

What

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council

When

Thursday, March 9th, 11am-1:30pm

Where

Colorado Department of Agriculture, 305 Interlocken Parkway, Broomfield, CO 80021

In attendance: Dawn Thilmany (CSU), Libby Christensen (CSU), Tom Parks (producer), Meighan Lovelace (producer/RMFU), Joel McClurg (Hunger Free CO), Sandy Stenmark (Kaiser Permanente), Jimmy Dula (RMFU), Ruben Gregory (Hunger Relief), Chris Wiseman (CO Dept. of Ag), Brehan Riley (CO Dept of Education), Karen Falbo (Natural Grocers), Jody Beck (CU Denver), Tracy Marie Miller (CO Dept of Public Health), Joyce Kelly (producer), Wendy Peters Moschetti (LiveWell CO)

Agenda

1. Membership update
 - a. Welcome to Joel McClurg (Dawn Thilmany)
 - b. Tracy Marie Miller: Changes at the state level of oversight of food code primarily dealing with food safety. 200 pages of food code. Seems like an opportunity to streamline some of the heterogeneity of the food code at the county level. Biggest concerns farmers market, cottage food, food trucks, residential food production. Planning to start a stakeholder process. Will share food code on the Blueprint (stay tuned for updates).
 - c. Wendy Peters Moschetti: National Farm to School Network. Recently restructured. They want a state lead. After querying partners, seemed like a good fit that LiveWell be the state leader. They will have their national conference in May.
 - i. <https://livewellcolorado.org/healthy-schools/farm-to-school-in-colorado/>
 - ii. <http://www.farmentoschool.org/our-network/Colorado>
2. LiveWell COFSAC reconfiguration legislation update (Wendy)
 - a. COFASC's role in framing needs in the bill?
 - i. HB1192. Passed out of the house ag committee (10-3). Now moving to appropriations. Concerns around the fiscal note. The sentiment is that it is too high, currently at \$160,000 of annual appropriation, they want something less than \$100,000, CDA thinks they can get it down to \$90,000, funding for a staff person that will act as coordinator and programmatic funds. We will cut it back but don't want to cut it back to the point where we don't have the funding to actually do anything. Merging COFSAC and the Farm to School Task Force.
 1. Three major areas of focus

- a. Federal food assistance program
 - i. Difficulty in participating in the federal program for producers, this staffing would provide tech assistance to farmers and food enterprises
 - b. Farm to school. Dedicated working group, with expanding efforts
 - c. Implementation of CO Blueprint priorities
 - b. Should COFSAC meet jointly with farm to school task force at June meeting?
 - i. As the bill is currently laid out will need all new appointments by the governor. What is the point of meeting with current group if they are all going to be changed? (Dave)
 - ii. It is assumed that for any of the seats that currently exist on either board will stay the same. Responsibility of appointments will go to the Department of Agriculture (Dawn)
 - 1. Three new formal seats, SNAP, USDA Rural Development
 - iii. Shifting towards more of a working group structure with the full group meeting for some meetings, but working committees meeting separately at times as well.
3. CO Blueprint of Food and Ag update (Dawn)
 - a. Progress update
 - i. 8 workshops to date
 - ii. Gone well. 20 to 25 people at each.
 - iii. Diverse attendance (producers, elected officials, food access and security, retailers, food manufactures, distributors)
 - 1. Buckets evenly divided
 - b. Report out from COFSAC members who attended Townhalls
 - i. All of our organizations could be more involved?
 - 1. CSU should off-load some of the responsibilities moving forward
 - a. June design strategy: Design of value-chain report after the COFSAC meeting for those interested
 - b. Dawn will take volunteers on industry/organizational townhall reps
 - ii. What percent of people involved at a state or county level?
 - iii. What has been the level of participation from the general public?
 - 1. Limited participation from general residents
 - iv. Raised for me to come back with these common problems
 - v. Facilitators didn't feel fully empowered to answer all the questions regarding the handouts
 - vi. Trying to connect dots:
 - 1. Alternative grains
 - a. Natural Grocer will create a class on the value and preparation of millet at the store level
 - 2. Lot of connections being made
 - a. Very inspiring

- b. Contact information was exchanged and assigned tasks with a strategic plan
- vii. Goal to get one more activity to engage Northeast:
 - 1. Colorado Livestock Association (4/5-4/6), Cattlemen’s Association, Farm Bureau a possibility?
 - 2. What hurt turnout: Tried to work around on an ongoing meeting with the farmers’ market but no one from the group showed up.
 - 3. Lots of producers in a place of need, if we have resources that we should reach out and support them in away we can.
- c. Regional Opportunity Reports
 - i. Good idea
 - ii. Should we have a feedback loop?
 - 1. Qualtrics survey they are invited to respond to....
 - a. Structured around questions to learnhow you are going to use the information
 - iii. Give each region opportunity to review.
 - iv. Region will have say as to how they are shared.
- d. Next steps
 - i. Industry Townhalls
 - 1. April through June
 - 2. Natural Resources (Jody): Colorado Food Policy: land access
 - 3. RMFU (Harrison and Meighan)
 - 4. Beverage Association (Tom Harold)
 - 5. Farm Bureau
 - 6. Inputs suppliers
 - 7. CLA and Cattlemen’s (Joyce)
 - 8. Inputs
 - 9. Downstream (Shanna, Joel, Karen and Alan)
 - a. Processors
 - b. Distributors
 - c. Retailers
 - ii. Ways for COFSAC membership to get involved
- 4. Plan to transition to new COFSAC leadership
 - a. Nominations to Dawn by June Meeting
 - b. No specifics as of yet, since whether HB passes will tell us if we have staff or not (and are combined or not)
 - c. Watch for updates in May
- 5. Member updates (if time allows)-integrated with introductions
- 6. Setting next meeting date (June)
 - a. June 27th, 10:30-12:30pm stay after if you want to help frame design elements
 - b. September meeting before/after Ag Innovation Summit in Fort Collins
 - i. Willing to meet in Fort Collins at this time