

# **NORTH CAROLINA SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

The fourth meeting of the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council (Council) was held September 9, 2010 at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station in Mills River, NC. Council Chair, Commissioner Steve Troxler, opened the meeting at 2:15pm.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Jamie Ager

Dr. Alice Ammerman

Mr. Andrew Branam

Mr. Ted Burch

Dr. Nancy Creamer

Mr. John Day

Ms. Debbie Hamrick

Ms. Linda Harris

Dr. Lynn Harvey

Mr. Phil Hudson

Mr. Charlie Jackson

Dr. Ed Jones

Mr. Roland McReynolds

Ms. Earline Middleton

Mr. Barry Nash

Mr. Randall Patterson

Commissioner Steve Troxler

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Bill Payne was in attendance for Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Ms. Diane Beth was in attendance for Dr. Jeffrey Engel

### **ABSENT MEMBERS**

Mr. Uli Bennewitz

Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Dr. Jeffrey Engel

Mr. Billy Ray Hall

Mrs. Mary James

Rev. Mac Legerton

Mr. Willy Phillips

Mr. Tommy Porter, Jr.

Ms. Latisha Watford

### **OPENING COMMENTS**

Commissioner Troxler welcomed everyone and thanked North Carolina State University for hosting the meeting. He recognized and welcomed Board of Agricultural member, Ms. Casey Armstrong and Representative Ray Rapp. Representative Rapp said he was glad to see the members of the Council and looked forward to hearing their recommendations.

Commissioner Troxler encouraged Council members to visit the farm tours scheduled for Friday morning. He said he was very proud of the work of the Western Delegation with the Western Ag Center and the new buildings that have been added. Renovations will begin shortly on the Davis Arena. It will be enclosed, air conditioned and have a new floor installed, making it similar to the Expo Building at the State Fair Grounds.

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Commissioner Troxler highlighted some of the current issues that are before the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA.) Stating that as the Chair of the NASDA's Food, Nutrition and Regulation Committee he had an opportunity to address the issues related to home processing products and would bring North Carolina's suggestions to their meeting for recommendation to the FDA.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2010**

Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ed Jones. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **PRESENTATION ON LOCAL FOOD ISSUES**

#### **Regional Local Food Council Input**

Mr. Aaron Newton, Project Coordinator for the Cabarrus County Local Food System, gave a presentation that highlighted the County's program to promote local food. The program is currently in its fourth month. Phase 1 and 2 were food assessments funded by CEFS. After the assessments, an Action Plan was developed. (Exhibit 1)

#### **How Local and County Governments Interface with Local Foods Businesses and Farms**

The presentation given by Council member, Mr. John Day, explained how Cabarrus County is supporting local food by raising awareness, addressing regulatory issues with the County Commissioners and working with municipalities. (Exhibit 2)

#### **Western North Carolina Regional Livestock Center**

Mr. L. T. Ward, Vice President, Western NC Communities, gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the planning, developing, building and benefits of the Western North Carolina Regional Livestock Center in Canton, NC. (Exhibit 3)

#### **Financing Local Food Businesses and Farms – A Perspective of the Natural Capital**

**Investment Fund** Ms. Anna Tefft, North Carolina Senior Business Lender, Natural Capital Investment Fund gave a PowerPoint Presentation. (Exhibit 4)

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Economic Development and Infrastructure**

Ms. Debbie Hamrick, Subcommittee Chair, presented the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Agricultural Task Force (ATF) Liaison—Since water quality is an important issue to local farmers the Subcommittee recommends having a member of the Council be a part of the ATF to act as a liaison between the Council and the ATF.

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Staff and budget funding—The Subcommittee recommended that a new full time position be created and funded to support the Council. This would be a permanent staff member under NCDA&CS. The Council would be involved in both the position development and hiring, and the position would report to the Council. This full time position would support Council members by following up and pushing the work of the Council forward. In addition to the full time permanent staff the Subcommittee recommends that funding be established to create an operating budget for the Council.

All-Farms GAP Pilot Program for small farms—Develop an all-farms GAP Pilot program for small farms. In August 2010, the Fresh Produce Safety Task Force brainstormed safety issues per size of the farm to develop research for small farms. This research would need to look at a variety of growing methods and multiple harvest seasons. The basis for the pilot would be to study farms and buyers. The goal would be to have information for the pilot program by the end of 2011.

Acceptance of the Subcommittee's recommendations passed unanimously.

### **Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access**

Dr. Alice Ammerman, Chair of the Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access Subcommittee, presented the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Continue strong support of the Farm to School Program—Collect data on child nutrition to develop understanding from stakeholders to better understand the barriers to success of the program. NCDA&CS has a position to support development of the program; the Subcommittee recommended checking with other states to see how similar programs work.

Support the continued growth Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-ED) program—Expand the social marketing to include local foods. Apply to USDA for matching funding to increase food stamps through social marketing and education. Millions of dollars are on the table that our state is not currently utilizing.

Plan for the future of EBT & WIC—Expand the EBT program to reach more people, including local farmers. Work with others to get EBT in farmers markets and ensure local fruits and vegetables are available through the WIC program.

Commissioner Troxler asked for questions or discussion on the recommendations. The questions and discussion included the possibility of having a Child Obesity Task Force Liaison.

The recommendations of the Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access Subcommittee were unanimously approved.

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### **Land, People, and Natural Resources**

The Subcommittee Chair, Dr. Ed Jones, presented the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Fund ADFP for Military Support—Recommending that the General Assembly establish legislation that provides additional funds in the ADFP Trust Fund to work with the military.

Commissioner Troxler said NCDA&CS is working hard on this. He said he just met with the Major General last week to discuss developing easements, having farmers markets on military bases and providing local foods to the military. Ms. Hamrick asked if any commitments had been made on how much local food the military might want to buy. Commissioner Troxler said this is still a work in progress; however, he said the Major General is very interested.

Modify municipal annexation—Require that no municipality may annex farm or forest land nor may any municipality regulate farming and forestry activities in their extra territorial jurisdiction if the land is within a voluntary agricultural district, enhanced voluntary agricultural district or is subject to a conservation easement designated to maintain property as “working lands.”

NC Farm Transition Network (NCFTN)—Further goals in farmland transition by partnering NCDA&CS with the County Extension Office. Provide staff funding for two positions to create a closer linkage to the ADFP Trust Fund.

It was questioned how reporting to each agency would work without creating a conflict of interest. Mr. Jones responded that all these issues could be addressed by creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two departments.

Commissioner Troxler asked for discussion and questions. Council members were concerned that asking for so many new positions was too much to ask for and wanted to know how to prioritize the most important. It was recommended that support for the third bullet be given at a later time. Discussion included that it was best to make all recommendations while realizing that it would be great if two happened.

After further discussion all three recommendations passes unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Hicks provided Council members with tour packets and tickets for the Grand Opening of the Mountain State Fair. Council members were also invited to stay for a reception of local foods provided by Western North Carolina ASAP and Got to Be NC.

Commission Troxler reminded Council members of the Farm Harvest program on UNC-TV at 8:00pm.

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Future SLFAC meeting dates were discussed. Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis on a Thursday, the second or third week of the month. The upcoming meetings would be held January, April, and July. Dr. Creamer recommended we request a later report due date of either January 1<sup>st</sup> or December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Creamer made a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Harvey and passed unanimously.

Prepared by:  
Connie Strickland  
Executive Assistant  
NCDA&CS

Adopted by the Council this 20<sup>th</sup> day  
of January, 2011

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

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