

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
September 19, 2017
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: October 17, 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*	X	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*	X	Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
X	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*
	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
	Gail Crain, CAM*	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*	X	Susan Martinelli, WIC
X	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm Services District*
X	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		Veda Florez, Latino Marin*
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		
X	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health		Guests: Anwen Baumeister
			Jerry Draper
			Ken Kirkland
			Madelene McCann

24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Julia: Sonoma Co. Food Recovery Coalition created an Emergency Food Provider Directory. Learn more and add your organization's info at <https://sfbay.cropmobster.com/emergency-food-provider-directory/>
- Sheila: Food Bank started mobile pantry in West Marin this past month, run by volunteers every other month. Reaching about 20 households. Positive response and feedback.
- Reba: Food Now bucket community-wide meeting to build up the task force. **Reba to email a link to the Council regarding planning meetings in November.**
- Lauren: Lauren will be wearing a new hat on the council (Marin Community and School Garden Network), contract with UCCE and MMWD has finished.

Council Business

- Please sign up to bring snacks to meetings – arrive 10 min early and stay 10 min late to help with cleanup. No obligation.

Urban Agriculture Panel - Jerry Draper, Draper Farms, San Anselmo; Ken Kirkland, Woolly Egg Ranch, Mill Valley; Anwen Baumeister, Moon Daughter Organics, San Rafael

- Operation overviews:

- **Anwen:** 3.5 acres within city limits, permaculture-based, began in 2016. Producing enough to go to market but has not yet because urban ag isn't permitted within city limits (barriers: licencing, permits, etc). Hopes to have donation-based farm stands, particularly in food deserts.
- **Jerry:** small organic farm in San Anselmo operating 23 years w wife, kids, parents. Began growing tomatoes, grew from there. Class at CAL "organic gardening in urban settings." 1 flat acre farmed of 15 acres total property. On the edge of suburbia, not city limits (county). 2/3 acre in production. Barn made out of straw bale construction, beekeepers, chickens, 50 vegetables year round, biggest crop is tomatoes (500 plants). Produce is marketed to restaurants (Comforts in SA) and caterers, CSA program (no membership fee, attend orientation, over 1000 people over 23 years, avg 300 unique family purchases), farm is like a membership u-pick. Jerry and his wife both have day jobs. Run tours through AIM, used to work with MO.
- **Ken:** run the farm with his wife (also both have day jobs). Members of Fibershed. Have chickens for eggs and sheep for wool. Tennessee Valley Road. 40 acres down to 1.78 acres currently. No zoning issues, but neighbors complain that the country is noisy. Sell to Mill Valley market, 2 restaurants, 2 coffee shops, 25 clients who show up weekly. Lots of school tours, decent income stream, gives a good perspective on the state of food education. Family farm in his family for 5 generations. Weekend traffic because you're close to the National Park = double edged sword (traffic congestion, but people will buy goods). Woolly Egg Ranch exchanges products for labor.
- **Opportunities:** urban ag access to markets, restaurants, people. Education of the community of how food is grown. Could be replicated on vacant lots, a lot of food is grown on a very small scale and they don't find a home for all of it. Donated food protected by Good Samaritan Act.
- **Challenges:** City of San Rafael does not permit farms within city limits. Municipal water is more expensive than Ag water. Water is a high cost, wells are expensive to drill, may be dry. Water catchment tricky – county pushback if it's taking water away from the land. Soils may have been contaminated. Land costs are a problem. Limited access to Labor. Insurance. Egg regulations puts them under the department of health. Certified Producer with the county of Marin allows for farmers market access, and the property can turn into a "farmers market" for a day for tours. Surplus: need a network to

distribute food when they have too much, some food pantries won't take fresh food. SF Marin Food Bank warehouse in Novato will never turn away fresh produce, always worth a call because they may be able to pick it up. New app called "crop swap" to sell produce, ExtraFood.org can pick up for donation, or CropMobster for sale, trade, donation.

- **Policy opportunities:** county is permitted to have commercial gardening, but not municipalities like San Rafael – would like to draft an ordinance to present to BOS for San Rafael and other cities. Oakland and Sacramento permit commercial gardening, Sac permits on-site sale as well. AB551 Urban Ag Incentive provides prop tax incentive for landowners w land that isn't being used to be leased for ag uses (SF and Sacramento have done); existing state law that requires local implementation, Marin Co may be too small to qualify for implementing as the law is written now. AB1990 Community Food Producer Bill (someone who produces food and ag products in an area zoned for something other than ag use) – if zoning changed Anwen could be considered a Community Food Producer. Currently San Rafael is making the law more restrictive than the state law, although San Rafael City School district is looking to do more farming on their property. WORKAROUNDS: No retail sales in residential neighborhood (Draper Farms is private, not open to the public, membership-based). Non-profit operates the farm so that it's allowed to have volunteers.
- **Is there a role for MFPC?** Coordinating skilled labor of qualified individuals (college students? Interns through Drake High School worked well at Draper Farms. Marin City Community Development Corporation). Coalition draft ordinance to permit farming within city limits (similar to community gardens as permitted use work – some cities were more amenable; Novato and San Rafael accepted it). Please stay in touch with MFPC with specific policy asks in the future.

Marin Municipal Water District/UCCE Water-Wise Community Gardens Program Review -

Lauren Klein

- "Community Gardens" includes all institutional gardens, though not urban commercial farms.
- Pilot MMWD/UCCE program, ending this after a year in Sept, 2017. Cost of water determined to be one of the challenges to creating & maintaining community gardens. On 11/15/15 MFPC sent a letter to MMWD asking for a discount or some sort of help on water for community gardens.
- About 80 of 120 gardens in Marin are in MMWD, about 30 went through this program, in January it shifted to a rebate program of up to \$1000 per garden.
- Criteria for choosing the 30 gardens: needed steady management of the garden to give monthly readings of the sub meters (so that garden water use was separated from use of the rest of the building).
- Education aspect of the contract: education events (rain catchment, water-wise vegetable cultivation, smart irrigation controllers), resource packets with materials on water efficiency,

signage (Saving Water in the Garden), and [MMWD Community Gardens webpage](#), which will stay up.

- A couple of the low income gardens just didn't have enough money to advance the work and then qualify for the rebate, which was unfortunate. A couple of gardens got bulldozed. Section 8 senior housing garden, The Bennett House in Fairfax couldn't participate because their corporation put a freeze on spending.
- Struggled to get site visits and work done prior to the summer, when there isn't as much coverage in the garden.

FROM MMWD Conservation Dept Manager: "The final outcome of this project was different than originally planned (rebates rather than MMWD paying costs directly), but the rebates, giveaways items and educational resources did greatly benefit the participating gardens; With [several] MMWD staffing changes ([including] Dan, Shasta), program design changes, etc. we still hope/expect a long term impact from this program."

Marin City Intergenerational Garden Update - June Farmer

- June doing Marin City Summer Camp Nutrition Program work this summer. Hoping to move the container garden into the Intergenerational Garden soon: containers, raised beds, etc. to resemble the Mill Valley Senior garden program at the Redwoods in Mill Valley.

CA FPC Update – Steve Schwartz -- Chelsea

- AB465 follow-up to Urban Ag Incentive Zone (doesn't apply to Marin and will expire statewide); this is an extension bill to make the existing law last another 10 years. Julia to pass a sample letter of support for the MFPC to provide. ****MFPC consensus reached to support -- it unless Julia or others find a reason not to.**
- MediCal automatically enrolls students in free & reduced lunch (this bill would mandate that all schools do this) – MFPC could draft a letter and send in. **Becky to draft letter, will circulate template letter to MFPC for people to send from their individual organizations – to be sent out asap, before October 15. **MFPC consensus reached to support**

9/26 Board of Supervisors Presentation & Resolution for Hunger Action Month

- **CalFresh Task Force under the HEAL stakeholders group presenting to BOS on 9/26, presenting and adopting a Hunger Resolution – all MFPC members are invited.**
- 10 minute presentation, adoption, then 10 minute public comment
- Coordinate public comments ***Lauren, June, Becky, Lori, Jessica, and Julia would like to comment – send thoughts to Reba and Alex for feedback**

Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110