

# COFSAC October Meeting Summary

Wednesday , October 19, 2016

8:30am-11:30am

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

In person: Dawn Thilmany, Chris Wiseman, Becca Jablonski, Brehan Riley, Wendy Peters Moschetti, Meighen Lovelace, Chad Christensen, Sandra Stenmark, Tom Parks, Karen Falbo, Barry Pardus

On the phone: Tracy Miller, Cate Blackford

## Minutes

### 1. Introductions

- Cate Blackford – Policy Director, Hunger Free CO, fills the Hunger seat, on COFSAC as she wants to understand the different ways that people are working on the food system
- Tracy Miller - CO Dept of Public Health and Environment, Nutrition Services Branch, houses WIC and Early Childhood Prevention program, lots of connections to the Food System (e.g., water), represents Dept as a whole (not just nutrition)
- Chad Christensen, Grad Students at CSU working with Dawn Thilmany, analyst for CDA Public Attitudes survey work, will assist with blueprint
- Sandy Stenmark – Kaiser Permanente, nutrition and health seat, Healthy Affordable Food is necessary to ensure healthy CO residents
- Bre Riley, Director Office of School Nutrition, Department of Education, office is ready to work on some exciting initiatives relative to healthy food in schools
- Becca Jablonski, Assistant Professor and Food Systems Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, provides facilitation support for COFSAC
- Barry Pardus- Deputy Director Office of Economic Security, Colorado Department of Human Services
- Tom Parks – producer seat, nominated by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, veterinarian by training, now operates a grass based beef operation with son in Yuma CO
- Karen Falbo – Nutrition Education Director with Natural Grocers
- Wendy Peters Moschetti, Director of Food Systems, LiveWell CO, Health and Nutrition seat, representing LiveWell CO, previously provided staff support to the COFSAC
- Meighen Lovelace – operates a 4 acre vegetable farm, policy Board Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Farmers Coalition, National Young Farmers Coalition, located in Eagle County, producer seat
- Chris Wiseman – Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, oversees 5 divisions at the Colorado Agriculture

- Dawn Thilmany – Chair of the Council, Professor in the Dept of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University

## 2. Membership

- Motion to recommend appointment/reappointment of four members (unanimous in favor):
  - David Carter (new appointment)
  - Tom Parks (new appointment)
  - Cate Blackford (reappointment)
  - Trudy Kareus (reappointment)
- Motion to appoint Vice Chair, Meigan Lovelace (unanimous in favor)

## 3. Colorado Blueprint of Food and Agriculture

- Dawn presented ppt (see attached)
- Project funding provided by CSU's Research Center (but leverages resources provided by CDA and others)
  - Key project partners:
    - Wendy asked if there will be linkages to other academic institutions
      - Concern about bringing in too many 'key' project partners as becomes more challenging to handle large group, but certainly they will be included in the listening sessions.
    - Dawn will try to use the Colorado School of Public Health as one conduit to draw in other key partners
- Presentation of four proposed objectives – best guess, but not determined, up to COFSAC to edit...will return to this at end of the meeting
- Process:
  - COFSAC has written several policy briefs in the past (narrow focus, but not systematic review of issues and sectors)
  - CDA funded public attitudes survey
    - Discussion about the issue of food safety – CDA received some resources to support food safety training (going to work in partnership with CSU)
    - CDA uses some of the information from the report in their strategic plan
    - Question about roll out – Chris doesn't know the date, but likely before December
    - Dawn provided an overview of a journal article published from previous Public Attitudes surveys that got published in the peer reviewed literature
      - Could do much more of this just need COFSAC to be creative in what we'd like to look at
  - Value Chain Analysis
    - Economic development tone

2. Mostly from secondary data sources (with a few exceptions – e.g., industrial hemp)
  3. Little context of how markets and industry connect with each other or consumers/households
  - iv. Ag Experiment/Research Centers
    1. Discussion about these great assets that are unknown and underutilized by many in Colorado – locations around the state (except Northwest corner)
    2. Tom reminded group that focus for COFSAC needs to be in the connection piece –
  - v. CSU Extension – Food Systems Program Reporting Unit
    1. 4 core areas where the team focuses (stewardship, business development, food security/quality/public health, and investing in community food assets)
    2. Chris Wiseman asked about the relationship between the CSU Food Systems Extension team and 4H
      - a. Discussion about how to bring in voice of the young folks/next generation – FFA, CALP, 4H, Beginning farmers and ranchers
      - b. Youth ambassadors in process?
    3. The Food Systems Extension team is very excited about the blueprint and has strong interest in partnering
  - vi. LiveWell/Community Commons
    1. Tailored data hub for state of CO focused on food systems
    2. Communities can create customized reports around the food environment
    3. Idea to create customized reports we can pull down for each of the listening sessions
    4. Links to ‘GAP map’, and CO Impact reports (around SNAP)
      - a. SNAP participation, leakage
      - b. Not integrated, but linked
      - c. Impact reports are being updated – will be released in November, documenting the specific improvements that Counties have made – impact on access overall – Cate said there have been significant improvements in many measures
        - i. Includes economic data as well – shows connections with retailers through increasing enrollment rates via SNAP
        - ii. Cate mentioned that retailers came out in front of utilizing these data, but are wary about carrying the message of economic benefits as they don’t want to appear that the importance of SNAP is getting more money from themselves.
4. CO Food Policy Network and Denver Food Planning Process (Wendy)

- a. COFPN: part of the COFASC charge was to work with the local food policy councils
  - i. Lots of similar/overlapping issues with the local food policy councils
  - ii. Wendy and LiveWell have been coordinating and facilitating these groups/also support from the Denver Extension Office
  - iii. Convening of the CO Food Policy network scheduled for November – 4<sup>th</sup> time (Nov 3-4)
  - iv. 16-17 of these local councils/networks (each goes by a different name, has a different focus)
  - v. Facebook group, quarterly network call
  - vi. Group has a charter that was adopted
  - vii. Meighen Lovelace and Wendy both on the leadership team
  - viii. Two primary things that the CO Food Policy Network does:
    - 1. Build capacity to be local change agents
    - 2. Have a collective voice – to inform LiveWell, State/National policy
  - ix. Great way for COFSAC to hear from the community directly through COFPN
  - x. COFPN can support participation in listening sessions for COFSAC
- b. Denver Food Plan
  - i. Led by Blake Angelo, Manager of Food Systems for the City and County of Denver
  - ii. Held geographically focused listening sessions, and industry focused listening sessions (retailers, distributors, public health, hunger, economic development), and broader regionally-focused listening sessions (public health, food access, economic development), and broader institutions (role of anchor institutions - schools, correctional facilities, etc.)
  - iii. This process can run in a parallel fashion, but according more attention to the necessarily broader set of issues that rural Colorado would want addressed and discussed
- c. COFSAC policy update (Chris Wiseman)
  - i. Durant had proposed legislation including an FTE housed in CDA
    - 1. Individual at the time would have responsibility for SNAP and WIC at farmers markets, BUT CDA doesn't want to take on the SNAP/WIC piece
  - ii. Durant will now come back with a revised proposal
  - iii. Shaina Knight (CDA) mentioned there were some challenges with the State's farm to school task force; COFSAC has similar issues
  - iv. CDA proposed getting a staffer that could work to support both farm to school task force and COFSAC.
    - 1. Chris tried to get personnel through his CDA budget process, but wasn't possible.
  - v. Durant is going to re-introduce legislation, but ongoing discussions about how to do this.

1. For COFSAC and farm to school task force to be really successful, need a staff person to move these groups forward (~1.5 FTEs). Person/people could be housed at CDA, but another agency would also be ok.
- vi. There is going to be a bill, but how any staff position and its role in the system may depend, in part, on the blueprint. This is part of the reasons that we need a fast timeline for the blueprint.
- vii. Dawn added that challenges to Farm to School task force is the opposite of COFSAC, farm to school task force has been in the weeds and trying to get up to the 100 foot level; COFSAC has been at the 1000 foot level and wants to get into the weeds. Farm to school also in an expanded mission that includes a broader range of market channels. A merger may serve both groups well.
- viii. Wendy also mentioned that this will be a LiveWell CO bill – so they do have some key objectives that are firm. At the heart of the bill is to have someone who can coordinate/leverage the buying power of CO to support producers and ensure healthy food outcomes.

## 5. Process

- a. Listening Sessions (rename...Stakeholder meetings)
  - i. Across the state this winter – so that we are inclusive of farmers and ranchers
    1. ~8 listening sessions + mini listening sessions (where we can leverage invites to present)
      - a. Meighen also suggested proposing sessions at conventions that we're already planning to attend
    2. For the 8 primary listening sessions (that we 'own' – need to determine what this is going to look like
  - ii. Don't want to be redundant for what Denver did
    1. Can lean on some of their results
  - iii. Locations:
    1. 7 research centers + somewhere in the NW
    2. In addition, already have meetings set with:
      - a. Food and Farm Forum/Western Hort Society
      - b. Gunnison – Farm to Fork
      - c. Governor's Forum on CO Agriculture/CFVGA
  - iv. Wendy and Cate - Need to be really cognizant/intentional about who will show up to these listening sessions
    1. Hunger Free Colorado has not yet engaged the people who call into their call in centers
    2. BUT, there are a number of orgs that do have these deep networks/relationships – for example, FLTI stuff that Meighen has been doing
    3. What do they suggest re: structuring the meeting...
    4. Cate – if one knows the types of information they hope to elicit from these communities, there can be more targeted agendas

5. Tom – agrees that there is an economic piece of all of this, but also have to include the access issue – fairness, equity, justice issue. Economies of food have to intersect with these issues. About connecting the production of food with all of Colorado.
6. Dawn – when working on the bill to get tax incentives to farmers that donate to food banks, pleasantly surprised about the fact that relationships with stronger between farmers and food banks or other underserved groups than what she originally thoughts.
7. CSU also had relationships with SNAP education folks via extension.
8. Bre and Tracy also have amazing connections/networks – Bre will definitely reach out to her networks.
9. Ideally want 50 people representing 6-7 interest groups at the meetings

6. Next steps:

- a. To do by: October 31<sup>st</sup>
    - i. What should we call: “Stakeholder meetings”
    - ii. Are there events happening that we should make sure to include on the listening tour (e.g., food and farm forum) – send names/dates
  - b. Commit to listening sessions by mid-November
  - c. CSU will re-draft the two pager including:
    - i. reframing objectives and send back out to group
7. Setting next meeting: Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-12:30pm, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Broomfield, CO

PROPOSED NEW OBJECTIVES: (rewrite of slide 4)

For the natural resource, agriculture, food industry and food access and security stakeholders, this blueprint’s mission and objectives are to:

- Understand opportunities and challenges resulting from changing public attitudes;
- Assess opportunities for CO food system policy to address challenges and needs;
- Document, assess and highlight key linkages in Colorado’s food supply chain and infrastructure;
- Develop priorities for capacity building, investment & innovation across CO ag and food stakeholders;
- Enhance CSU’s knowledge of Colorado-specific research and engagement needs to support opportunities for all research and outreach units (on and off campus).

## COLORADO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

