

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the March 27, 2013 Meeting
Brookens Center, 1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL

Members Present: Tod Satterthwaite; Rebecca Roach; Mary Ellen Farrell; Zach Kennedy; Brad Uken; Cathe Capel; Maya Bauer

Guests: Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—at 5:45pm
2. Additions/Correction to the Agenda—none
3. Approval of Minutes—3/13 minutes will be approved at next meeting
4. Public Participation--none
5. Discussion of Recent Local Food Developments
 - a. Food Hub meeting with Bill Bagby—Becky and Tod, along with other farmers, learned more about the “Chicago Local Foods” venture. Their plan is to establish 8 or 9 regional hubs to service the Chicago market with locally grown food. Bill is involved as a potential manager of a hub here in Urbana. While producers want to extend their markets, the push is coming from the city. The idea is that the Hub managers would direct orders to the farmers in January as to what would be needed and on what schedule for the growing season. Some smaller farmers want direct contact with their buyers [i.e., Blue Moon] and don’t want to deal with the red tape of hub. Maybe a concept like a Craigs List of buyers/sellers of produce could work? Could a beefed-up “Market Maker” be another way to go. Problem is we need all sides of the market to utilize the same tool—Marketing/Message would be crucial
 - b. Meeting with Rantoul Officials—Brad reported on the progress of the Rantoul plan to make available small parcels of urban land [2-200 acres] to beginning/small farmers at a very attractive rental price [\$50/acre?]. People at the meeting included Rantoul city officials; Uofl Extension; State Dept. of Agric; EDC. Parcels all have access to water. Issues discussed: .zoning; soil conditions; Lincoln’s Challenge participation; State & Fed grants; buildings for storage and equipment; Community Destination opportunities. Next steps: short/long-term plan. Perhaps contracts by Nov. or Dec. 2013.
6. ELUC Vote Discussion—The negative vote on our resolution can be taken as a strategy lesson for the future. The Board configuration changes imply that 4 people, voting together, can effectively block many resolutions. What are our options? We think it is important to negotiate policy ideas and decisions, but perhaps we should work on different models to accomplish our goals. Maya and Mel will keep the group updated on important state and federal local food policy legislation and developments.
7. Other Issues—Website; Strategic Planning. To take up in future meetings.
8. Announcements—none
9. Adjourn