

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 28, 2015

BROOKENS CENTER, 1776 E. WASHINGTON ST. URBANA, IL

JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

PRESENT: Tod Satterthwaite; Cathe Capel; Mel Farrell; Pattsy Petrie; Zach Kennedy; Becky Roach; Maya Bauer; Steve Herriott; Chris Henning

1. Call to Order—5:45pm
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—None
3. Approval of Minutes—12/10 meeting minutes approved
4. Public Participation—None
5. Ongoing Updates
 - a. Chanute Fields update
No update as Brad was absent. Tod relates that contacts are expressing interest in working at Rantoul plots.
 - b. Dining Services/local food report
New Farm manager on Student Farms. Zach Grant is now with Extension Services. The canner/retort project is being planned. A new New Jersey law might have impact on us—regarding waiving universities’ requirements of students to take a meal plan. Other states are considering similar legislation [Princeton U is exempted]. Theme events coming up: Black History; Lunar New Year [Milkus beverage??]; Valentine’s Day.
2014 stats on tomatoes produced by student farm: 3000 lbs paste; 8000 lbs beefsteak
 - c. Farmer Survey
Four went out. One was returned. Comments and feedback were registered. Respondents gave some additional names to contact [Bob Brackett, e.g.]. Next steps: 1) gentle reminder to give it a look. Zach will send us the comments and incorporate edits. How many regular surveys should go out? Perhaps some farmers feel that local markets are saturated with vendors already. Survey can elicit data about the need for future marketing/hub initiatives. We should try to

get Marty Travis and David Bane to talk with us. Focus on lowering barriers; key person to facilitate the network pickups, etc. 2) Send surveys to names and addresses on list assembled by Tod and Brad. 3) Maybe we can facilitate a roomful of conversations with interested farmers/networkers.

d. School Food Service Outreach

On Zach's "To Do" list: contact private schools about getting local food into their food service programs. Stan Harper—resource for rural districts. Sola Gratia trying to get involved with Champaign Unit 4—small vegetable beds and working in senior involvement as mentors for the kids. Ideas about using drones for ag projects for the kids. How about combining STEM with local foods?

6. New Business

Pattsi is now a de facto member of Regional Office of Education [Ford and Champaign Co.].

7. Legislative Update

ISL is promoting a "Value Added Producer Grants" program. Perhaps we should push this.

Pattsi: Co. Board not legislatively active yet. She has appointed Max Mitchell and Shana Jo Harrison to work on legislative issues. Legislative update mtg. in Springfield Feb.19. On 23 March, regional section of Il Co. Board members to meet here in Urbana and Pattsi will chair. She intends to take advantage of our local connections in Springfield—new avenues for connections regarding local foods. When Rep. Davis visited recently, aggregate memo was shared with him and Chapin Rose. Idea: standardization of rules around Farmer's Markets that Pattsi can introduce to these new connections.

8. Announcements

Tod: 1) went to Specialty Crops Conference in Springfield. Asparagus and garlic sessions were noteworthy. 2) Sola Gratia attended CSA Fair in Urbana. Successful contacts—good attendance. About 10 tables were there. New Champaign market is offering their new market spot as a CSA pickup. 3) Feb. 24 Sola Gratia is sponsoring the movie "A Place at the Table" at the Art Theatre, 7:30pm—in conjunction with Eastern Illinois Foodbank. 4) SG has applied for a federal grant [with Faith in Place] to create a toolkit for not-for-profit collaboration for farm models like SG. They made the first cut for consideration.

Cathe: attending MOSES conference in LaCrosse WI in late Feb./early March

Pattsi: will go out to each district and touch bases with folks. On Feb. 24 is full presentation on jail issue at Co. Board meeting.

9. Adjourn—7pm