

Good Food Council for Lewiston / Auburn  
February 7, 2013  
1:30–4:00 pm  
Community Concepts  
240 Bates Street, Lewiston

MEETING NOTES, Summary

1. Welcome (Deb, 1:30)
  - a. Members will be expected to be here unless they communicate otherwise to Brendan
  - b. Brief overview of changing roles (Sarah and Deb)
    - i. Sarah will join us occasionally for specific topics
    - ii. Sarah will continue to work behind scenes as well
    - iii. Deb will be stepping up to facilitate meetings
  - c. Review January meeting notes, agenda
    - i. LT committee notes will be sent out via email, paper copies were available at meeting
    - ii. Brendan to provide input about how it is best to get meeting notes together and out to the group
    - iii. No questions about committee meeting notes or January meeting notes
  - d. Regular parts of the agenda
    - i. Updates about other councils will rotate, with Kirsten providing updates on Maine councils one month, and Brendan doing national examples the next
    - ii. Council member updates
    - iii. Next steps, next agenda
2. “Who’s doing what?” (Sarah/Council, 1:45)
  - a. Focus on change agents in the local food system
  - b. Bob, Erin, and Camille all have efforts underway to map resources in the different segments of the food system (processing, production, distribution, etc)
    - i. Council members are encouraged to add detail to the document that collects these resources
  - c. Resources captured in 2-7-13 full meeting notes, and in separate “Who’s Doing What?” document
  - d. Council opportunities
    - i. Need to brand food council so that funders can understand
    - ii. Collaborative projects/grant applications
    - iii. Outreach for farmers’ markets
    - iv. Facilitate institutional purchasing by circulating exemplary purchasing policies
    - v. Publicize/promote the actions of others (e.g. Bates purchasing local food)
    - vi. Facilitate the growth of local food capacity by connecting producers with markets
    - vii. What are the ready to go projects?
      1. Meet the buyers
      2. Farmers market outreach

- 3. Council being a promoter
- 4. Establishing Commercial kitchen
- 5. Americorps Vistas project
- viii. Council needs to get these ideas out in the community
- ix. Can we have intern or volunteer fill in the gaps to show what each project is doing, who the contact is?
  - 1. Erin will have SNAP staff do first pass
- x. Mid- to late-May is a time when elected officials will be done with the budget and we could get their attention to introduce the council, draw attention to things we want to work on
  - 1. Give them exec summary of CFA
- 3. Update on Maine Network of Community Food Councils (Kirsten, 2:25)
  - a. As council was being started, GFLA workgroup and Community Food Matters (CFM) met to discuss who else was forming councils, how to facilitate process of thinking about changes to food system
  - b. Sewall Foundation funding to support the MNCFC
  - c. Focus is on putting together toolkit (Kickstart Guide) for limited-resource communities to conduct "good enough" approach of assessing food system, getting group organized to do research, select indicators, methods, etc
  - d. Will be inviting members of other councils to come to our meetings and observe, we will be welcome to attend meetings of others as well
- 4. Council member updates (Council, 2:35)
  - a. None, did some of this during the who's doing what
- 5. Next steps, next agenda (Deb/Council, 2:45)
  - a. Next meeting: March 13<sup>th</sup> @ AVCOG
  - b. How do we fit in trainings/education to familiarize councilors with food system work?
  - c. ST goals cmte would like 10 minutes for clarifying questions
- 6. Orientation to committee work (Brendan, 2:50)
  - a. Adding structure, not bureaucratic
  - b. Identify chair, notetaker, short-term goal (could include selecting chair or regular meeting time)
  - c. Structure work tabled until next meeting when we have attendance to make fuller committees
- 7. Committee work session (committees, 3:00)
- 8. Committee report-outs (committees, 3:45)
  - a. Not done as 2 of 4 committees didn't have enough members to meet
- 9. Misc.
  - a. AVCOG will be co-sponsoring a regional forum for the Maine Food Strategy in Fall 2013
  - b. Funding
    - i. We can accept donor funds through St. Mary's
    - ii. CEI is ready to put money into sponsoring retail outlets, but there are none ready to accept it
    - iii. Council can act in convener role to communicate to funders about where their \$ can make a difference
    - iv. AVCOG
      - 1. Has funds for sustainable agriculture
      - 2. Targeting producers/distributors

3. AVCOG is pass through agent for Slow Money Maine
  - a. \$130-140k grant funding
4. Slow Money also does micro-loans
- v. United Way might be fiscal agent or facilitate funding