

Food Policy Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 11, 2010, 2-3:30pm

Ten-Mile Room, Medical Office Building, Frisco

Co-Chairs Present: Joanna Rybak, Summit Prevention Alliance (SPA), LiveWell Summit County Coordinator & Jen Santry, Executive Director, High Country Conservation Center (Hc3)

Introductions: Chris Kulick, Planner, Town of Breckenridge, Jude Mitchell, Dillon Community Church, Rob Murphy & Bethany (Intern), FIRC, Don Parsons, Dillon Town Council, Roxanne Peyser, Maurgood, sustainability & consulting firm, Doug Pierce, Arapahoe Café, Deb Price, Youth & Family Services, Tom Rose, Summit Prevention Alliance, Sherie Sobke, Alpine Earth Center, Joanne Sprouse, Social Services, Jannine Walldan, Summit Prevention Alliance

Welcome & Update on State Food Policy Legislation

- Joanna gave an update on the bill “SB 10-106, Concerning the Creation of a Food Systems Advisory Council”: Sponsors, Senator Bacon & Representative Looper. A main provision of this bill is the establishment of a 17-member food systems advisory council that develops food system recommendations regarding hunger and food access that state & local governments, businesses, agriculture, and consumers can take to build robust, resilient food systems economies.
- Currently in CO, there isn’t one single place where one might address the wide range of “farm to table” items that make up our food system. Policy work is spread across numerous governmental departments and functions.
- Joanna asked the FPC to support this bill and in the establishment of a state-wide food system advisory council.

Review of last meeting: What is a FPC and Focus Areas

- Since this was the 2nd meeting and there were many new faces, Jen updated the group of the complimentary local/sustainable food work plans that Hc3 & SPA have such as greenhouse projects. Jen reviewed what a FPC is and the focus areas that were discussed so far for Summit County: 1. Health & Nutrition, 2. Local & Environmental Benefits, 3. Food Security, Access & Hunger. For a review of the minutes from the first FPC meeting on Jan 13, 2010 meeting and additional information on food policy councils, please go to this link:
http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC
- Also go to the above link for the *LiveWell Colorado, Food Policy Blueprint* (released Jan 2010). It is recommended to use the Blueprint’s strategies as a guideline during future strategic planning sessions and to align local advocacy efforts with its recommendations.

The Blueprint specifically focuses on access and efforts in the food policy domain and provides an overview of current activities recommends actionable strategies for future efforts and sets a path of action for CO. There are 8 policy recommendations. Joanna highly encouraged the FPC to read over these. Two that Joanna mentioned are: 1. Local land use policies that allow and incentivize food production, including home-based and community food production and urban agriculture and 2. Policy to advance a statewide farm to school program that incentivizes and provides technical assistance for farm to school.

- Don Parson suggested looking at other food policy councils and taking examples from lessons learned. To start, Joanna suggested looking at the *Food Policy Blueprint* and the *Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned* document that can be found at this link: http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC. There are two very successful FPC's in Boulder and Durango that Joanna will follow-up with for advice.
- Another useful report that can be found at the above link is the *Colorado Health Foundation's Report: Food Access in Colorado*.

Discussion on “2009 Summit County Basic Food Assistance Document” – FPC as the Champion Group?

- Deb Price discussed this document. See 1/13/10 meeting minutes for additional information. This document and link can be found at this link: http://www.highcountryconservation.org/sustainable_foods.htm#FPC.
- Everyone on the FPC can easily start contributing to this document to make it comprehensive by e-mailing Deb Price any missing food access programs or updated statistics. For example, this document needs updated information from Breckenridge.
- Having a document such as this is great information for grants!

Liability of using donated foods at community dinners & food banks:

- Liability concerns were discussed at the 1/13/10 FPC mtg as a barrier for Vail Resorts and many restaurants in donating foods that otherwise will be wasted.
- On 2/4 in Seattle, Joanna met with Carol Woeswtin, Director of Landscape Conservation at the Seattle Public Utilities to learn more about their successful “Reduce Hunger, Reduce Food Waste” food safety and food recovery programs and report back. The city of Seattle is fortunate to have governmental support for food recovery programs and to have Food Lifeline. Food Lifeline is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger in Western Washington. Food Lifeline provides a creative link between food sources and hungry people by encouraging the food industry to donate unmarketable but usable food it would otherwise discard. In this role, Food Lifeline rescues millions of pounds of food each year. Locally, restaurants and caterers contribute prepared food through Food Lifeline's innovative *Seattle's Tables* program, and fresh

produce is collected from produce wholesalers and retailers through the *Produce for the People* program. Local grocery retailers donate a variety of nutritious products from meat, dairy, fresh produce and baked goods through Food Lifeline's effective *Grocery Rescue* program. For more information on food recovery programs, go to this website:

<http://www.foodlifeline.org/who/index.html>

- Joanna informed the group on the federal *Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* which protects donors from civil or criminal liability when food that is believed to be safe and edible is donated in good faith to a non-profit organization for ultimate distribution to needy individuals. This Act promotes food recovery by limiting the liability of donors to instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.
- WA also has the *Washington Administrative Code* which gives authority for food donation to Donated Food Distributing Organizations. This law prescribes conditions for donating and receiving donated food.
- A question was asked about the benefit of having additional state protection as WA does and Roxanne Peyser answered the federal protection would offer sufficient liability protection.
- There is a great resource called the *Comprehensive Guidelines for Food Recovery Programs*.
- Discussion on food recovery in Summit County started. It was suggested to make the federal *Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* known to restaurants and to get media attention such as a "Did You Know..." article in Summit Daily on food recovery and wasted foods that has a local attorney "statement" on the subject of liability. Jen offered to write an *Ask Eartha* article on the topic. Schedule a *Krystal Conversation* with Roman Moore. Work with property management companies and Breckenridge Resort Chamber. Talk to environmental health specialists such as Chris Kulick's wife. Work with the CO & Summit County restaurant association. Talk to Summit County's composting program about pick up possibilities.
- Chris Kulick brought up the importance of thinking about the organizational structure of the local distribution of food recovery. There must be an organized, effective system in place for restaurants and resorts to distribute foods to the needy.
- Sherie Sobke suggested that a task force be formed on food recovery. Volunteers for the **Food Recovery Task Force** are: Jen Santry, Rob Murphy, Sherie Sobke, Chris Kulick, Jude Mitchell and Roxanne Peyser can advise for the first meeting and as needed.
- The importance of education was discussed for restaurants, food bank recipients and the community. Tom Rose mentioned that SPA filmed a cooking show that can be seen on SCTV-10 on how to "Shop at the Food Bank": <http://www.sctv10.com/>

Report on County SNAP cases

- Joanne Spouse from Summit County's Social Services department discussed the eligibility requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is the new name for the federal Food Stamp Program.
- Joanne reported that many people that are coming in and calling about benefits do not even qualify. These are middle class people that are now having financial difficulties and need help. Many people that collect unemployment are over income to collect SNAP benefits. Social

Services refers many of these people to the local food banks.

- SNAP cases increased by 150% since last year and there are equal Latinos and white people receiving benefits in Summit County.
- For additional information on SNAP benefits and eligibility requirements, please go to:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/FSP/>

Other comments/discussion –

- Chris Kulick informed the group of an article that he read in the Harvard Design Magazine that talked about how growing local is not sustainable in certain situations. The example that was given was getting grapes from France would be more sustainable than trying to grow grapes in Summit County. The FPC should continue to educate themselves on what the most sustainable growing practices are in Summit County.

Next Meeting:

- Please do invite others that would be interested in FPC.
- **The next FPC meeting is Thurs, March 11, 2-3:30 in the Mount Royal Room, County Commons, Frisco**