

## **Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, January 12, 2011**

**Miner's Creek Room, Medical Office Building, Frisco**

**Welcome & Introductions: Co-Chair: Joanna Rybak Co-Chair: Jennifer Santry**

**Present: Sherie Sobke, Guff VanVooren, Edina Cejudo, Miki Jorgenson, Katy Berglund-Schlesinger**

### **Federal, State & Local Food Policy updates**

- **Federal**

Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act was signed into legislation in December. The bill will improve school meals and support farmers in Farm to School programs.

Read highlights about the bill here -

<http://ag.senate.gov/Legislation/CN%20budget%20framework-%20nutrition.pdf>. Program is partly funded through the SNAP program.

- **Local** (see below under chicken policy update)

### **Urban Farming "Chicken" Policy Task Force Update:**

- We are now calling ourselves Urban Farming Task Force because we are exploring more than chickens for policy recommendations.
- We met on Tuesday, January 11, in Frisco to discuss potential code changes for chickens, bees, goats, and community gardens. There were 14 people who attended the meeting. We have now updated the HC3 website to include resources and information about urban farming.
- You can read about the efforts here -  
[http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable\\_foods.htm#urbanfarming](http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#urbanfarming).
- You can also download the minutes from the January 11 meeting here -  
<http://www.highcountryconservation.org/pdf/The%20Future%20of%20Urban%20Farming%20Meeting%20Minutes%201.11.pdf/>
- In summary, the meeting was beneficial in helping us address public questions and concerns in preparation for the public forum on urban farming on Wednesday, February 16 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the Senior and Community Center in Frisco.
- It was suggested that we continue to explore recommendations from LiveWell on this process. Also, there was a discussion on whether or not Aspen was looking at allowing backyard chickens. Guff VanVooren suggested using the Friends of Dillon Ranger District's volunteer calendar/contact list to get the word out.

### **Community Gardens -**

- Katy was present to talk about community garden efforts in Breckenridge. A friend of Katy's is looking to build a garden/market on an empty lot off Main Street next to Alpine Bank. She will keep us updated on the process.

- With several community gardens in the works, the discussion of a Garden Network came up again. A Garden Network would work to be a single source of resources, models, and fundraising in support of community garden efforts county-wide.
- Joanna met with Dan Schroder about Master Gardener classes. The CSU Extension will unfortunately not be offering Master Gardener courses again this year due to budget cuts. However, Dan suggested targeting certified Master Gardeners for their annual continuing education credits for help on community gardens.
- It was also suggested that we send the Summit Garden Club a summary of what the Food Policy Council has been doing as well as our efforts to start a Garden Network.
- The first step with the Garden Network is to make a list of all community gardens, greenhouses, and groups working on community garden projects together. It was suggested that we create a document with list of gardens/community garden efforts in Summit. Is it realistic to have a goal to start a Garden Network and/or website for 2011?

#### **Food Recovery Task Force:**

- As mentioned last meeting, Vail Resorts partnered with Dillon Community Church (DCC) to donate leftover food from a banquet at the The Village in Breckenridge in December. Over 80 pounds of food (tex-mex; tacos, etc) was packaged by employees and frozen and then picked up by DCC staff. There was more food than usual leftover due to a snow storm because many people couldn't get to the event. This food would have otherwise been thrown in the garbage. The Village plans to continue to donate leftover food to the DCC food bank.
- Jen Santry mentioned writing a press release about this to get the word out about the program and FPC. Jen and Joanna will discuss this further and try to get with Janice at Summit Daily News to cover the story.
- The "Feed your Community, Not your Landfill" program may still work if instead of restaurants, we target conferences/conference centers and caterers (Harvest Catering, All Seasons Catering,... to name a few). It was suggested that we create a document similar to the food recovery PDF telling people what to do and who to call for food bank donations.
- There was still concern about storage and walk-in freezers. We discussed writing the Summit Foundation again for grant funding for more storage or a walk-in freezer. Can the three large organizations collaborate on their next grant request to include partial funding for a freezer - HC3, SPA, and FIRC?
- Should we be asking for food donations through the Food Recovery program if we don't have the capacity or storage for the food? It was discussed that storage might be tight over the holidays but food donations do decrease during the rest

of the season when food needs continue to increase. Is it possible to also recover food from community dinners – Elks Club, Rotary?

- For funding for walk-in freezer- can we ask the churches to campaign for a match from their members?

### **Miscellaneous Updates:**

- Jennifer Santry and Jannine Walldan met with the Summit Reads Group discuss collaboration on a program they are rolling out called “One Book One County.” Goal of the Project: To provide an opportunity for the Summit County community to read a book of local relevance (Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma*) that stimulates dialogue and inspires activities related to the topic/theme of the book. Santry suggested having the Summit FPC host an event during Earth Week where we show a couple of short films and open it up for food discussion. We are looking at Tuesday, April 19, for a possible date to host food film/discussion night. We also discussed having a Local Food Fair to highlight local food options in the community and community garden efforts. Santry will continue to update the group on this program.

**Next Food Policy Meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2-3:30pm, Miner’s Creek Rm, Medical Office Building, Frisco.**

**For past meeting minutes and more information, please go to:**

**[http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable\\_foods.htm#FPC](http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC).**