

Interdepartmental Collaboration Committee
Food Policy Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Members in attendance:

Rich Pirog, MSU-CRFS, MI Food Hub Network
Auday Arabo, President, Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers of Michigan and Ohio
Marla Moss, Director of the Office of School Support Services, MDE
Phillip Knight, Executive Director of Food Bank Council of Michigan
Michelle Napier-Dunnings Michigan Food and Farming Systems
Kathryn Colasanti, MSU-CRFS
Terry Philibeck, Acting Division Director Food and Dairy
Lori Yelton, MDARD
Gwen Imes, DHHS (call in)

Guests:

Colleen Matts MSU-CRFS, Farm to Institution Network
Julia Darton MSU Ext.
Megan Mason-Minock, Michigan Local food Policy Coordinator
Tina Reynolds, Healthy Kids Healthy MI, Environmental Council Organization
Lily Doher Dietitian, recent graduate student/intern MSU Dietetics program
Amanda Shreve, Michigan Farmers Market Association (call in)
Dru Montri, Michigan Farmers Market Association (call in)
Liz Gensler, MSU-CRFS
Jude Barry, MSU-CRFS
Lisa Ugoniski Ottawa Department of Public Health (called in)

Welcome and Introductions

Kevin Besey is on extended leave currently, Terry Philibeck is attending in his place.

Review of March 31, 2015 Meeting Minutes

No corrections or additions from committee. Lori to check with Gwen Imes

Website update: Meetings, minutes, agendas and priorities are available. Lori Indicated she is working on webpage updates that will be approved when Kevin Besey returns.

Priority List Updates

1. Michigan Good Food Fund (MGFF)- Rich update

Liz Gensler and Rich Pirog provided an update. Rich reported calls are picking up for loan interest. Northern Initiatives is on board for smaller loans and Capitol Impact for larger loans. Currently there is about 8 million in the fund. The old task force groups will be moving into an advisory council this Fall. Lori and Liz continue to work on a State of Michigan Department meeting to explain the fund.

2. WIC Access – Auday reported a meeting was scheduled but that Stan had canceled it. A new meeting will be set up upon Kevin Besey's return. Auday provided the WIC concerns with grocery stores unable to get WIC due to State of Michigan, DHHS current way of distribution which is done by population and zip codes. There is a great deal of competition with grocery stores for WIC access. Stores have to have their contract renewed every three years. Discussion followed.

- a. Julia Darton expressed that WIC access and farmers markets. There is a pilot study in Grand Rapids.
- b. Fraud and WIC

3. Small and Mid-Size Farm Food Safety Certification-presentation, Michelle provided an update on this priority in her presentation later in the meeting, (see below).

4. Local Food Policy – Megan provided an update with the last item on the agenda.

5. **Small Meat Processor Growth-** Jude and Rich reported on an infographic created from a survey on Michigan Red Meat which included results with key findings. Lori suggested a presentation at the next meeting. The group agreed. Lori to contact Noel on presenting.
6. Farmers Market Expansion- not highlighted for this meeting
7. **Double-Up Food Bucks** Expansion through Farm Bill, Auday provided an update that this year there were 21 grocery stores with Double Up Food bucks being offered, 12 in Detroit and 9 around the State of Michigan. Goal for next year is to have 50 grocery stores offering Double Up Food Bucks.
8. **Barriers of SNAP use at Farmers Markets-** Amanda and Dru provided updates on the wireless access at farmers markets for SNAP. 2011 USDA FNS obligated funds to the states for farmers market access to equipment to process SNAP transactions. The FNS contract was for one year. Other markets received devices from another source, Nova Dia. Fees were covered for two years and then the markets would pick up the fee for the wireless device.

Current concerns:

- a. The iPhone 4, iPod, or iPad that were distributed are no longer eligible for operating updates from Apple.
- b. The devices purchased by MDHHS with processing by Xerox is under a new processor, Market Link by WorldPay and is much costlier.
- c. Tech updates not included, for example the new device with the chip for credit cards.

Auday suggested they discuss the Market Link price and he could provide some other sources with less costly fees. MIFMA and Auday to follow up together.

Guest Speakers:

- **Michelle Napier Dunnings, Small and Mid-Size Farm Food Safety Certification**

Michelle reported on 4 items with food safety:

- a. Current online surveys and focus groups regarding implementation of FSMA and asking farmers what steps MDARD might take to help them.
- b. MAEAP working on same questions with groups, & working with MIFFS to look at how farmers working with MAEAP techs can be encouraged to write their safety plans. Governor's MAEAP verification goal is 5000, currently at 2000. Using SafeFood Assist tool and MAEAP bulletins, gets techs on the farm and can BOTH increase MAEAP verifications as well as help encourage beginning and small scale farmers to develop their food safety plans.
- c. Group GAP-Pilot from USDA in Upper Peninsula of MI. USDA chose five pilot groups around the United States. MI and one other site were the only two to achieve Group GAP certification. This means that ten farms in the upper peninsula of MI are GAP certified. The process included a group of "internal auditors" being trained to work with new farmers.
- d. Plans are developing to strategize how to disseminate Group GAP information with new farmers in the lower peninsula. Four farms and 29 participants in the Greater Detroit area had a workshop on Group GAP which Michelle reported went very well.

- **Colleen Matts and Julia Darton, Farm to School/Institution**

Presented on Good Food Charter goal of 20% of MI foods to Institution by 2020. Current focus is:

- a. Joining the network, www.Mifarmtoinstitution.org
- b. Track purchases to see how Michigan is moving toward 2020 goal of 20% MI foods to Institutions

- c. Marketing tools and promoting to help with communications. 4 items are featured each year.
- d. Currently have 28 institutions using the website to add data for tracking.

New Business:

- 1. **School bake sale HB 2 SB139** mentioned, no comments.
- 2. **Donations of food HB4017**, mentioned, no comments
- 3. **Website updates:** Lori is working on ICC description.
- 4. **Question & responses on ICC from April 2015 survey of MLFCN:**

Committee noted responses from local food policy groups. Currently working on

Text Response
Right to Farm/Urban Issues/Zoning Committee reported Urban food act coming to legislature in Fall on Diversity and growers
Interest in the two identified above, especially allowing WIC benefits to be used at farmers markets (a pilot of this was done in Grand Rapids recently) Currently being looked into.
Expanding DUFB opportunities Committee noted Growth in grocery stores notes and higher goal for next year.
Assisting Farmer's Market Managers to promote to SNAP and WIC eligible people. Committee: discussed at today's meeting in part with devices needed. Continue with workgroup meeting on this issue MIFMA, MDARD and MDHHS
Beginning farmer training support; farmland preservation fund; state funding to augment USDA support for healthier school meals; support for farmers transitioning to organic; support for farmers doing <i>*sustainable</i> agriculture; Right to Farm protections for urban agriculturalists; etc. MIFFS doing some training along with MSU Ext.
Child Nutrition Reauthorization Megan discussed this and Child reauthorizations act. Local FP group interested in big picture.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Tentative: January, April, July, and October, 2016

