

Marin Food Policy Council  
Meeting Notes  
February 20, 2018  
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110**

**Attendance:**

**\* = Voting members**

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| X | Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank*   |   | Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*                              |
|   | Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag, Pgm* |   | Lori Davis, Sanzuma*                               |
| X | Becky Gershon, SF-Marin Food Bank*      |   | Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council          |
| X | Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE                    |   | Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*         |
|   | Bonny White, West Marin Comm Services*  |   | Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org                       |
| X | Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*        | X | Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*                     |
|   | David Lewis, UCCE                       |   | Mimi Choudhury, AIM*                               |
|   | Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness |   | Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance               |
| X | Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin  |   | Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*                     |
|   | Gail Crain, CAM*                        |   | Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank                    |
|   | Gueidi Beltran, WIC*                    | X | Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative* |
|   | Heather Bettini, CAM                    |   | Susan Martinelli, WIC                              |
|   | Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*          |   | Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*      |
|   | Jessica Bazan, YLI*                     |   | Terrie Green, Marin City Comm Services District*   |
| X | Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*             |   | Veda Florez, Latino Marin*                         |
| X | June Farmer, Marin City CX3*            |   |  |
|   | Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*            |   | Guests:  |
|   | Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health        |   | Karimah Hay, Ag Institute of Marin                 |
|   | Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*   |   | Paula Freeman, Episcopal Senior Communities        |
|   | Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens    |   | Roxy Yekta, HHS Senior program coordinator         |
| X | Liana Orlandi, Ag Institute of Marin    |   |  |

*24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total*

**Welcome and Announcements – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

**Planning for 2018 – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Results from year-end evaluation survey shared

**CA Food Policy Council Report**

- Annual Legislative Report passed around
- Maguire and Levine did well. Maguire got an award for carrying a bill (insure that every low income child has access to healthy meals) that the food movement cares about, to build a relationship with Maguire. Does MFPC want to do something by way of recognition? Marin IJ, Marin Post? MFPC press release modelled after CAFPC press release? May want to invite him to a future MFPC meeting, Steve to reach out. Does MFPC want to spend more time

discussing bills to elevate to the top 20 list? There are conference calls with folks around the state to join, if folks are interested.

- Congressman Huffman's roundtable: dedicated 2 hours to a conversation with local stakeholders about the Farm Bill. He mostly listened, so hard to say what he is thinking or prioritizing. He is not on the House Ag committee, but there is an informal group of legislators getting periodic updates from members of the ag community, and he is one of them. The majority of the conversation was about SNAP, about which he has always been in agreement with the Food Bank's position. He said he wants to be more involved in this Farm Bill than the last one. Miguel spoke about the Farm to School Act, Steve spoke about Beginning Farmer/Rancher Act. If MFPC says we support some bills, he may do the same, and we could get him to work hard on a couple of things. May see a draft of the Farm Bill in the next couple of months, which will then be the time to work on elements we like and don't like. Huffman did the Food Stamp Challenge with his family for a week, he could speak about the experience at a future date when he's in town. Marker bills test the water of the political feasibility, interest, and financial aspects of topics for the future. Legislators put their name/support on certain marker bills and bits and pieces of those are then used in the resulting Farm Bill. MFPC could write a letter to Huffman, Harris, and Feinstein in support of these 5 marker bills. **\*\*Request 1-2 pages on marker bills you care about from Steve, Miguel, Marv, Becky, and anyone else who is tracking a marker bill. Revisit at the March meeting.**
- Becky: Feeding America's (advocacy team in DC) Farm Bill sign on letter: don't block SNAP, keep funding TFAP, support policies and programs that help connect access to healthy food to those in need (aka: MFPC's priorities for the Farm Bill).
  - If you and your individual organization want to sign on, refer back to the email from Bonnie last week including the link to support.
  - **Vote:** No concerns voiced on the Feeding America's Farm Bill letter from anyone present at today's meeting or via email from the whole council. **\*\*Consensus reached to send the letter on behalf of MFPC.**

#### **Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- **Steering Committee received the grant from MCF for HEAL for older adults**
- **Vote:** 2018 Slate of Steering Committee Members **\*postponed until next meeting – need more members present to vote.**
- Urban Ag topic last fall: presentation from Bob Brown on the City of Novato's code revisions in support of urban agriculture. Since then, Lauren Klein attended a planning commission meeting on behalf of MFPC and drafted a letter from MFPC in support of urban ag. **\*\*Consensus reached to send the letter on behalf of MFPC.**

#### **Break-out Work Groups for 2018 – Julia Van Soelen Kim**

- Instructions: council agreed to try break-out group work in addition to whole council format, in an attempt to have more policy-relevant outcomes. Last month we identified the 3 groups of Senior Access, Farm to School, and Urban Ag. Once in groups, review individual knowledge of each group, review what MFPC has already learned about/worked on regarding the topic, ID potential next steps or action items for the topic. Work through the Meeting Planning Guide and Agenda Template to create a skeleton agenda for a future meeting.
- Self-select into break-out groups
  - Senior HEAL: April or May
  - Farm to School: May or June
  - Urban Ag:
- Complete Meeting Planning Guide and Agenda Template
- Wrap-up: March is one more month of planning. Work within your groups between now and the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Small break-out groups worked well, but still felt rushed. Also need more participants!

**Closing – Alexandra Danino**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110**

**Future meeting dates for 2018:** March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16