

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2013, 5:45 P.M.
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

Present: Tod Satterthwaite; Maya Bauer; Zack Kennedy; Mel Farrell; Becky Roach; Brad Uken
Guests: Patsi Petrie

1. Call to Order—5:45PM
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—None
3. Approval of Minutes—Amend comments about the FSMA Public Comments to 11/13/13; Text of the comments:

To: FMSA Public Comment
From: Local Foods Policy Council of the Champaign County Board
Date: 11/15/2013
Re: Food Safety Modernization Act
Preventive Controls Rule: FDA-2011-N-0920
Produce Standards Rule: FDA-2011-N-0921

We are extremely concerned that the ability of small farms to provide local food in the state of Illinois not be compromised. The FSMA must be framed to:

- ***Allow farmers to use sustainable farming practices, including those already allowed and encouraged by existing federal organic standards and conservation programs.***

Specifically, FDA must not exceed the strict standards for the use of manure and compost used in certified organic production and regulated by the National Organic Program.

- ***Ensure that diversified and innovative farms, particularly those pioneering models for increased access to healthy, local foods, continue to grow and thrive without being stifled. Specifically, FDA needs to clarify two key definitions: first, as Congress required, FDA must affirm that farmers markets, CSAs, roadside stands, and other direct-to-consumer vendors fall under the definition of a “retail food establishment” and are therefore not facilities subject to additional regulation. Second, FDA should adopt at least the \$1,000,000 threshold for a very small business and base it on the value of ‘regulated product,’ not ‘all food,’ to ensure smaller farms and businesses (like food hubs) fall under the scale-appropriate requirements and aren’t subject to high cost, industrial-scale regulation.***

- ***Provide options that treat family farms fairly, with due process and without excessive costs. Specifically, FDA must clearly define the “material conditions” that lead to a withdrawal of a farmer’s protected status in***

scientifically measurable terms. FDA must also outline a clear, fair, process for justifying the withdrawal of a farmer's protected status and for how a farmer can regain that status.

Thank you for your consideration,

Champaign County Illinois Local Food Policy Council:

Maya Bauer, Rebecca Roach, Brad Uken, Zach Kennedy, Steve Herriott, Mel Farrell, Chris Henning, Tod Satterthwaite

4. Public Participation—None

5. Old Business

a. Website Report (www.champaigncountylocalfood.org) and next steps—None

b. Guest Commentary progress—in Cathe's hands

c. Rantoul Food Hub report—Questions about chemical remediation that might have potential issues in certain parcels of land in Rantoul. Meeting held with U.S. EPA. Brad has a meeting on 12/12/13 at which this will be discussed.

d. Dining Services/local food report—None

e. Advisory Board Progress

i. Potential Board meeting date?—January 22 as potential date. Time at 6pm. Place 801 N. Country Fair Drive. List of invitees.

ii. Invitations to prospective members—We need addresses. Discussion about getting address information ensued. Letter first [soon], ask them to provide contact information; call after 1st of year. We have a list of 16 to whom we will send letters.

iii. Agenda of meeting—intro to our group; prioritization of our activities; are we on the right track? What can we add to our task list.

6. New Business—None

7. Legislative Update—FDA moved to ban preventive use of antibiotics in meat, chicken, pork. Major industry leaders have agreed.

8. Announcements—Tod going to ACRES this weekend. Specialty Crops coming up in Springfield in January.

9. Adjourn—6:30pm