

Q1 2023 MEETING NOTES

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Chair: Julie Moore Vice-Chair: Laurian Unnevehr

February 2nd, 2023

ATTENDEES

Members:

Julie Moore

Laurian Unnevehr

Joan Brucha

Al Goodman

Michele Meyer

Effie Rorke

Liza Marron

Derrick Hoffman

Krista Garand

Marci Cochran

Dawn Thilmany

Hollis Glenn

Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts

Tessa Hale

Wendy Peters-Moschetti

Caroline Bushnell

Guests:

Nathan Troudt

Sarah Gregory for Effie Rorke

Laura Kriebel for Karla Maraccini

Rebecca Robbins

Jessica Wright

Staff:

Lilian Brislen

Alex DeJoy

Members Not in Attendance (emailed in advance)

Nicholas Marquez, Ann Cooper, Greg Thomason, Karla Maraccini

Members Not in Attendance (did not email in advance)

Michelle Bradford

AGENDA

1. Council Admin
 - a. Approve Q4 minutes
 - b. Review of council member roles and expectations
 - c. Election of officers
 - d. Budget Update
 - e. Annual Report
 - f. Staff Update
2. Working Group Updates
 - a. Institutional Procurement
 - b. Conserving Agricultural Lands and Water
 - c. Strategic Relationships
3. State Agency Updates
 - a. written updates: [Q1 2023 State Agency updates.docx](#)

NOTES

- Welcome and roll call

- No amendments to the q4 minutes
- Dawn moves to approve Q4 minutes as emailed
 - Liza seconded
 - Motion to approve minutes as emailed
 - Unanimous approval

ROLES & EXPECTATIONS

Participation

- Every member is **expected to participate on one or more Committees** during their tenure.
- Council Members are also expected to **participate in at least one public engagement event** per year.

Removal

- Attendance at all Council meetings is expected.
- Members who **miss 50% or more** of Council meetings in any rolling 12-month period, Members are on **probation**.
- Members who miss **75% or more** in rolling 12 months, Members are considered to have **resigned** and then sent to the Governor's Office for potential termination. Members may request an exception from these rules for "due cause" and shall have their request reviewed by the Executive Committee.

State Agency Representatives

- Full voting members, while welcome to exercise discretion on recusal/abstention
- Able to serve in leadership roles (council, committee, working group)
- Please make sure you have joined at least one working group
- Let us know if that seems too much or you have questions/need more info on any of the working groups

BUDGET

- We do have remaining money unallocated if anyone has ideas
 - We operate on Fiscal year for budget, so we're currently in Q3 of our budget
- Any questions about budget?
 - What is the \$10k for research?

\$5k for grad student hired by Institutional Procurement working group

\$5k for Strategic Relations working group to hire a grad student also

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- We take self nominations
 - Laurian nominates Ann Cooper for chair
 - Laurian nominates Nicholas Marquez for vice chair
- Liza nominates Derrick Hoffman as vice chair
 - Derrick respectfully declines nomination
- Friendly amendment
- Liza rescinds nomination of Derrick Hoffman for vice chair

- Motion on the floor Ann Cooper for chair, and Nicholas Marquez for vice chair
- 15 in favor, 0 against **
- Quandary is that both of these seats will change at the same time, we were trying to stagger end of terms
- State agency reps have served as officers in the past

ANNUAL REPORT

Draft: [2022 annual report draft.docx](#)

- Ready to send to graphic design and copy editing
- Any last min changes, thoughts, comments?
 - Is there a way to link all of the images of posters from the regional convenings?
 - Hyperlink to posters
 - Ask our web designer to create gallery
 - Put goal to have better relationship with legislators closer to top of report
 - Could do some kind of executive summary with that up front
- If anyone would like to see it before it goes out let Lilian and Alex know
- Share out recommendations and ideas for how we want annual report shared

Staff update

- Lilian has accepted new position with USDA
- Will be transitioning out of COFSAC role, but staying on through ~June while we hire new staff at CSU for her position

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Institutional Procurement

- Healthy school meals for all going into effect 2023-24 school year
- In 2024-25 school year, districts that have enrolled in healthy school meals for all will have option to opt into local food program
 - \$9M program with additional \$5M/year for technical assistance
 - Technical assistance contract will be awarded to statewide non profit
 - To participate in local food program districts need to submit purchasing plan and implement an advisory council
- The working group has hired graduate student, Cahill, working with data from pilot this spring with hope to expand study
- FAQ for the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15qygMV-1Hep8ZlfX24izoqxm4WilxVtYpA3NnDhSH0/edit?usp=sharing>

How can this working group make purchasing local more accessible *

- Improving CO Proud website and data base
 - How can we make purchasing CO grown, raised, and produced items easier
 - Make it easier to identify which items qualify
- Better address tracking and understanding local procurement data
 - Encouraging distributors to include which farms items are coming from on their invoices, updating data bases accordingly
 - Would allow reporting and tracking to be much easier for school districts
- Have discussed how local food program is being communicated to producers and how their input is being factored in
 - Will they have enough product to support increased demand
 - What is COFSAC's ability to develop and disseminate communication plans to producers
 - Possibly a survey to address scaling up of operations
- Producers growing and selling producer are mostly selling to distributors instead of going directly to institutions
 - Farms aren't going to be able to deliver directly to schools
 - COFSAC can help by providing thoughtful outreach to producers to help them address scaling their infrastructure and also understand economic impacts of local food program
- Encourage districts to purchase from food hubs vs. large distributing companies

- What is the communication plan to food service directors and schools? Would love to have something to share out to school districts about the local food piece
 - CDE is currently working on communications and trainings for districts
 - Also in the process of hiring farm to school coordinator to take the lead on that

- In addition to reaching out to schools, CDA is happy to help play role to make introductions and connections to local farmers

- Has been consensus and support that some sort of key stakeholder/leader/cross-agency meeting for this school meals for all and local procurement roll out would be valuable
 - Will probably host in April
 - We will reach out by email-if you organization is planning on taking a lead role, or is working with the producer network we'll ask you to send the invite out, or maybe participate somehow
 - There will be action before Q2 meeting about this, so watch for email
- Other tasks-we need a charter for this working group (template from strategic planning process)
 - [IP project charter](#)

- From AI: EDFH + Valley Roots + Farm Runners are working on grants to gain more infrastructure to close the I-70 gap so we can all access each other's producer networks more easily. might be worth reaching out to the other food hubs to see what capital or infrastructure they need to prep for the 24-25 school year

Conserving Ag Lands & Water

- There has been ongoing conversation as to whether this should be an official working group or not
- Charter models that came out of Strategic Planning
 - Michele and Greg have come up with long list of current/pending organizations and initiatives working in this space
 - Part of assessment is to find out what is currently going on in this space and ask how we can be a supportive partner in this space
- Working group members are supposed to be reaching out to organizations and initiatives to ask what their goals are and where can we plug in .
- We know CO Water Board will be going out for public comment
 - The water plan is out - here is the link. <https://cwcw.colorado.gov/colorado-water-plan>
- Do we have another working group looking at "plans of plans"
 - Seeing where we can serve in a strategic role of making them aware of each other, or bringing our systems perspective to nutrition work or water work
- It is overwhelming how much working is going on in this space, locally all the way up to the state and federal level
 - Want to look at what COFSAC can realistically do
- Ag lands group should share out water board update to full Council
 - CDA is currently tracking

Strategic Relations

- Looking at how we identify and engage with key clients
- Legislative relationships survey has gone out, please respond if you haven't
 - Identifies existing relationships COFSAC members may have with current legislators
 - Current survey that was sent out only includes Ag and Natural Resources Senators and Representatives
 - Should we also include Health and Human Services?
 - Alex will create new survey that includes Health and Human Services Senators and Representatives and send out to everyone
- Bill tracker
 - Looking into ways to track bills related to food systems and distribute information periodically

- Bill tracker from Nourish Colorado website <https://coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-analysis/6477/2023/0/>
- Looking into hiring CSU grad student to check on a regular basis
- State agency meeting
 - This working group is leading effort to convene COFSAC state agency reps and other members from state agencies to discuss specifics of how each agency rep can/can't interact with and participate in council
 - i.e. sitting as a chair etc.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

[Q1 2023 State Agency updates.docx](#)