

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
March 15, 2019
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank*	X	Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*	X	Paula Freeman, Covia*
	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*		Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		<i>Guests:</i>
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Andrea Kurland, Golden Gate Dietetic Internship
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Beth Spitler, CA Food & Farming Network
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Bruce Richard, Environmental Forum of Marin
	Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*	X	Cathryn Couch, CERES CEO
X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*	X	Ellen Baxter, Aging Action Initiative
X	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council*	X	Susan Lopes, Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce
		X	Susan Sherman, Golden Gate Dietetic Internship

Welcome and Announcements – Lori Davis

- Bruce: Wednesday 3/27 Environmental Forum carbon sequestration event; at HHS at 7pm
- Madelene: Saturday 4/6 parent child HEAL-related event with lots of booths from partners – contact Madelene if your organization would like to have a table there; at Pickleweed from 1-5pm
- Beth: Bringing Home Food and Farm Policy Week – April 15-19 (flier circulated)
- Julia: part of a study looking at the gleaning food supply chain to understand implications for food safety; holding focus groups in north bay, east bay, and LA with food banks, pantries, food rescue & gleaning orgs. North Bay focus group on Friday 4/12.
- Reba will be leaving Marin and working with Innovative Health Solutions. Norma Lisenko (CFO, Innovative Health Solutions) will give a presentation at the April meeting. Innovative Health Solutions is our fiscal agent for MFPC grant with MCF.

Council Business – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **Call for Nominations for Steering Committee Membership:** call for self-volunteer or nomination of someone else made. Ask that SC members are current members of MFPC and have been active and engaged for a while. SC meets monthly outside of full council meetings to plan for meetings (alternate between conference calls and in-person meetings). Ask that you are passionate about and have specific knowledge in the food system. There is room for all kinds of skills! If you are interested, ask a current Steering Committee member for more info: Alexandra Danino, Lori Davis, Julis Van Soelen Kim, Bonnie Nielsen, Liana Orlandi. No volunteers today.
- **New member presentations:** Norma Lisenko, Innovative Health Solutions will present at the April meeting.
- **Snacks sign-up:** April: Susan Lopes, July: Madeline Hope, August: Felicia Chavez & November: Bruce Richard... THANK YOU!
- **MFPC outreach postcard distribution:** contact Julia or Bonnie if you would like copies.

Policy Updates – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Public comment for the proposed SNAP rule change. This would negatively impact CalFresh locally. CalFresh taskforce will prepare a letter and share with MFPC. A number of other CalFresh legislative opportunities are happening at the state level, will learn more from Alexandra at a future meeting.
- AB 942 (Weber): CalFresh being accepted at hot food facilities, and/or for certain individuals. Marin will be able to tighten legislation once it has been accepted at the state level.
- AB 842: preschool and childcare providers; providing healthy meals for low income children. Looking for letters of support, deadline is March 20. Hunger-Free Preschool funds preschools, match for organic, match for plant-based meals, match for CA produced meals (with talk of merging these bills). Beth to share a factsheet comparing the three.
- Is there a rubric for how we decide if something is on our platform? What lens do we look through? First5 will share theirs and we could build one for MFPC off of it. No formal MFPC rubric now, but we do have a process: is the issue of local relevance, food-systems relevance, about an topic we have learned about or our members can speak to?

Policy Skill-building - Beth Spitler, CA Food & Farming Network

- Today's meeting is the first of two meetings devoted to building our policy skillset. Welcome all membership to plan the next policy skill-building meeting. Our April meeting will be a planning meeting for two break-out groups: local food chain, and climate change. We will build a set of policy guidelines at the end of today's meeting to inform our upcoming planning meeting.
- CFFN is a group of over 50 orgs all over CA on all different sectors of the food system, interested in changing food system through policy change. Includes a number of FPCs, but not exclusive to (such as CA FPC). Focus is on state policy.
- **Policy webinar:**
 - Policy means sustainability, due to accountability

- Policy tends to form the basis or foundation for something that locals can move forward on (remove long-standing inequity, allow new things to happen, start or fund a new program or initiative)
- Three main areas of getting involved in advocacy areas: budgetary (our best document of our state values), legislative (which laws are passed), and administrative (how passed laws are implemented).
- State policy cannot contradict federal policy. Can make it stricter or more specific or more far-ranging. Local policy is where people can get most creative.
- Case study: nutrition incentives. AB 1321: state funding for nutrition incentives for market match program. State law that built off of a federal law. Followed by Budget campaign to expand the reach of market match program. Different localities have built upon the state program.
- State Assembly and Senate with different caucuses with their own focuses.
- **How a Bill becomes a law:**
 - **Policy idea > local/state advocate contact a legislator > legislator authors a bill in January > bill is introduced in February (avg 3,000 each year in CA) > committee hearings > floor action > if passes first house of origin, moves on to second house > committee hearing 2 > floor action 2 > if passed without amendments, goes to governor > if passed with amendments, goes back to house of origin to be approved, then to governor > governor decides in October if bill will become law or be vetoed**
 - Policy committees: agriculture, education, natural resources & water, health, environmental quality, human services, & appropriations: if a bill touches on multiple topics, it has to go through multiple committees.
 - Committee chairs hold a lot of sway with how committees will vote.
- **Engaging your elected officials:** reach out to them in spring and summer recess, and especially in the fall (when they are looking for more Bill ideas). If you don't have a personal relationship, the scheduler will refer you. Link to ideal contacts. You want a targeted ask, mention individuals who would attend a meeting, particularly if they are constituents. Research your legislator before the meeting (past behavior and votes, etc), come prepared with info on the issues (handouts, reports). Develop agenda and talking points, start meeting with the problem or issue (framed in a way no one can disagree with), then provide your Bill as the solution to the problem. Bring those directly impacted by the issue to share their experience. Inviting legislators to events is a powerful way to connect. Op Ed or letters to the editor will reach the legislator. **Bigger picture is relationship-building now so you can influence policy over time.
- **Engaging the grassroots:** people closest to the problems also tend to be closest to the solutions.
- **Bringing it home:** Federal - Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, Representative Jared Huffman. Huffman is most closely related to our region. State – Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Marc Levine. Marin – BOS for 5 districts Connolly (Terra Linda), Rice (downtown San Rafael), Sears (Southern Marin), Rodoni (West Marin, Novato and Canal), Arnold (Novato) AND 11 municipalities with elected officials and departments.
- **Vote:** Membership with the CA Food and Farming Network. How to plug in as a member: at least one MFPC member would join CFFN listserv, working groups, special events, monthly

call. Have to agree to sign on to mission statement and guiding principles, and one person would be our liaison. ****Preliminary vote that MFPC is interested, but not enough voting Council members present to pass.**

- Participation in “Bringing Home Food and Farming Policy Week” – **SAVE THE DATE:** April 15-19th – Beth providing support to help people reach out to their legislators. Madeline Hope and Cathryn Couch are interested.

Brainstorm Policy Guiding Questions – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- **Questions to ask our break-out groups (climate change, local food supply chain, and older adults) to guide planning:**
 - **Define the problem. *Is this policy-related?**
 - **Define the goal or ideal solution/end state.**
 - **Is there already policy momentum around this issue that we could support?**
 - **Who else is working on this issue? Is what they are doing working?**
 - **Who is doing similar work in other areas? What is working and not working?**
 - **Is there a time frame for this issue?**
 - **Are we focused on the correct entity/level to address the issue?**
 - **Who is the stakeholder group that cares, benefits? Allies and opposition?**
 - **How will it be funded? Is it sustainable?**
 - **How will we evaluate for successes and improvements?**

Break-out Groups

- **Two topics: Local Food Supply Chain and Climate Change and the Food System**
- **Older Adults theme will be woven throughout both issues (as will policy theme)**
- **Local Food Supply Chain:** We’ve learned about urban ag, commercial ag, and food access, but we haven’t learned about what happens in between production and consumption (processing, distribution, etc).
- **Climate Change:** climate change is an urgent issue on the radar of our municipalities and state government. To be able to connect the dots between food system and climate change would be politically savvy, opportunity for real impact because there is a lot of overlap there. Opportunity to help people working in climate change arena to be better versed in the food system. A lot of work on carbon farming came out of Marin; role ag can play in mitigating climate change.
- **April meeting will plan for subsequent meetings for each group.**

Closing – Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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