

June 20, 2010

Minutes

Economic Development & Infrastructure Subcommittee

Of

North Carolina Sustainable Food Advisory Council

May 27, 2010

Farm Bureau Building, Raleigh, NC

Meeting time: 2:00 pm

Attending: Chair, Debbie Hamrick, Jamie Ager (phone), Uli Bennewitz, Nancy Creamer, Ron Fish, Billy Ray Hall (phone), Charlie Jackson (phone), Roland McReynolds, Willy Phillips, Garrett Wyckoff, Jim Cummings

The Chair, after introductions and a warm welcome by Larry Wooten, President of the Farm Bureau, began the review and discussion of the Purpose as provided in Chapter 106, Article 70, "North Carolina Local Food Advisory Council." Specific attention was given to 106-832, duties, items 4, 5, 6 and 7. An abbreviated list of those duties is as follows:

4. An in-depth analysis of the potential impacts that the production of sustainable local food would have on economic development in North Carolina
5. Issues regarding how local and regional efforts could promote a sustainable local food economy
6. Issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable local food economy
7. Issues regarding strengthening local infrastructure and entrepreneurial efforts related to a sustainable local food economy

The Chair polled each member to offer his/her definition of "Success" in respect to the charge of the Subcommittee.

Some of the responses:

- ID and develop deliverables & make progress
- Expand network and areas of cooperative effort
- Engagement of Council members
- Determine benchmark levels of success, work on definitive deliverables and prepare recommendations
- Do not re-invent the wheel/take broader approach to get things done
- Work to create an environment in which entrepreneurs can survive and thrive

- Keep it local, focus on customer base
- ID critical steps for growing the Local Food infrastructure

There was a lengthy discussion on keeping a focus on “Purpose” statement of Article 70, how to deal with Food Safety regulations (not run from them), and how to affect the “one size fits all” issues in regulatory activities.

Four Working Groups were established, Chairs appointed, and specific items assigned each Working Group:

1. Study Working Group: Chair Roland McReynolds, assigned 106-832 (4): In-depth analysis of potential impacts of production of sustainable local food on economic development. Members: Nancy Creamer, Ron Fish, Debbie Hamrick
2. Regulation Working Group: Chair Ron Fish, assigned 106-832 (5) & (6): ID and development of solutions to statutory, regulatory and policy barriers. Members: Jamie Ager, Uli Bennewitz, Nancy Creamer, Jim Cummings
3. Literature Review Working Group: Chair Barry Nash: Using From Farm to Fork as the core document, identify documents and publications that members can determine items of interest for the Subcommittee that will forward the agenda of the Council. Members: Debbie Hamrick, Charlie Jackson
4. Infrastructure Working Group: Chair Debbie Hamrick: Work on issues surrounding financing, education, logistics, broad band, cold storage and others that can be brought before the Council. Members: Uli Bennewitz, Billy Ray Hall, Ron Fish, Willy Phillips, Keith Crisco (Garret Wyckoff), Jim Cummings

This brought the Subcommittee to 4:30 and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes drawn from notes of Debbie Hamrick and Jim Cummings