

Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, October 12:

Present – Co -Chairs, Joanna Rybak and Jennifer Santry, Deb Price, Kyla Laplante, Kyle Wiseman, Emily Tracy, Carolyn Woyar, Margaret Purnell, Rob Murphy

FPC funding through The Summit Foundation grant – HC3 is still waiting to hear back about the grant that HC3 applied for that includes funding for the FPC. HC3 hopes to hear by December 2011 on grant request and will report back to FPC. HC3 has agreed to act as fiscal agent of the FPC and will continue to seek grant funding for FPC programs.

BUDGET - Summit Foundation Budget Breakout for Food Policy Council, Summit County Garden Network, and Community Garden Support:

- \$4,500 - staff salary (\$25/hour includes salary, benefits, and payroll taxes) to facilitate garden network including meetings, marketing, website, and educational outreach (monthly newsletter, events, online garden education and resources, trainings...). Asking for funding for 180 hours for initial creation of network and weekly upkeep in 2012.
- \$2,000 - copying, printing, and marketing materials (educational handouts for farmer's market and events, brochures, flyers, workshop calendars, and display in greenhouse)
- \$600 - administrative costs (5% of total grant – phone, fax, internet, utilities...)
- \$2,000 - Food Policy Council
 - \$500 - events (quarterly public forums, luncheons and after work socials)
 - \$500 - copying and printing for marketing materials, educational handouts and brochures
 - \$500 - School Lunch Task Force (display, presentation, and other materials)
 - \$500 - host annual networking/conference for Food Policy Councils in the mountain region
- \$500 - match for Summit High School or Colorado Mountain College first year student (The Living Classroom Internship/Scholarship Program)
- \$2,000 - support for two active community garden projects
 - \$1,000 for The Living Classroom – matching funds for garden educational signage in the greenhouse and gardens on the compost and food connection
 - \$1,000 for the Breckenridge Community Garden - matching funds for materials and labor for construction of the new garden

Total Request from The Summit Foundation - **\$11,600**

Farm Bill Talk update – HC3 hosted a Fair Farm Bill talk on August 25 with a representative from the Food and Water Watch attending to talk to event attendees about the next Farm Bill in 2012. We talked about the importance of a Farm Bill and how we can support the bill locally as a FPC and concerned citizens. We anticipate future meetings and events in 2012. For more info about the Farm Bill and Food and Water Watch, please visit www.foodandwaterwatch.org.

Food Day Resolution – A Summit County Food Day Resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, edited by FPC members; it is now posted on HC3 and SPA website. You can see it here - www.highcountryconservation.org/pdf/Reso%202011-61%20Food%20Day!.pdf. No public events are planned by FPC, HC3, or SPA for 2011 but we'd like to change this in 2012. We decided to simply encourage people to celebrate or acknowledge the day in their own way. For example, SPA will eat a healthy lunch together. Help spread the word – put it on your own

website or in your newsletter. Tell your members what FPC is working on, provide them local food related info, and provide a list of things you can do to celebrate. HC3 will also write an Eartha article about Food Day. SPA's "This Is Us" program will do something food related on Food Day with the middle school students. Next year, FPC may want to inform the Restaurant Association about the day and what it's all about. Is there a general email or person to contact at Restaurant Association?

Dillon Valley Elementary Greenhouse – DVE greenhouse is very close to completion. SPA had young and old volunteers come out for Make a Difference Day to finish the greenhouse. Next year, DVE will go through phase 2 which includes community garden beds built outside the greenhouse (similar to The Living Classroom, TLC, garden at HC3). Joanna wrote a grant for aquaponics and vertical growing for the greenhouse. She'll let us know if they receive the funding.

FPC discussed new programs to get community gardeners to grow and harvest more vegetables. There was discussion about finding volunteer chefs for the gardens to show families how to cook food and what to do with food produced from garden. Comments from TLC gardeners were that they didn't know how to prepare the food they grew or exactly what to do with more uncommon vegetables like kale and swiss chard. Can the new Garden Education Network work on this in 2012? Could this be a new chef consultation program available to all of the gardens?

Carolyn and Rob – How can we get more low-income families a plot? Joanna and Jen both said all of the gardens had low-income plot availability this season but didn't have a lot of families take advantage of it. Problem is getting the word out. In 2012, the gardens would like to get the info out to the right people who need the plots – low income plots. If we have flyers or info about the plots we can get the word out through Rob and Carolyn.

Upcoming Grants like Colorado Health Foundation and LiveWell Colorado are interested in providing food to low-income families. How can FPC work on getting more local and healthy food to the low income population through local food distribution programs? LiveWell Colorado will extend current funding another 3 years (to 2015) for advanced implementation. Is there a way to use this grant to accomplish some of FPC's priorities and goals? How do we make local food affordable to the population that really needs it? There will be no Summit Greens or FM produce sold next year because SPA will not reapply for the CO Health Foundation grant. Is there an opportunity for the FPC to step in and move forward with a food distribution system?

FPC needs to figure out what does food distribution to low-income look like in our community? What will we do with the greenhouses at Nancy's? Do we farm the greenhouses for food banks? Is there a way to connect local schools to the plots in greenhouse three at Nancy's Community Garden? Should FIRC use the existing gardens for low-income instead of having another community garden? Should we be growing food for the food banks or have low-income families take care of their own plots?

Rob at FIRC is interested in building FIRC's own community garden next year (or in future years). He also mentioned that FIRC (and their grantors) may be interested in guided-assisted gardening. FIRC may also have funding through a current grant with the Colorado Health Foundation to pay an instructor to run a program where low income families have garden mentors or chefs to provide garden trainings. Mentors may include CSU Master Gardeners (who need 50 volunteer

hours each), Seniors, and Summit County Garden Club. What about Spanish-speaking mentors? FIRC could provide guidance and mentors for plots and they could use existing garden plots at existing gardens. It is recommended that plot holders donate a percentage of their garden produce to the food bank in 2012 (could we make this mandatory for all of the gardens?). Jen suggested having an easy drop off box or collection point at each garden for plot holders to drop off their excess food. This could be another program of the community garden network.

Everything we discussed can ultimately help food distribution to low-income families and individuals. Some other ideas included connecting distribution to the local schools, collaboration with government agencies and food banks (brochures available when people are applying for food stamps), and donation programs at each garden (as well as a portion of each garden going to food banks). Another thing for the FPC to determine at our next strategic planning meeting is: Would the community like to see one of the greenhouses at Nancy's Community Garden continued to be farmed for the food banks in 2012?

FPC decided that Rob Murphy, Joanna Rybak, and Jen Santry should sit down and discuss a plan for applying to the Colorado Health Foundation for potential funding for FPC to figure out a local food distribution system for Summit County. FPC may be able to apply in January of 2012. Jen Santry will also go to Denver in November to discuss this directly with the Colorado Health Foundation.

Kyla asked about year-round growing in Summit County. Is there potential for the FPC to partner with someone like Kyla (local business or student-ran program) to run a pilot program for a commercial local food operation that can be grant funded to provide local food to the public through CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) or NSA (Neighborhood Supported Agriculture) or selling produce at garden farm stands (or a combination of all three)?

There are many models of local food systems in other communities. What will work for Summit? Is there potential for a regional food system that includes partnerships with neighboring communities?

There is a lot to discuss and determine for 2012. FPC will meet and discuss a strategic plan or work plan for 2012 and future years at the next meeting in November.

First SCHOOL LUNCH TASK FORCE MEETING: 3:30pm to 5:00pm following the October Food Policy Council Meeting

Next Food Policy Council meeting is Wednesday, November 9, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at Miner's Creek in the MOB. This meeting will be followed by the School Lunch Task Force meeting from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.

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

http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC