

Michigan Food Policy Council
Quarterly Meeting, February 6, 2012
Meeting Summary



In Attendance:

* Indicates MFPC member or representing a member

*Dennis West	Kareemah El-Amin
*Amanda Edmonds	Rich Pirog
Pat DuRussel	Erin Caudell
Sharon Toth	*Mike Hamm
Hillary Bisnett	*Auday Arabo
Deanna Kelleher	Cheryl Danley
*Diane Golzynski	Kathryn Colasanti
*Seleana Samuel	Jeanne Hausler
*Brad Purves	*Jaime Malner
*Jim Goodheart	*Bonnie Bochniak
*Diana Carpenter	Stephen Arellano
Terry McClean	Kevin Besev
Anne Ginn	Christa Bird
*Ken Nye	Bonnie Bochniak
*Ken Nobis	*Gordon Wenk
Renee Dewindt	Janine Sinno
*Marty Gerencer	Randy Bell
Chad Gerencer	John Wright
Brook Pung	Jane Whitacre
Paige Hathaway	

1. Welcome and comments Gordon Wenk greeted the full room of participants and welcomed our newest council members Marty Gerencer and Renee DeWindt, who also signed their oath of office documents. Susan Goodell, also a new appointee was not present.
2. Todd Regis moved to approve the November meeting minutes, Mike Hamm seconded the motion. All voted aye.
3. MFPC Director's Report- Jane Whitacre reviewed her activities for the quarter, including local travel, involvement in the MDARD Food Hub collaborative, meetings and task force support. She thanked the task force members for their diligent commitment to the making of plans, identifying priorities and opportunities and furthering the goals of MFPC thru task forces.
4. Progress Reports from Task Forces:

- Farmer Task Force, Eugene Barnes gave the report as written in the task force meeting summary
- Institutional Purchasing Task Force, Todd Regis gave the report per meeting summary.
- Food Business Task Force, reported by Auday Arabo
- Access Task Force, reported by Amanda Edmonds
- Local Food Policy Council Network Task Force, reported by Terry Mclean

Comments made about task force work:

- Mike Hamm explained three surveys going on in SE Michigan right now related to local institutional food purchasing
- Auday questioned the term “local” how do we define that in Michigan. There needs to be a master list that identifies what is made in Michigan

5. Issue Briefings

- United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Deanna Kelleher – School Breakfast. Deanna gave a PowerPoint presentation about school breakfast in Michigan, history, nutritional benefits. She identified that increasing school breakfast participation in Michigan would help MFPC achieve three of its goals, increase institutional purchasing of local food (we produce plenty of milk in Michigan), increase access to fresh, healthy food; help farmers supply more local food.

The United Dairy Industry of Michigan formally requested that the MFPC suggest that school breakfast participation be added as a measure to the Governor’s Dashboard as a measure of health and wellness.

The council voted unanimously to take that policy position. The request was referred to the Institutional Food Task Force for follow up.

- Ben Kudwa and Pat DuRussel of the potato industry commission made a request to the council to support local food purchasing through the department of Corrections by recommending the state NOT privatize food services for Michigan Dept. of Corrections. Brad Purves of DoC gave an explanation of their supply chain transformation project and how the department has saved

money by doing local procurement of food from farmers. The council considered the request and passed the following position statement unanimously:

The Michigan Food Policy Council urges that utmost consideration in state food procurement decisions encourage the use of Michigan products; and that procurement decisions consider the residual impact that comes from using Michigan products and producers.

This issue was also referred to the Institutional Food Task Force for follow up.

6. Food Hub Update – Gordon Wenk, and Mike Hamm and Rich Pirog gave an overview of the development of a statewide food hub collaboration. MDARD is hopeful that funding will be identified for an initiative that will help establish regional food hubs. MU- The Center for Regional Food Systems will be leading an effort to build a community of practice for this initiative – which includes technical assistance, training and learning opportunities, networking and best practice sharing. This collaboration has the potential to transform Michigan’s regional food systems at all levels and scales.

LAST-MINUTE AGENDA ADDITIONS:

1. Jane asked for volunteers to help draft some kind of Farm Bill support letter to Senator Stabenow from MFPC. 11 people signed up to help THANK YOU!
2. Amanda Edmonds offered to train Jane about how to use Google Docs as a list serve for MFPC. Thank you!
3. Jane mentioned that the MFPC website has been updated and we are looking for information to post there. www.michign.gov/mfp

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10. Next meeting is June 21, 2012