



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 1st, 10:30am-12:30pm
Colorado Department of Agriculture,
305 Interlocken Parkway,
Broomfield, CO 80021

Present: Sandy Stenmark (member) Wendy Peters Moschetti (member), Meighen Lovelace (member), Tom Lipetzky (member), Jon Clinthorne (member), Jody Beck (member), Tracy Miller (member), Tom Parks (member), Kelleen Zubick (member), Becca Jablonski (staff), Elaine Granata (visitor), Jennifer Kemp (visitor)

On Phone: Brehan Riley (member)

Call to Order:

1. Approve Minutes
 - a. Meighen moved to approve, Jody seconded, unanimous
2. COFSAC's 'endorsement' of the CO Blueprint to End Hunger
 - a. Meighen motion to approve COFSAC's endorsement of CO Blueprint to End Hunger, Sandy seconded, unanimous
 - CO Department of Public Health and Environment also voted to endorse the Blueprint.
3. 2018 legislative effort update - Wendy
 - a. \$200,000 appropriation of healthy food incentive program is in the state's budget. It will be available to help match Federal dollars for programs such as double up bucks. Not specific to SNAP how it was passed, could be used for WIC, etc. A fiscal agent will be run through CDPHE.
 - b. COFSAC bill – made it out of the Ag committee on the Senate side, and Senate agreed to cover half of the fiscal note @ \$146,000 if the House paid the other half; House won't cover the other half.
 - Final fiscal note was reduced to 0.8 FTE by the CDA: \$74,000. But, this final fiscal note was never attached because the House won't pay for this.

- In just COFSAC's sunset renewal form, Livewell has been told that bill will pass, it has been passed to state affairs. This is without any FTEs or resources.
 - There is a small potential 'hail mary' chance that money will become available at the very end as other bills don't make it, but unlikely
 - Have not yet had a conversation with the farm to school task force about merging with COFSAC.
- c. Reclaimed water bill passed – spurred out of COFSAC at one point! Denver Urban Gardens has been pushing for this for a long time.
- d. Short discussion regarding staffing for COFSAC
- COFSAC is eligible to apply for external grants/donations. Is this something that COFASC wants to pursue to show what a potential staff person could do? Perhaps if that individual showed forward momentum, there would be more interesting by the state in providing funding.
 - Question about if CDA would be willing to serve as a fiscal agent – Tom L is going to look into this.
 - Potential for a subcommittee to pursue external funding and explore how other state food policy councils are funded if not via the state.
4. Website update (<https://cofoodsystemscouncil.org/>)
- a. CDPHE needs a statement from COFSAC that no content of the website would be perceived as legislative advocacy or perceived as anything that is prohibited by state employees to be involved in. Specifically: Working on any federal, state or local ballot initiative; candidate campaign; or other political issue, or attending any political forum or event during work time. Using state resources of any kind, at any time, for these purposes. This includes office equipment such as phones, copiers and computers; office facilities; and state vehicles.
- Wendy moved to approve statement, Meighen seconded, unanimous
- b. COFSAC will approve use of logos from organizations that may contribute \$200 or more to the financial needs of COFSAC (Meighen moved, Jody seconded, unanimous)
- c. Becca will send invoices to orgs that are considering additional contributions:
- Natural Grocers
 - Kaiser
 - CDPHE
 - If there are others – please let Becca know!
5. CO Blueprint of Food and Ag – Dawn
- a. Final approval of 'Emerging Opportunities for Colorado Food System' 4 pager COFSAC doc

- Includes priorities that emerged from the Blueprint that COFSAC could lead. This is a subset of priorities listed in the entire Blueprint.
 - Meighen moved to approve the Emerging Opportunities for Colorado Food System four pager report as action items for COFSAC, Jody seconded, unanimous
 - August meeting – include an agenda item that focuses on operationalizing the Emerging Opportunities beyond the cross-cutting issue/policy briefs.
- b. Update on cross-cutting policy briefs – including discussion of timeline
- Understand how we can change the retail environment so that more stores are accepting SNAP and WIC and incorporating Colorado Proud promotion and incentives for fruit and vegetables and whole grains (Wendy)
 - Subcommittee includes Meighen, Wendy, Sandy, Tracy – they walked through every piece of the outline that Wendy presented at the last COFSAC meeting during their most recent meeting. Discussion about what information each individual already had that they could pull into the brief; each person now has their own marching orders. Meeting again May 14th and should have a more fleshed out outline. Hope to have a final draft by labor day.
 - Discussion that once a draft is created, it will include recommendations that need to be vetted by COFSAC as well as other content experts.
 - Also discussion about the inclusion of CO Proud – Tom updated everyone that Colorado Proud is organizing a focus group with retailers on May 11th to talk about the future of Colorado Proud. Transparency is very important to retailers, and discussion that there may be confusion as Colorado Proud is currently defined as products grown, raised, or processed in CO. Today people want that to stand for something different, they tend to assume that CO Proud means it was grown/raised as well as processed in the state.
 - Tom will share highlights from the conversation.
 - Becca and Dawn will share highlights on the work they are doing with Ellie Naasz on the Colorado Proud program.
 - Exploring models for economically viable small scale meat processing (Becca/Dawn)
 - CSU (led by Dan Mooney – Assistant Professor and Extension Economist in the Dept of Agricultural and Resource Economics)

received a grant from the [Western Extension Risk Management Education Center](#)

- Graduate student, Miles Rollison, is leading the charge on writing up the policy brief. Policy brief is unlikely to include original research, focus on literature review (for example using USDA ERS reports) and applied to the CO context. Goal is to write up some models for economically viable USDA inspected facilities and specifically how small scale non USDA facilities might be scaled up/become USDA inspected (including access to grants).
- Aim is to have a draft by the August meeting.
- Review and comments on urban land use policy and urban farming – including potential discussion from urban farmers (Jody Beck)
 - Really not a policy brief or recommendation issue – it is really about what’s going on. What trends are surfacing and how is this different in an urban and peri-urban context. Goal is not to feed urban populations through urban farming, but rather on integrating values of agriculture into the urban landscape.
 - Presentations on urban agriculture
 - Elaine Granata
 - She has been farming for 23 seasons in the city of Denver, moved into various backyards to try to keep the CSA going. Now growing food on the University of Colorado campus for their kitchen.
 - Currently involved with the golf course property in Denver. Private farming on public land is not permitted – can’t make profit on public lands.
 - Price of land is the major obstacle. Challenge with leases is that they are often year to year, and substantial development pressure.
 - Denver Public Schools is one of the largest land owners, and they will only lease land to nonprofits.
 - Jennifer Kemp
 - Boulder County Parks and Open Space – 125,000 acres owned, 25,000 in agriculture. Started in the 1970s, but really got going in the 1990s when additional sales tax was passed. Big impetus was to preserve ag heritage as Denver was booming/growing and encroaching upon Boulder.

- County prefers to buy conservation easement, not farmland. But at the beginning many landowners did not trust the conservation easements, so Boulder had to purchase the land (also usually purchases water). Water portfolio is ~\$300-400M.
 - Land use issues – ag land zoning is very restrictive. Boulder is looking to relax some of the codes so that they can tap into more of the agritourism, farm tour, farm dinner, farm camp opportunities.
 - Challenge is to keep tenants economically viable.
 - Many land management issues with county ownership. Flood was a huge issue, have to maintain fencing, infrastructure requirements for producers, particularly with FSMA.
 - Traffic throughout the County is increasingly difficult to deal with- so is trespassing.
 - Bid list for land, 3-5 year leases. Unless major problems, Boulder County generally renews leases. Always 100% full. Crop sharing for commodity producers.
 - Generates \$1.1-1.6M in revenue; ~16 FTEs support this through the Parks Dept, and then ~\$125k/year to support infrastructure improvements.
 - Center pivots and irrigation are the largest expenses right now.
- Goal of the brief is to review challenges from the producer and administrative side. Eagle and Pitkin counties, for example, are following Boulder County's model. This type of brief would benefit these counties' efforts.
 - This fits really well within the Blueprint action item: local and state resources and incentives that could be used by private sector businesses and/or nonprofits to leverage and promote underutilized infrastructure and assets (e.g., processing facilities, long-haul transportation, agricultural utilization of open space) for the benefit of Colorado farmers and ranchers and make recommendations for additional resources and support where gaps exist. Where appropriate, encourage policies and incentives that support

farms and businesses grow and include specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, small grains) to bolster markets for crops that may also provide healthful options for Coloradans.

- However, COFSAC already put out a brief in this space in 2015, see: <https://cofoodsystemscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/COFSAC-Land-Use-August.pdf>

What would be different about what is being proposed?

- Suggestion to really document who is benefiting from this work – who is accessing land and who gets the food?
- Or, focus is in integrating opportunities that emerged from the Blueprint.
- Decision to restrict the scope to urban and peri-urban communities and utilizing publicly owned land for agriculture. Who benefits from using publicly owned land to support agricultural production?

6. Member Updates

- a. Sandy recommended checking out the Leading with Nutrition report from the Bipartisan Policy Center. See: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/library/leading-with-nutrition-leveraging-federal-programs-for-better-health/>

7. Next meeting date/time:

- a. Wednesday, August 22nd – 10:30am-12:30pm, CO Department of Ag, Broomfield
 - Tom L will arrange the room.