **Tuesday September 26** on MFPC Equitable Access work, including CalFresh.

- Reba: Update on Summer Meals Workgroup – MFPC as one arm under the HEAL umbrella, 10-12 stakeholders have been meeting to decide next focus for HEAL, decided on hunger, with 3 strategies: 1) streamlining CalFresh enrollment, 2) food recovery programs, food guide and mobile app to address immediate hunger needs, and 3) addressing hunger from a poverty and economics standpoint via built environment, allowing community gardens, farm stands, etc. MFPC invited to be a part of a hunger forum in September to coordinate subgroups. **Reba to communicate with folks who expressed interest at the June MFPC meeting in participating in a Summer Meals Workgroup**

Food Waste and Recovery: state- and county-wide solutions for reducing environmental impacts of waste

Mimi Enright, UCCE Sonoma Community Food Systems Program

- NRDC issue paper elevated food waste issue and kickstarted recent efforts.
- Food waste makes up 20% of landfill weight
- Foodwaste consumes a lot of resources.
- 2016 EPA food waste to be cut in half by 2030
- Prioritize food waste into a hierarchy: reduce waste, feed hungry people, feed animals, industrial uses, composting, and lastly landfills.
- ReFED solutions analysis effort: economic data of reducing foodwaste; evaluated 27 solutions (prevention, recovery, and recycling)
- Federal Act: Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation: protects companies from liability when they donate food to a non-profit
- AB 1826: Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling if produce 4+ yards per week
- Sonoma Waste Characterization Study: 36% organics going into landfill; over 50% foodwaste is generated in households. Nationwide Manufacturing Sector has little food waste, Retail and wholesale and Restaurant Sector is larger.
- Bulk of traditional food recovery is based on non-profits; small, insufficient infrastructure, based largely on volunteers.
- Sonoma County Food Recovery Coalition vision: reducing food waste for greater community connectedness and resilience (including both feeding hungry people and reducing waste)
- Key question: where does the food go?
- Sonoma Emergency Food Provider Directory to facilitate connections, housed on CropMobster website. Media campaign (with both commercial and consumer segments) to publicize the directory in the community.
- Member of Sonoma Food System Alliance

Green Mary

- Event waste diversion for 15 years. Inspired by Julia Butterfly Hill.
- Work at over 300 events/year: from small backyard parties to weddings to 250,000+ people at Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival

- Personal, Purposeful, and Powerful: NO food waste. There has to be a formula to figure out portions and appropriate amounts of food to serve people – education ahead of time is crucial.
- Sharing with food vendors and producers about how to plan for zero waste; compost only what's been semi-consumed. Send out a letter before the event: everything needs to be recyclable and compostable.
- Most of their work in SF, work closely with Food Runners.
- Success: personal issue. Compelling stats: 1 office employee recycling every paper they use in a year saves 4.5 pulp trees.
- Huge compost and recycle containers and tiny trash cans at events, trend catching on. Signs with pictures for each bin.
- AB 2176: any public event of a certain size must do waste diversion. Not a lot of teeth to it; not strictly assessed or enforced.
- Template thinking: what are we doing that can be mimicked in other places and in other ways, rather than starting something brand new?
- Education and engagement is critical, interaction with attendees at a public event is an important way to pass along the message.
- People have been working and volunteering with Green Mary for years: everyone from students, stockbrokers, homeless people, lawyers.
- Act like – and KNOW – that what we do really does make a difference.
- Take whatever compels you to action and run with it.

Panel Discussion and Q&A

- Vocabulary: gleaning, food rescue vs recovery. Gleaning: capturing food (typically fresh produce) at its source (farmers and gardeners) and connecting the food to people in need. Food rescue vs recovery: synonymous, often prepared food.
- Food Action Plan developed by Sonoma Co Food System Alliance (equivalent of MFPC).
- Lots of gleaning orgs work on a small and local scale, and efficiencies in diverting large-scale foodwaste happens at a larger scale. What level do you work on and why? Green Mary is super local, work is regionally reliant by municipality. Can find out what is working for different municipalities and learn from them. SF success because events can't get permits without waste diversion. Has to be institutionalized at all levels.
- What do you think would be the fastest behavior change? Such as having to pay 10 cents for a plastic bag. Could raise the landfill rates. Best Practices or models of incentives? Orange County trained Environmental Health Inspectors to educate restaurants and caterers on Emerson Good Samaritan Act, taxis picking up late night food from restaurants and storing it in 7-11 fridges.
- Any exciting partnerships or opportunities for orgs to apply for Cal Recycle grants? Deadline is today. Criteria for diverting waste was that you had to be diverting waste from landfills, not compost. Often it becomes the non-profit's responsibility to figure out what to do with new food recovery streams. COPIA is doing food recovery (fee-based model for businesses)

- Follow-up next month Panel #2: Marv and Kathy with ExtraFood.org, Madeline Hope with West Marin Education Services, Casey Poldino with Zero Waste Marin, Barbara with SF-Marin Food Bank – could add COPIA

- Fund a Fridge: retailers and restaurants put extra food in public fridges and the public can come and get food from it.

- What roll do you see for the MFPC? Working more closely with Green Mary on Marin events – also who else can do this? Stay connected and collaborate so we don't recreate the wheel.

CA FPC Update – Steve Schwartz

- SB 252 action is still live, believes that our action with Levine was helpful.

- Becky: partners at Alameda Co Food Bank created a letter (to 4 CA congressional reps on the House ag committee) saying that CalFresh is important to the community and urge its protection at the federal level, got all city council folks and BOS to sign the letter. *Becky is trying to do the same in Marin, contact Becky if you are interested in helping

Closing: Evaluative Thoughts for the Steering Committee – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Green Mary: hopeful knowing that MFPC is doing our work.

- Elaini: we see a lot of farming social enterprise groups, would like to request some other groups (especially with a youth component and urban farming - WOW). Non-profit ICS with a farm in Marin?

- MFPC to look at adding waste policy to our healthy food and beverage policy

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110