

**NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

The eighth meeting of the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council (Council) was held September 22, 2011, at the Martin Building on the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC. Council Chair, Commissioner Steve Troxler, opened the meeting at 1:11 pm.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Jamie Ager	Ms. Savonala Horne
Dr. Alice Ammerman	Mr. Phil Hudson
Dr. Nancy Creamer	Mr. Charlie Jackson
Mr. John Day	Mr. Roland McReynolds
Ms. Debbie Hamrick	Mr. Randall Patterson
Ms. Linda Harris	Commissioner Steve Troxler
Dr. Lynn Harvey	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Diane Beth was in attendance for Dr. Jeffrey Engel
Dr. Tom Melton was in attendance for Dr. Joe Zublena

ABSENT MEMBERS

Mr. Ted Burch	Ms. Earline Middleton
Mr. Uli Bennowitz	Mr. Barry Nash
Secretary Keith Crisco	Mr. Willy Phillips
Mr. Billy Ray Hall	Mr. Tommy Porter, Jr.
Ms. Jane Iseley	Ms. LaTisha Watford
Rev. Mac Legerton	

OPENING COMMENTS

Commissioner Troxler welcomed the Council as well as those in attendance. He then updated the group regarding items discussed during the recent NASDA Annual Meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Food Safety was discussed. Of interest to the Council is the Produce Safety Alliance, which looks at outreach and education efforts on produce rules. Ray Starling is serving to help this effort. Discussion was also held on the H2A Program and how e-verify will impact agriculture. Farm Bill discussions continue with a high priority on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and how to best handle risks in agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE

Mr. Herb Vanderberry, Director USDA-NASS provided an update on the latest numbers on North Carolina agriculture. Highlights included that the 2010 cash receipts generated by agriculture in North Carolina were approximately \$9.7 billion, representing a 5% increase since

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2009. Mr. Vanderberry also discussed impacts of weather events in 2011 on agriculture in our state.

AG DISASTER RECOVERY PROPOSALS

Commissioner Troxler shared that on September 7th, the Board of Agriculture met. One of the main items discussed was Ag Disaster Recovery in light of recent natural and economic disasters in North Carolina. Items proposed to the Board of Agriculture for consideration included:

1. Asking the State of North Carolina to put aside \$25 million for loans to agriculture to be utilized in times of disaster, including termination of poultry contracts.
2. Creation of Agricultural Disaster Strike Team, leveraging resources within the Department to respond during times of emergency.
3. Board of Agriculture Recommended State Agriculture Disaster Declaration
4. Further develop Forestry Service's BRIDGE Program to utilize prisoners to provide assistance on both public and private property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Linda Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Debbie Hamrick. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Subcommittees provided information regarding recommendations for the 2011 Annual Report. These recommendations were evaluated individually as follows:

1. **Recommend that the General Assembly extend the expiration of G.S. 106-833 until July 31, 2017.**
Ms. Debbie Hamrick moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Roland McReynolds seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Recommend that the General Assembly appropriate \$100,000 per annum to provide for one permanent position in the NCDA&CS that will serve as staff for the Council and to provide for recurring costs of Council activities.**
Ms. Debbie Hamrick moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Roland McReynolds seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Recommend that the General Assembly approve the designation of one representative of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) as an appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and delete the appointment of one representative of the North Carolina Farm Transition Network, Inc.**
Ms. Debbie Hamrick moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Roland McReynolds seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

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- 4. Recommend that the General Assembly appropriate \$ 55,000 to NCDA&CS for a consumer level survey of local food interests. USDA-NASS, the NCDA&CS, the NCCES and other agencies and organizations, as applicable, will develop a comprehensive study of the elements of the local food system to promote growth and investment in the development of the local food economy.**

Ms. Debbie Hamrick moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Roland McReynolds seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 5. Recommend that the Council and other stakeholders review the results of the General Assembly's 2011 Regulatory Listening Sessions and host listening sessions for farmers, fisherman, and local food businesses to identify and document the regulatory and market barriers that prevent these entities from supplying their products to local markets and/or expanding their businesses to meet consumer demand for local foods.**

Ms. Debbie Hamrick moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Linda Harris seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 6. Recommend that the General Assembly increase institutional purchasing of local food by adopting legislation that includes one or more of the following: (a) Establish state government purchasing goals; (b) Establish a government purchase preference for North Carolina products over non-North Carolina products when prices are within 5% more; (c) Create a vendor list that indicates state/country of origin; (d) Establish that NC vendors are given the opportunity to match lowest/winning bid for government purchases.**

Mr. Randall Patterson moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Linda Harris seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 7. Recommend that the General Assembly establish an Indemnity Program that would aid farmers incurring economic losses resulting from food safety recalls for products which did not originate on the North Carolina Farm.**

Mr. Randall Patterson moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Linda Harris seconded the motion. After discussion, motion was tabled to subcommittee.

- 8. Recommend that the General Assembly establish by statute and the NC Utilities Commission institute by rule protections that ensure public and private utility extensions are installed with minimum negative impacts on agricultural land.**

Mr. Randall Patterson moved to approve the recommendation; Mr. Roland McReynolds seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 9. Recommend that the General Assembly provide that agricultural land is to be given the greatest protection possible in condemnation proceedings.**

Mr. Randall Patterson moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Debbie Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

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- 10. Recommend that an interagency collaboration between NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources, NC Department of Public Health, NC State University, NC A&T State University/NC Cooperative Extension Service, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and any stakeholders who may have an interest be established to create and disseminate best management practices, resources and educational materials regarding the safe production, harvest and consumption of school and community garden food.**

Dr. Alice Ammerman moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Debbie Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 11. Recommend that the General Assembly designate a member of the NC Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council to serve as a member of the NC Sustainable Communities task Force.**

Dr. Alice Ammerman moved to approve the recommendation; Dr. Diane Beth seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 12. Recommend that the General Assembly provide supplemental funds for the GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Cost-Share Program within the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.**

Mr. Roland McReynolds moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Linda Harris seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 13. Recommend that the General Assembly appropriate funds to increase the storage and preparation facilities lacking the equipment necessary to participate in the farm to school programs.**

Dr. Alice Ammerman moved to approve the recommendation; Ms. Linda Harris seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

- 14. Recommend that the NC Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council establish a work group of Council members and other agencies to explore opportunities to expand USDA benefit programs.**

Motion failed for lack of second.

- 15. Respectfully request that the Governor encourage that the Division of Social Services (DSS) and its SNAP-Ed Advisory Committee work closely with the NC Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council's Health, Wellness, Hunger, and Food Access Subcommittee to consider a statewide coordinated approach to funding that encourages the use of locally produced food by SNAP participants given potential increases in funding available for SNAP-Ed based on state level SNAP participation and high levels of participation in North Carolina.**

Dr. Alice Ammerman moved to approve the recommendation; Dr. Diane Beth seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

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OTHER

Ms. Joy Hicks shared that the Executive Council will be meeting in January 2012 to discuss meeting dates and subcommittee activities for the upcoming year. Dr. Nancy Creamer stated that the Executive Council will also be evaluating subcommittee structure and overlaps during this meeting.

Commissioner Troxler thanked Mr. Jim Cummings for his work with the Council; will be evaluating how to staff the Council in the future.

Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Linda Harris and passed unanimously. The Council meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Prepared by:
Elizabeth P. Farrell
Administrative Assistant, NCDA&CS

Adopted by the Council this 19th day
of January, 2012



Commissioner Steven W. Troxler, Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council



Dr. Nancy Creamer, Vice Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council