

# Ohio Food Policy Council

## Minutes

October 6, 2008

Ohio Department of Agriculture

**Council members in attendance:** Paul Fraunholtz, ODJFS, Brian Williams, Farmland Preservation Consultant, Howard Sacks, Kenyon College, Richard Mason, Ohio Restaurant Association, Robert Marx, AVI Food Systems, Tom Jackson, Ohio Grocers Association, Jack Fisher, Ohio Farm Bureau, Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development, Shari Baker, Ohio Department on Aging, Jim Chakeres, Ohio Poultry Association, Shandell Jamal, Governor's Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives, Cecelia Torok, Ohio Department of Education, Casey Hoy, OSU-OARDC, Hugo Melgar-Quinonez, OSU-Human Nutrition, Melissa Stanford, Ohio Department of Development, Carol Goland, Ohio Ecological Food & Farming Association, Joe Logan, Ohio Farmers Union, Ellen Mee, Ohio Environmental Council, Greg Hargett, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Amalie Lipstreu, Ohio Department of Agriculture.

**Council members absent:** Dr. Ronald Copeland, Kaiser Permanente, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, Bret Layman, Layman Dairy, Sister Christine Pratt, Catholic Charities, Tom Price, Price Farms Organics, Leslie Schaller, AceNet, Jennifer Scofield, Public Health Consultant, Dave Wible, The North Market

Guests: Trevor Klatterbuck, FreshFork Market, Chris Henney, Ohio Farm Bureau, Kevin Elder, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Chairman Hargett called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Work began by discussing the public listening sessions for the Council. One will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the Northeast Ohio Food Congress. Amalie described the congress and invited Council members to attend as a state delegate. Two land trusts and RC&D Councils have offered to host a listening session in the southwest part of the state in February. Ohio Farmers Union will be organizing a listening session in northwest Ohio in early 09 as well.

Other hosting opportunities exist in many areas of the state. Randy Hunt will look into organizations that may be interested in hosting in the southeast. Ellen Mee will work on organizing a listening session with OARDC and the Small Farm Institute for Wayne, Holmes and Ashland counties. Randy Hunt and Jack Fisher offered to help get the word out once dates are set for these sessions.

The draft by-laws were presented for consideration. Howard Sacks made the motion to accept the by-laws. Brian Williams seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for consideration. Jim Chakeres made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Casey Hoy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Model Food Initiatives presentation for this meeting was *FreshFork Market*. Trevor Klatterbuck presented information on this innovation in local foods distribution. The success and

challenges of this new venture were presented. There is a need for more year round product availability whether through season extension or value added processing. Another need relevant to the work of the Council is for on farm poultry processing. This currently a limiting factor especially as there is a greater need for protein items in the winter and spring months.

### **Task Force Updates:**

Agricultural Viability- Brian Williams highlighted the work of the task force over the two months which included more detailed discussions on processing infrastructure, identification of best practice around agricultural economic development nationally and food business incubators.

Greg Hargett mentioned some recent work at the Department on connecting available flash freezing equipment with users as well as investigation of mobile poultry processing equipment. There is a mobile poultry processing unit that was built in Galion, Ohio to be shipped to Vermont. ODA staff will be going to Galion on October 20<sup>th</sup> to look at the facility. Interested Council members may come as well.

Food System Assessment- Casey Hoy reviewed the work that this task force has done to assist the full Council in goal setting. The wiki page on the Ohio Local Food Systems Collaborative site is up and running and currently being added to. This page is important in cataloging what data on the food systems is out there- metadata. Members were encouraged to add to this table which will aide in doing our longer-term assessment of the Ohio food system.

The task force will continue to develop questions and parameters for the long-term analysis which will not be completed without funding. In addition the group will focus on short-term products that provide some level of data analysis.

Healthy Food Access- Cecelia Torok gave the report although she was not able to attend the September meeting. A survey has been developed and will be used to pull together information on federal nutrition programs and resources. The goal of the survey is to answer questions about who is being served and what the gaps are. This relates to recommendation #4 approved by the full Council.

Three recommendations were then presented to the full Council for consideration. These recommendations have been developed to tie into the Governor's educational reform initiative.

1. Increase participation rates for school food programs including the universal breakfast program.

There was considerable discussion around the recommendation as presented. Much concern was voiced surrounding the "universal breakfast". Concerns related to school capacity for providing this program. Dr. Quinonez presented information on the percentage of children missing breakfast. The recommendation was modified to read:

### **1. Maximize participation rates for school food programs.**

A motion for approval was given by Howard Sacks and seconded by Richard Mason. The motion passed by a majority vote.

The second recommendation was presented for consideration:

- 2. Enhance direct certification by bringing together state agency poverty data with software that will allow for easier data sharing capability.**

There was some discussion around the need for software versus the need for the ODJFS and DOE to come together and share data more frequently.

Brian Williams made a motion in support of the recommendation as written. The motion was seconded by Carol Goland and passed unanimously.

The third recommendation was presented for consideration:

3. Encourage and promote farm to school programs by providing technical assistance and information to streamline the procurement process.

After brief discussion the recommendation was modified as follows:

- 3. Encourage and promote farm to school supply chain programs by providing technical assistance and information to streamline the procurement process.**

Brian Williams made a motion in support of the recommendation which was seconded by Howard Sacks and approved unanimously.

Market Connections- Amalie presented an update for this task force. Over the past two months this group has prioritized and organized its work based on short and long term goals and various levels of resource allocation. A great deal of work is currently being done on those areas that can be addressed with little or no funding.

Greg Hargett gave an update on the status of short-term recommendations Amalie presented to the Governor's office. Department of Agriculture is seeking funding to support recommendation #1 for the state level food system analysis and working on what may be needed for recommendation #9. A follow up meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> with the Governor's office to seek feedback on all of the recommendations presented.

Casey Hoy reviewed the information developed by the Food System Assessment task force to assist the Council in goal setting. Members received a guide on several different areas where local food system goals could be set. These relate to sales data, market & healthy food access as well as food processing and distribution infrastructure. The Council concurred that setting local food system goals was important and that the task forces consider the information presented to set goals within each area and bring those ideas back to the full Council.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 1-3:00 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture.