

## Acting Food Policy Council Meeting

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Good Shepherd Center, Seattle, WA

October 19, 2007

### Meeting Notes

Present: Sylvia, Steve, Mary, Laura, Jen, Tammy, Linda, Pablo, Kelly, Trudy

Guests: Mo McBroom, Tricia Sexton, Kathy Creahan, Shannon Kirkpatrick, Laura Niemi, Jennifer Langston, Elena Perez

Absent: Erin, Branden, Fe

### Local Thanksgiving Updates (Laura N.)

Goal is to get people to take the pledge to include local food at their Thanksgiving table.

Outreach materials are coming together: pledge cards, posters, brochure, web site with recipes, where to find local foods, pledge on line, events calendar.

A viral email will be released next week.

Pulling together other groups to support the campaign.

Kick off event on November 2 at Pike Place Market Senior Center with Ron Sims and Erik Haakenson with farm produce. Sims will serve food and sign giant pledge form. Speeches by Ron and Erik and someone from the AFPC! Who? Kelly volunteered maybe also Branden?

Karen Kinney is leading kick off event.

### AFPC roles in LTG (outline handed out):

- 1) Help spread the word! Even to the choir – ask them to show their support by taking the pledge.
- 2) Be ready to respond to policy questions and respond to media. (Talking points handed out).  
Note: hunger numbers need to be updated. Jen will email copy of draft for comments.
- 3) Create discussion questions for community group discussions.
- 4) Contribute content to LTG web page.
- 5) Attend kick off event on November 2 at 11 am (and other events).

NEED: Cascadia Convergence on Saturday, Oct. 27 at Seattle Center - looking for speaker on food panel. Also need a table at the event.

King County School Nutrition directors put out press release about serving local foods. Would like to include things on their menus that go out to students.

### Comp Plan

Anne Bikle with Public Health Seattle and King County

Health Dept hasn't been involved in Comp Plan on food topics much before.

Packets handed out.

State Growth Management Act requires comp plan in county to direct growth into urban areas and not into rural areas. County governs land use in the unincorporated areas. Cities have their own process.

Primary area for AFPC comments will be around ag issues in King County. Comp Plan is updated every four years. 2008 is an update year.

Emerging issues: Smart Growth, Climate Change, HealthScape, Health Equity, **Food Policy and Planning**, Puget Sound Partnership, Performance Measurement.

AFPC can work on ways to get emerging issues rippling throughout comp plan.

When do cities update their plans? Seattle is doing so through neighbor plan updates.

How will or will city and county plans be dovetailed? There are multi-county planning policies that PSRC says all counties need to address.

City of Seattle policies will be most specific so AFPC has opportunity to help with specific suggestions.

Why food in land use plan? APA just came out with policy guide that addresses food.

Recommend that the AFPC Comment on what is provided here (handouts) re food policies. Chapter three is where most food topics are located. Public Health in Rural area on page 3-24.

Underlined text is new policy.

**Read the PINK copy** (p. 3-33 – 3-39) – most in depth on food policy. It is a start, but see if they go far enough, and if they link up to other parts of food system to see if it will be a good policy. Land in KC is very expensive and is tough barrier to farming. Land needs to be affordable to make farming viable. Not everyone is growing food in the Agricultural Production Districts (APDs). Ideas about how increase/protect food production in APDs (e.g. incentives to use land for food production vs hobbies, equestrian). There are 42000 acres in APDs of which 23000 is in active production – not necessarily food. Another 25000 is farmed outside of APDs. Flooding is big constraint to farming as is lack of irrigation water.

Policy doesn't say how things should be done. How do you create incentives for food production? Ideas around incentives are needed.

Rural Economy Section Page 9-11 also addresses food system.

**Questions:** contact [Anne.bikle@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Anne.bikle@kingcounty.gov) (Public Health) or [Kathy.creahan@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Kathy.creahan@kingcounty.gov) (DNRP – Agriculture Program)

### Farm to Institution

Mo McBroom with the Washington Environmental Council – Proposed “Local Farms-Healthy Kids Bill”

WEC brings environmental groups together around legislative issues. Last year, they passed four of four priorities. Bring campaign experience to the table and the ability to translate good policy into new law. Challenges: what is it we are going to get done? How do we shape the policy to support the effort? How do coordinate people around the effort?

Have gotten phone calls from legislators asking to support the bill. Frank Chopp (may recuse himself because he is so involved in the issues), Brown,

This is a non-budget year only working on a supplemental budget, which is little money. The Gov. is clear about not spending money this session.

Goal is to make WA a national leader.

Four parts of Bill

- 1) Farm to school program at state level at WSDA coordinated with OSPI.
- 2) State “Lead by Example” – develop goals for local and state governments to purchase locally.

3) State procurement policy that governs state agency purchasing, prisons, DSHS, schools (e.g. Montana recently passed bill where local food is exempt from bidding process). Need in put on what is right for WA.

4) Funding to support these programs. Looking at \$4-5 million to support programs.

A few hundred thousand to look at infrastructure in E. WA. A few million to establish program similar to free F&V program. Foodbanks: budget to establish long-term contracts with local farms (to grow specific products, payment to grower up front).

Building a campaign requires lots of support – need a structured framework. Need a lot of help building grassroots support, identifying grass tops.

Lots of work developing campaign and the policy.

*Are other environmental groups interested?* Yes, lots of others including the 21 member groups of WEC. Nature Conservancy, Audubon WA, Futurewise.

*What is the anticipated opposition?* It is too soon to tell. Dairy industry folks have some concerns about how this effort could affect a regional market. Concerns about regionalism have been raised. Don't know if there are any ag or food service industry that will come out against this bill.

Challenge is this is complicated and the session is short. So risk of it being put aside is high.

*Does any part of it focus on WIC Farmers Market?* Don't know yet. Right now that is not on the list of things. Need to pay attention to this issue as this bill goes forward.

*Possible to make food bank piece a broader food access piece? Especially, if focus is policy w/out budget?* If food bank piece goes forward, need to be careful about creating confusion. Provide feedback to Paul Haas and to Mo McBroom.

*Is there a component that would support education? For public and for schools?* It is early enough to talk about including something to address this. The Lead by Example component may be opportunity for broad public education.

This is a great opportunity for the AFPC to engage the public, media, and decision makers!

Best way to contact Mo is by email: [mo@wecprotects.org](mailto:mo@wecprotects.org)

Timeline? Need policy finalized in next month. Dropping a bill probably Jan. 14, 2008. Once dropped, it will change. Sixty day session. Need to be very organized.

#### Update on Papers

*Climate Change report* – close to getting it into policy briefing format. Report is technical but also presents intuitively. Need Council to read the draft with an eye for policy implications. Will send something to the Council in the next couple of days. Seattle is hosting Mayor's conference on Climate Change in early November. Would be great to have this paper available by then. Recommend writing a short 1-2 page executive summary.

**Pablo will circulate a draft early next week Oct. 23** or so and solicit input with a requested deadline for comment. No comments will be interpreted as approval.

#### Decision re Laura Niemi

Members voted unanimously to bring Laura on as newest Council member.

## Actions

- 1) Circulate draft of GHG paper for review by AFPC week of Oct. 22.
- 2) Form a sub -group to lead the Comp Plan effort
- 3) Identify leads for AFPC contribution to the Local Farms, Health Kids legislation effort
- 4) Follow through with commitments on Local Thanksgiving:
  - Identify panel member for Cascadia Convergence panel on food on Oct. 27
  - Identify speaker for Nov. 2 kick off event: Kelly volunteered if someone else will join her.  
(Branden? Erin?)
  - Spread the word and get people to fill out pledge cards!



