

**Ohio Food Policy Council**  
**Minutes**  
May 4, 2009  
Ohio Department of Agriculture

**Council members in attendance:** Brian Williams, Farmland Preservation Consultant; Richard Mason, Ohio Restaurant Association; Shari Baker, Ohio Department on Aging; Cecelia Torok, Ohio Department of Education; Casey Hoy, OSU-OARDC; Carol Goland, Ohio Ecological Food & Farming Association; Amalie Lipstreu, Ohio Department of Agriculture; Chris Henney ( for Jack Fisher) Ohio Farm Bureau; Lewis Jones, Ohio Department of Agriculture; Mark Forni, ODA Office of Farmland Preservation; Michael Hockman, Ohio Department of Agriculture; Dave Wible, The North Market; Beth Kowalczyk, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; Linda Scovern, Ohio Department of Health; Tony Forshey, Ohio Department Of Agriculture; Bob Marx(for John Coker), AVI Food Systems, Tom Jackson, Ohio Grocers Association; Director Boggs, Ohio Department Of Agriculture; Ellen Mee, Ohio Environmental Council; Allison Burket, Kenyon College; Howard Sacks, Kenyon College; Cher Bland, Ohio Department Of Agriculture; Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks; Leslie Schaller, AceNet, Melissa Stanford, Ohio Department of Development; Meryle Gordon, Kaiser Permanente; Jim Chakeres, Ohio Poultry Association

**Absent:** Shandell Jamal, Governor's Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives, Bret Layman, Layman Dairy, Tom Price, Price Farms Organics, , Elizabeth Lind, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, , Ken Kopycinski, Ohio Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Deb Rausch, USDA Rural Development,

Director Boggs called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. Director Boggs welcomed the committee and had a short overview of the status and planning regarding the H1N1 virus. Director stated that we are 2/3 of the way through the budget and there is \$1,000,000.00 budgeted for Rural Rehabilitation. The minutes were approved without changes (Richard Mason-motion & Howard Sacks-2nd).

Amalie Lipstreu gave an update on the listening sessions as one was held in Northwest Ohio recently. Comments will be synthesized and included in the Councils annual report. Council members stated that they would like feedback from the Governor's office regarding the recommendations made and whether the work is line with what he is requesting.

Goal recommendations from the task forces were reviewed and discussed as were possible methods for measuring progress toward the goals. \*There was some discussion about clarifying terms and timelines. This will be followed up at the task force level. \*Additionally it will be noted that this is an initial set of goals and there may be more goals set in the future.

A motion to approve was made by Dave Wible and seconded by Howard Sacks. The goals were accepted unanimously by the Council.

The following list represents the goals as approved by the Council:

### **Agricultural Viability Task Force**

1. Retain and expand local food processing capacity in the state of Ohio by 15% by 2015.
2. Expand poultry processing and flash freezing capacity to new and underserved producers by a minimum of one unit each on line by December 2010.
3. Develop a minimum of one food business incubator within a region that has the capacity potential by December 2010.

### **Healthy Food Access Task Force**

1. Identify rural and urban food deserts in Ohio by December 31, 2009 and decrease these areas by 10% by providing access to healthy local foods by 2015.
2. Increase the number of schools using the national farm to school program by a minimum of 50 schools by 2015.

### **Market Connections Task Force**

1. Expand the distribution system assessment to include analysis and recommendations for the location of regional distribution centers across the state by 2011.
2. Identify and build regional food networks across the state starting in May of 2009.
3. Increase the amount of local food in the distribution system by 10% by 2015.

Brian Williams suggested the committee, come up with a “purpose statement”. What does the Council propose to accomplish? Some sort of mission statement. He proposed the following:

*“The purpose of the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council is to promote the in-state production, processing, distribution, access and consumption of Ohio food. This will require assessing current use of local food and setting initial targets that will pave the way for greater growth. Toward that end, the council proposes the following goals:”*

This purpose statement was accepted for use by the Council.

### **New Business**

#### **AVTF update – Brian Williams**

- Task Force members will conduct informal interviews of food processors in Ohio
- A great deal of time was spent on goal development
- Beginning farmer services –Carol Goland gave an overview of the Begin Farming Ohio proposal that will be submitted to the USDA beginning farmer/rancher development program. It is a broad based collaborative of several agencies and organizations that will centralize resources

and services provided for beginning farmers. The effort will also identify gaps in service provision.

Dr. Forshey gave a brief overview of aquaculture priorities of the department and the opportunities to develop this industry in the state.

- There is a plan for a state aquaculture/marketing specialist
- ARRA money – loans
- Construction Best Management Practices etc.
- Aquaculture cooperative – holding area –&mobile slaughter
- \$10 billion in imported seafood to Ohio every year
- Potential, health, nutrition and education benefits
- Ohio is 11<sup>th</sup> in the country for water resources and has many ideal locations

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt talked about the: - Omnibus amendment now in the House, Dept of Development meeting re: tax credits and grants and FDA hearings re: fish contamination She commended the Director on pursuing this important issue.

### **FSA TF – Casey Hoy**

There are challenges in assessing the food system. It is a comprehensive and difficult task. The food system assessment task force has moved toward a research coordinating committee that meets on a quarterly basis.

### **Healthy Food Task Force-Cecilia Torok**

The task force spent a great deal of time focusing on goal development.

Farm to school would benefit from an Ohio name for current efforts in this area. There is a need for infrastructure for school districts to be able to increase their participation in farm to school. House Bill 68 passed out of committee and the House and will go to the Senate next. It is important to include funding for a farm to school coordinator at the state level.

Allison Burket gave a summary of the work she completed as an intern working under the direction of Howard Sacks at Kenyon College and Amalie Lipstreu at the Department of Agriculture. She conducted interviews with schools that participate in the fruit and vegetable program. It was through those interviews that she identified what some of the challenges are for schools that want to participate in farm to school. Those challenges vary from district to district. The findings of those interviews were developed into a report with specific policy recommendations. The executive summary of the report including recommendations was distributed to the Council.

Secondly Allison also compiled a wealth of resources into a “How to” primer on farm to school in Ohio. Final edits will be made to the primer which will be available on the Ohio Department of Agriculture website under a farm to school link. Allison was commended for the valuable work completed on farm to school. This work will help to inform farm to school development in the state.

## **Market Connections Task Force – Dave Wible**

Dave gave an overview of the work that has taken place on the task force. The group has focused on enhancing networks for local and regional food distribution. A great deal of this task force has also focused on goal development over the last couple of months as well. Dave reviewed the goals from Market Connections. The group may pursue a grant from the Humanities Council to document stories around local food systems for marketing purposes across the state.

### **Presentations**

Dave Beck, Executive Director of the Center for Innovative Food Technology presented findings from his study on Mobile Poultry Processing unit development in Ohio. He examined models from Vermont and Kentucky and ultimately recommended a modified Kentucky model. This model would allow for mobile processing but have regional docking stations for the final processing and cooling.

Vermont (#1 model) – Developed by Brothers equipment from Galion, Ohio. This unit will process approx 500 birds/day with a \$70-\$80k per unit total cost. \$15k additional for truck costs, \$10-\$15k for equipment costs and approx \$42k for operational costs. This model is totally enclosed. The major concern is keeping/getting birds cold and sanitization issues- \*Chilling is key issue\*

Kentucky (#2 model) is the oldest model. This unit will process approx 200 birds/day with a \$60-\$70k per unit total costs, approximately \$15k for truck, \$10-\$15k for equipment costs and \$22k for operational costs. This particular unit will require 2 people to operate.

Docking station (#3 model) – modified KY model. This option would have a clean room. The full feasibility report will be posted on the CIFT website soon.

### **Conclusion**

- \$1.50 per bird unit costs
- 2 feasible models – subsidized system
- direct sales – retailer
- Cornell study - \$5.00 per bird marketing costs
- competitive with King & Sons
- wholesale costs to retail comparison
- Dr. Hockman comments on Tea Hill Poultry
  - fresh chicken farm market is retailing for \$12-\$13 per bird

Tom Jackson mentioned source food safety concerns. Jim Chakeres stated that Ohio has three commercial chicken plants. They have capacity, but question the product integrity & have bio-security concerns. For MPU to work, three things must be addressed: 1. Food Safety, 2. Training of staff to run unit, 3. Bio-security with live bird markets and the potential for exchange of bacteria.

Dr. Hockman inspected unit with ice and water. There were some questions about even large poultry processing companies ability to maintain individual bird identity. The unit would need to have a trained inspector on site.

Break

### **Jeff Sharp – Economic Impact of Local Foods in Knox County**

Jeff researched data for the Knox County food system. The research asked the question “What are the economic impacts of increasing local production of foods to be consumed locally?”

The efforts at local food system development date back a long time. They began concerted work in this area in the mid 1990’s. Benefits of doing this type of economic analysis lie in being able to “Speak the language of economic development”.

The analysis begins with a “lay of the land” or understanding the demographics. Knox County is at the rural urban interface and the county does a good job at retaining the population locally in terms of retail spending. 70% of the retail spending is within the county. The platform to talk about local economic development is because of the existing business base, ie: 2 colleges, light industry and service economy. Each county has a different context. For the retail market analysis, the profile is based on population, demographics, income level, amount spent on food and what is met and not met locally-actual and potential. Knox County does have a strong local retail, but is weaker on the restaurant side. There is a rural retail dilemma. They question the incentive to sell locally when people source locally on an informal basis. They did not perceive local customer interest as strong.

There are convenience issues in competing with urban markets. Price is an important issue as are food safety regulations and labeling issues. Grocery sales are much higher in Franklin County.

The payoff would be an increase in production, sales tax, employee, proprietor income, employee earnings, and would create jobs. It is a zero sum game. The substitution effect would displace imported food with local food. It is beneficial to look at seasonal, self-sufficiency (apples, sweet corn, extension of the season, number of acres, number of producers, and economic impact). Local efforts could scale up production, processing, and distribution. Refer to [cffpi.osu.edu/knox.htm](http://cffpi.osu.edu/knox.htm) to review the presentation on the Knox County analysis.

Amalie provided an update on the progress of implementing the recommendations the Council has made to date. There has been a tremendous amount of work with little to no financial investments to date.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the FFA building at the Ohio State Fair. This will be the second anniversary of Governor Strickland signing the Executive Order that created the Council. The year-end report of activity will also be available at the meeting and we are hoping to have Governor Strickland at the meeting to speak to the work of the Council over the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

