Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, February 9, 2011
Miner's Creek Room, Medical Office Building, Frisco
Welcome & Introductions: Co-Chair: Joanna Rybak **Co-Chair:** Jennifer Santry
Present: Amber Brummer, Edina Cejudo, Jude Mitchell, Deb Price, Katy Berglund-Schlesinger, Jannine Walldan

Federal & Local Food Policy updates

- **Federal**
  The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has moved with unusual alacrity to implement provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 signed on December 13, 2010 by President Barack Obama. After only a month, USDA is already taking action to upgrade the nutritional content of school lunches and breakfasts, expand after-school meals in child care settings, increase summer meal services, and ease access to various programs by lifting administrative burdens. USDA has fast-tracked a major revision and updating of nutrition standards for school meals in order to address rampant child obesity nationwide. The new, proposed guidelines, which mandate increased servings of fruit and vegetables, emphasize whole grains and low-fat or non-fat dairy items, and call for a reduction of salt and fat as well as calorie maximums on a daily and per meal basis. The revised standards adhere to the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences. USDA expects the new rules to take effect beginning in school year 2012-2013. Updating the nutritional content of school meals will undoubtedly increase costs. In the new law, Congress anticipated the higher expenditures by endorsing increased reimbursements to schools of six cents per lunch. However, full implementation of the changes may cost as much as 40 cents per meal according to school food service directors. The proposals, open for public comment until April 13, 2011, may be found in the January 13, 2011 *Federal Register* at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/2011-485.htm.

- **Local** (see below under Urban Farming Policy Task Force)

Urban Farming Policy Task Force updates

- HC3's website is now fully updated with resources and information about urban farming and the upcoming Summit County Government code amendments that we are preparing for. You can read about the efforts here: http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#urbanfarming.
- This task force met on Tuesday, February 8 to discuss the proposed "community gardens" codes section that may be added to Summit County Government code. These are highlights of the proposed changes. Community Gardens shall be categorized as follows: (These are subject to change and are still in discussion.)

A. **Local Neighborhood Community Gardens on Private Property:** These community gardens are located on private property and are intended to serve the surrounding neighborhood(s). There are no retail sales from these gardens.
B. **Community Gardens on Public Property:** These community gardens are located on publicly owned property and are intended to serve the surrounding neighborhoods as well as the broader community.
C. **Community Gardens with Retail Sales:** These community gardens are located either on public or private property, are intended to serve the surrounding neighborhoods and broader community, and offer the produce grown on site for retail sales from the property. Eighty percent (80%) of the products sold, based upon either gross annual sales or annual volume, must be grown on site. The remaining 20% of the products sold may be produce grown off site. One hundred percent (100%) of all products sold shall be food related and contribute to increasing the supply of and access to fresh food in the community. Community gardens must have a non-profit status to sell the produce. There are regulations for farm stands and there will be a one-time fee (maybe $90).

- There was discussion about adding another category to include "Neighborhood Market Center". These are community gardens that are located either on public or private property, are intended to serve the surrounding neighborhoods and broader community, and offer the produce grown on or off site for retail sales from the property. One hundred percent (100%) of all products sold shall be food related and contribute to increasing the supply of and access to fresh food in the community.
- A management plan will be required of all community gardens that will include things such as a site plan, parking and traffic plan, water supply plan, sediment and erosion control plans and proof of liability insurance.
- There will be a one-time permit fee around $159 for a community garden.
- The Urban Farming forum on the proposed code amendments is scheduled for on Wednesday, February 16 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the Senior and Community Center in Frisco.
- **Sign the online petition** supporting the code amendments and pass it along to local friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors in support of urban farming in Summit - http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/support-summit-urban-farming/. Please be sure you have locals (residents of Summit County) sign the petition.

Land Discussion for Permanent Food Production

- Through Colorado Health Foundation funding, Summit Prevention Alliance has a planning grant currently to find permanent land for food production in Summit County.
- Jude Mitchell suggested Dillon Community Church land that is on a Town of Dillon land easement. Maybe we can use this land to grow food for the food bank at DCC.

- "Our Lady of Peace" Catholic Church in Dillon Valley is selling the property because they outgrew the parish and bought land in Silverthorne. The church will be moving mid-2012. Jen, Joanna & Jannine have meetings with planners to discuss the possibility of using this land for a community/youth center and food production.
- Summit Cove Recreation Association has vacant land that they have not been able to sell or lease.
- Fairgrounds next to the Dillon Dam Road are owned by Summit County Government.
- Other suggestions were using land on Ptarmigan Mountain in Silverthorne or Wildernest.

Food Assessment Survey

- Colorado Mountain College's Leadership Summit class work on group projects through the semester that will benefit the community. One group is working to develop a Food Assessment Survey for the community. Amber Brummer, The Keystone Center employee is in this group and talked about the intent of the survey. The goal of the survey is find out if there is a market for Summit County local produce and if so, how much people will pay for it. The other goal is figure out how to make produce affordable and accessible to all especially the low-income.
- The survey will be launched in the beginning of March. In April, a few one-on-one interviews will be held. Survey results will be analyzed in May and reported to the community in June.
- There was discussion on the survey questions and distribution. FPC brainstormed on ideas on survey distribution and marketing. The survey will be available in Spanish. The goal is to have 4,000 respondents.
- Results of the survey will be added to the Basic Food Assistance document.
- Survey distribution/marketing suggestions:
  - Locations: Colorado Mountain College, food banks, FIRC, Care Clinic, libraries, HC3, other non-profits, Community Dinners (contact Deb Hage), churches, teacher lounges, door-to door.
  - HC3 and SPA will send to all e-mail lists.
  - Summit Daily – Community Notes
  - "Survey Saturdays" at grocery store or else where
  - Katy S. offered to help distribute surveys at the Breckenridge Community dinner.

Next Food Policy Meeting: Wednesday, March 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.