

Marin Food Policy Council  
Meeting Notes  
May 15, 2018  
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 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.*	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
X	Becky Gershon, SF-Marin Food Bank*		Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE		Madelene Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Paula Freeman, Covia
	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin		Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
	Gail Crain, CAM*		Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
	Heather Bettini, CAM	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		
	Karimah Hay, Ag. Institute of Marin		Guests:
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Andy Naja-Riese, Ag. Institute of Marin
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Jacqueline Streur, Zero Waste Marin
	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*	X	Johnny Campbell, Indian Valley Organic Farm
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Sharon Turner, Marin City Intergenerational garden
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin		

*24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total*

**Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis**

- Johnny: IVO F&G farm stand on Saturdays, CSA program starting, will be having extra produce!
- Julia: North Bay FPC Convening: Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Marin counties FPCs; day of networking, sharing info on building a robust regional local food system.
- Alex: CalFRESH Awareness Month now!

**CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz**

- CAFPC KING Bill (Nutrition Incentives program and corner store program) looking optimistic. Provide \$\$ for grants for small corner stores to get coolers to sell local produce (AB 2335 targets a few counties not including Marin, but will be amended to be statewide) \*MFPC could send an updated letter of support to a different committee chair – Steve to advise.

## Council Business

- Update on Letter of Support for AB 2909 Small Poultry Producer Protection Act: there are measures in the bill to address food safety concerns regarding slaughtering poultry on farm. Bill originated around concerns in Marin and Sonoma to slaughter poultry on-farm – it's a very locally-relevant bill. \*Julia to send out detailed answer to food safety question.

### Break-out work groups: Urban Ag – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Urban Ag interest began as work around community gardens
- Got community gardens as “allowable use” in development codes which has led to more municipalities that allow for community gardens
- HHS has worked to build up flourishing school gardens
- Beyond garden level is the production level. Urban ag producers presented to MFPC about barriers to urban ag, specific to sale of produce grown in San Rafael
- County-level urban ag is allowed, Novato updating municipal codes to be more inclusive. Trying to create ordinances that can be models for San Rafael.
- Yet there remains policy barriers in individual municipalities.
- Catalogue of the codes of all municipalities
- Urban Ag law depends on where you farm, which zone you're in, how you want to farm, what you produce, and where you want to sell...
- Regulators: fed, state, region, county, and city!
- Even if “allowable use,” there are usually lots of details about how, when, and where it is allowable.
- Marin codes:
  - Fairfax: urban ag is generally allowed, city leans towards the side of ag, sales allowed with temporary sales structures only
  - San Rafael: language on “animal keeping” only – small and large animals are permitted by permit only
  - Belvedere: “all prohibited which is not specifically mentioned,” and then there is no mention of agriculture
  - Unincorporated areas: county code (which favors agriculture): small animals allowed, large with a use permit, commercial gardening allowed, greenhouses and comm gardens allowed, garden markets allowed with use permit, plant nurseries with sales allowed with use permit \*this includes Marin City
- All food sold and donated to the public has to be from an “approved source” – and it is easier to be one now than 3 years ago (thanks to the Community Food Producer Act: anyone growing food can sell or donate food if they follow some best management practices). The state allows urban ag, but there are municipalities in Marin that are more restrictive than state law.
- As an approved source, you need to follow CA Small Farm Food Safety Guidelines BMPs:
  - Record keeping, keeping animals out, proper manure use, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, disinfectants to wash produce
- Cottage Food Operations allows certain shelf-stable food products to be made in home kitchens (complete food handler training, max annual gross sales \$50,000, get CFO permit from County Environmental Health)

- This isn't actively enforced, almost everything is driven by complaints. The exception to that is around food safety (could be serious legal liability issues)
- Next steps:
  - San Rafael Planning Dept has been invited to attend a couple meetings and haven't been able to attend either, although enthusiastic. Meeting date set to discuss their General Plan process they're beginning, which could be an opportunity to incorporate urban ag language.
  - Could invite back Bob Brown to advise us of the status of the Novato General Plan updates.
  - Could take the inventory of codes city-by-city and make it a more readable public document.
  - Anyone is welcome to join the Urban Ag group, or could reassess if interest remains in the topic.

### **College of Marin's Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden Johnny Campbell**

- Farm began in 2009, first class went through the program in 2009. Space for people to learn about farming and agriculture in Marin. Moderately integrated into the community – people can walk to it. College of Marin hired two full-time staff to manage the farm. Measure B bone \$250 million dollars to College of Marin, \$3-4 million to the farm – will be used on buildings, classroom space, more area for production, and more resources for the farm. Career & Technical Education components (two classes interact with the farm on a weekly basis, and others more sporadically). Community Education classes also held there for anyone in the public to participate in. If anyone qualifies for work-study, they can work on the farm for pay. Students can also get units for working on the farm. Food sold to: on-site farm stand, CSA, some restaurants. Farm stand doesn't accept CalFresh because as of yet they haven't had the capacity to do so, but they are interested in doing so. Compost their own organic waste, buy organic compost as well because they can't produce the quantity of compost that they need. Two partners: UCCE Marin Master Gardeners (demo garden and monthly workshops) and Cultural Conservancy (education around growing and preparing traditional foods). Farm, greenhouse, shadehouse, kitchen space, class space are all open for partnership and community use (process may be slow-going) – contact Johnny if interested. State law impacting all growers within a ¼ mile of a school requires they notify if they are spraying any organic or non-organic product.

### **SSB Update - Steve Schwartz**

- Conversations with lawyers at ChangeLab, folks at Marin Community Foundation, and community members in San Rafael, Marin City, and Novato, looking for champions. Vice mayor of San Rafael said he won't be the champion, but he won't oppose it. Clock is ticking if SSB will be on the ballot in 2018. Not yet sure if it'll make it. MCF knows folks who may be willing to contribute \$ to a campaign if it happens. For a YES, need to: ID champions, draft language, then go to individual cities to get sign-ons, hold community meetings with a large (200+ public showing). BIG question: is there enough community support for this to pass? No one (anywhere) has passed a two thirds vote (may have to be a two-thirds vote for the Marin City CSD boundaries). Any other tax measures on the ballot? Cannabis tax in San Rafael. Next call is Wednesday June 24 at 1pm, need to be a MFPC member to join the

SSB sub-committee (as with others). If no champion identified by the end of June, it'll be too late. **\*\*If you can think of a champion, tell Steve, Lori, Reba, Casey, Elaini.**

**Break-out work groups report out**

- Senior HEAL: reflect how last month's meeting went, and begin planning next meeting to build off of it.
- Farm to School: present at the June meeting.
- Urban Ag: would like to know what urban ag is happening (beyond the legality aspect); hear more from urban ag panel; interest in urban ag tour; interest in any grants MFPC could go after as a group (all kinds, for food, health, wellness); curious if any urban ag producers work with distributors; interest in assessing available land for urban ag in the county
- SSB: see above for Steve's SSB update

**Closing – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110**

**Future meeting dates for 2018:** July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16