

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY LOCAL FOODS POLICY COUNCIL

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2014
BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
JENNIFER PUTMAN ROOM

Present: Maya Bauer; Zach Kennedy; Mel Farrell; Steve Herriott; Becky Roach
Guests: Patti Petrie

1. Call to Order—5:52pm by Becky Roach
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda—none
3. Approval of Minutes—minutes of 2/12 approved
4. Public Participation—none
5. Old Business
 - a. Guest Commentary progress—Becky has it now. For next meeting we will have copies for approval.
 - b. Rantoul Food Hub report—none
 - c. Dining Services/local food report—Uofl project: BBQ-style meals being developed by Dining Services around early Illinois crops [corn; wheat; barley; oats].
 - d. Discussion of Future Activities—Focus Group issues. Working with School District and current vendors; White Paper/Fast Facts from Ag Census which is now available; Farmer Survey from Land Connection. Illinois: overall #7 in overall Ag production; #3 in crop sales; 10% farms over 1000 acres. Illinois and only one other state saw an increase in farm acreage, perhaps a result of conservation efforts. N-G article sums up some of the data for Illinois. County-level data not available until May 2014. We could start on the outline for the paper and fill in with the county data when it becomes available. For the White Paper, a group called “Stat.com” is working with Co-op. We might be able to ask them for help. People stating preferences for tasks: Becky interested in the food/school & jail connections. Zach interested in stats [White Paper]. Question about why schools moved away from individual kitchen-

prepared meals started a discussion about that part of our 3-pronged tasks. Mel will take a look at the Land Connection survey and see how we could use it for our purposes. Bring it along in paper for next meeting. Brad and Pattsi on the White Paper team. Chris with Becky on school thing. Steve, Tod and Cathe on survey team.

6. New Business—March is Nutrition Month. Good dovetail with our N-G commentary.
7. Legislative Update—Bill Tracker has many things going on. Legislative/Policy Lobbying day is coming up in early March. Co-op is sending people. Question about new nutritional labeling on groceries—no solid answer on that one for now except that changes include more prominent calorie information. GMO labeling is not moving forward—94% consumers want it, but packaging lobby is pushing back. Probably a federal legislative issue. In Illinois, some Farmer’s Market bills about food handling and public aid [SNAP] benefit increases [Illinois Stewardship Alliance taking up Farmer’s Market regulations, etc. as their major focus this year]. If room for public comment we should be involved in that. Sweetened beverage tax bill floating around now, where portion of revenue would go to local food. Numbers of new FMs declining slightly. Reasons?—other outlets.
8. Announcements—new Cottage Food and Farmer’s Market rep in the State now. She was at the “Garden Gates to Dinner Plates” dinner, Zach reports. Co-op is doing a “Farm Dreams” workshop in April, for those interested in starting farming. Farmer’s Breakfast on March 7th? Where/Time, not sure at this writing.
9. Adjourn—6:50pm