

COFSAC March Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 24, 2016

2:00-5:00pm

Big Thompson Room, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, Broomfield, CO

In Person: Karen Falbo (member), Dawn Thilmany (member), Trudy Kareus (member), Becca Jablonski (staff person), Trudy Kareus (member), Tracy Miller (member), Joyce Kelly (member), Wendy Peters Moschetti (member)

On the Phone: Meighen Dossin Lovelace (member), Cate Blackford (member), Shawnee Adelson (member), Karen Moldovan (guest, LiveWell)

Agenda

- COFSAC membership
- COFSAC member update
- CO Food Plan
- Legislative Update
- Update on COFPN
- Plans for remaining 2016 meetings and agenda for July 7 meeting

COFSAC member update

- Meighen Dossin Lovelace, Eagle County, runs a 4 acre farm that supports the community
- Karen Falbo, Natural Grocers, opening new store in the Rhino District and South Broadway, so adding to stores in Denver
- Cate Blackford, Director of Public Policy, Hunger Free CO, run statewide hotline, maintain database on emergency food relief, policy work to increase access to federal assistance programs, working now to increase traceability and accountability of SNAP (e.g., processing applications – accuracy and expediency), currently in CO ½ of those who are eligible for SNAP are utilizing it – loss of 680M to the state’s grocery industry
- Tracy Miller, Department of Public Health and Environment, performance management and quality improvement across all programs; interested in finding funding to support farm to childcare programming (education and culinary training)
- Trudy Kareus, State Director, USDA Rural Development, \$1B in Colorado in loans/year – mainly in housing and hospitals, perhaps opportunities to work more closely with USDA FNS
- Joyce Kelly, Executive Producer of Pork Producers Council – manages the pork check off program (\$0.41/100), Yuma Co is the 26th largest pork producing County in the U.S., also a farmer with her husband, represents traditional ag values and traditional ag voice, spent a lot of her life living in ‘food deserts’ – on the edge of the Navajo Reservation
- Wendy Peters Moschetti, LiveWell CO, applied for a USDA FINI grant to create a uniform double-up SNAP program statewide – new direct markets and retail partners (awarded the grant, but not allowed to announce formally yet, until USDA makes the announcement ~April), needs to hire a statewide double up buck program coordinator. LiveWell also a co-state farm to school lead, supported scholarships with Natural Grocers to national farm to cafeteria

- Becca Jablonski, new faculty member in the Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics, new position with strong support from Lou Swanson – 70% extension, 30% research, trying to go and meet with ag professionals, researchers, farmers/ranchers, etc. across the food system. Will provide staff support for COFSAC.
- Dawn Thilmany, Chair, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, co-leader of food systems extension team, CSU has a new Regional Food Safety Center (along with Oregon State) so will be doing food safety training under the leadership of Marissa Bunning, enrollment in ag and food majors continue to go up at CSU – ag and food careers are back, looking at doing new degree programs to support food systems – what’s happening in the field is informing campus

COFSAC Update

- Karen’s new seat will be to wholesaler/retailer (from nutrition and health) and a year was added to her term
- Jane Brand is changing positions, and will no longer be eligible for the Department of Education seat, so we will need to find someone else (Commissioner of Education formally has the seat)
 - Discussion about creating a new position for someone from FNS – perhaps Jane could fill this seat in her new role?
- Today an official offer was made to Sandy Stenmark (Keiser Permanente) to cover the nutrition seat
- CSU agreed that Dawn will continue to serve as Chair, and that policy briefs will go out as fact sheets. LiveWell is also willing to provide some web support. So policy briefs will be both on the website and the COFSAC website.
- To do:
 - Each new member needs to provide a brief bio for the website, with context for the bigger thing you are representing. Continuing members should make sure their profile accurately reflects their role. Please provide these ASAP!
 - Becca will double check that she is using the latest list
 - A few members are listed in the wrong seats. Dawn will look into this.

CO Food Plan as COFSAC 2016 Scope of Work

- COFSAC did listening sessions around the state when it started – economic development flavor – used to gather information, which led to the Blue Plan for agriculture. But since then, it has been one offs that individuals bring to COFSAC. As a result, we have many issue briefs. We have so many from last year (4), that Dawn suggests we could take a break. Perhaps there is an opportunity to do another round of listening sessions around the state to figure out how to bring together some of the connective tissue...Bringing Kathay Rennels to learn from what she did, but what she did was centrally ag, and potential to stretch it into nutrition, natural resource, etc. directions.
 - What’s the scope? What role would we play? Level of responsibility for individual COFSAC members? Other examples from states that have done them – how have theirs been used?
 - Around the state we hear of the desire to have a statewide food plan. Wendy mentioned her student from last summer who interviewed states (6?) that did

comprehensive food plans. What helped you do stuff? Which food plans are actually being used and in what ways?

- Perhaps COFSAC's role is as 'convener' in talking about agricultural innovation (everyone at the table has developed important relationships – but sometime we're stuck in our own bubble) – opportunities and challenges (particularly around changing climate) – we can be advisory rather than prescriptive.
- Start with Kathay's blueprint and other health/nutrition blueprints as a baseline and go from there.
- Should this be an actual 'plan' with measurable, things we are held accountable for, etc.? A 'plan' may require a different level of partner engagement.
- The CO Water Plan seems to be very successful...
- Perhaps 'framework' 'vision' ...maybe 'opportunities to strengthen the CO food systems' – advantage of 'framework' is that it legitimizes the process
- Purpose is to help guide the shaping of our food system and policy over a certain period of time in CO.
 - We need to look at:
 - Food stamps
 - Food hubs
 - Etc.
 - "Framework for Food Systems Planning"
 - Need to make sure that if we use 'agriculture' in the title, we don't forget about the eaters piece.
- Next step: bring in people who have done this work in the state before we commit to anything – especially scope. Kathay Rennels, CO Ag Council should absolutely be involved in this, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, etc.
- General consensus that this is the group in the state with the best connections to the rest of the food system – to insure inclusivity.
- Need to ensure that the food plan presents a 'balanced' view of all agriculture

Framework for CO Food Systems: Scope of Work

1. Due Diligence
 - a. Research from other states
 - b. Within CO what documents provide blueprints for moving forward
 - i. Blueprints: Agriculture, Health, and Tourism (Governor's Office)
 - ii. Water Plan
 - iii. Value Chain and Innovation Report (CSU Office of Engagement)
 - iv. Hunger Free CO's 5 year plan (concluded last year)
 - v. Federal Government/USDA – Nutrition and Health Roadmap
 - vi. LiveWell CO's Food Policy Roadmap (update 1 year ago-never published)
 - vii. Summaries from COFSAC's initial listening sessions
 - viii. Denver's Food Plan
 1. State of the City across a number of food system buckets
 2. Tracking where they are going
 3. Series of regional convenings (April 27, May 11, June 9)
 - a. It appears that COFSAC members and/or organizations are already well represented in these meetings.

- c. Connect with partners
 - i. Need to alert them we're considering doing this and:
 1. Get advice for what should be included
 2. See how they want to be involved

TO DO within 1 Month:

1. Provide documents to CSU from other states that we might want to emulate in framing the blueprint/framework
2. Provide documents to CSU from within Colorado that might be useful to frame the food blueprint

Legislative update

- Karen Moldovan, LiveWell's Policy Director, joined via phone
- Direct Market Nutrition Assistance Program bill
 - Timely as WIC is going to an electronic system so easy for producers and clients to navigate
 - Part of proposal is to move COFSAC to the Dept of Ag with some staff support
 - Karen encouraged by bipartisan conversations, both parties see the importance of increasing access to healthy fruits and vegetable, and the economic opportunities for CO producers.
 - Bill has not yet been introduced, but lots of interest (good coalition of supporters). The reality is that the state budget is very tight. We can't do anything to increase the budget – which is really the hold up since the bill requires staff support. So, if there isn't funding in the budget to do this, won't introduce the bill.
 - If and when it is introduced, it would be great to have organizations represented within COFSAC supporting it.
 - How much funding? Don't know yet –really up to the CO Dept of Ag. What we're expecting is one FTE. COFSAC sunsets in 2018, so want to have this secured before the sunset.
- Request to also make sure that CDA is represented on COFSAC. Is there way to encourage this?
- Senate Bill 58 in process (referred to the House): Bill to provide exemption for direct market poultry slaughter – no regulation <1,000 chickens; 1,000-20,000 chickens = 1 visit/year – follows the CO Cottage Food Act, participating producers encouraged to take a food safety course
- House Bill 1194: Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development bill proposed by RMFU – tax credit for any agricultural assets (land, cattle, infrastructure) that existing farmers and ranchers lease land to beginning farmers – referred to appropriations right now.
- Reg 84: scheduled for May 9, 2016 vote – reclaimed water for ag use; COFSAC issued issue brief on this topic
- **TO DO:**
 - Wendy will work to get a twitter feed on the side of the COFSAC website where we can track updates on these policies.

Update on COFPN

- COFPN emerged from COFSAC – original COFSAC bill talked about COFSAC working with the local food policy councils to build their capacity. Last year’s COFPN work really focused on writing and passing a charter. There are now 18 members of this charter across the state. Two day and a half sessions of all of these groups across the state last year. Affirms that COFPAN exists to build the capacity of these local organizations and to help them come together in an active (reactive) way – potentially proactive in the future. Since COFSAC hasn’t had the budget to work with these groups, it is very helpful to have a network to support these local orgs. LiveWell is providing staff support from COFPN (also some help from CSU). 8 members on the leadership council team. Drafted a 5 year action plan and received positive feedback from broader member network. One outcome has been more active engagement with LiveWell’s policy committee. LiveWell’s day at the capital was really a response to requests from COFPN members.
- Additional fund-raising needed to move COFPN forward. Could COFSAC be a ‘community partner’ under LiveWell’s community assistance model? This would allow for more direct TA from LiveWell?
- Wendy working on a digital hub to support COFPN requests. Who is doing what where? Is there digital support to do what members want to do? LiveWell engaged communitycommons.org to build a tailored food system hub for the state of CO. Goal is to have the statewide food systems indicators that any community to access to inform their work. It will also include a data collection tool “Mapping the Movement” so that communities can input additional information around their work. But, hope is that this will be self-updating. People who add information will get regular reminders to update information. LiveWell’s evaluator, Spark Institute, is working with Wendy on a “strategic learning exercise” on the map before it is formally launched. COFSAC members will be asked to participate – testing how people use it, messaging, etc.
- To Do: Wendy needs to update Food Policy eList to make sure all members of COFSAC (including new members) are registered and receive the COFPN updates.

Plans for remaining 2016 meetings and agenda for July 7 meeting

- TO DO: For those already invited, prioritize attendance at Denver/LiveWell Regional meetings (April 27, May 11, or June 9); for those not invited, but who have colleagues in their organization attending, please connect and gather input/feedback.
 - Note: THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN DISCUSSION AT MEETING. DAWN WAS MISTAKEN THAT WE COULD ADD INVITES, SO WE WILL TRUST THOSE ALREADY INVITED CAN REPRESENT THE FULL GROUP WELL
- All members are encouraged to respond by May 1st re: food plans in other states and CO-based documents we should be reviewing
- **July 7th meeting is CANCELLED**
- Doodle for August and late-September, 6 weeks apart, so we get momentum for getting this going – if we do framework we are probably talking about the next 18 months.
- We will also have a December meeting, but we will plan that later.