

Economic Development & Infrastructure Subcommittee Of the North Carolina Local Sustainable Food Advisory Council

JC Raulston Arboretum 9:30-11:45 a.m.

July 22 2010

Minutes

Attendance

Subcommittee members

Nancy Creamer (Council Vice Chair)
Jamie Ager
Uli Bennewitz
Billy Ray Hall
Debbie Hamrick (Subcomm. Chair)
Charlie Jackson
Roland McReynolds
Ron Fish (NCDA&CS Staff)
Willy Phillips

Council members

Dania Davey
Ed Jones

Observers

Jennifer Curtis
Dewitt Hardee, NCDA&CS
Chester Lowder
Joe Martin
Katy Moser
Shivaugn Rayl

Invited guest presenters

Mike Kelly, DENR Public Health
Larry Michaels, DENR Public Health
Anita McMullen, NCDA&CS Food & Drug
Brett Weed, NCDA&CS Food & Drug
Jim Melvin, NCDA&CS Food & Drug

The Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Debbie Hamrick. Following a brief welcome, Subcommittee members, Council members, Invited guests and Observers introduced themselves.

Working Group Reports: September 1 deadline for Subcommittee consensus on items we wish to put in the Council's Report to the General Assembly.

- **Study Report** Chair: Roland McReynolds Working group chair has met with Dr. Olha Sydorovych, Agricultural and Resource Economics, NC State University. Dr. Sydorovych is preparing a preliminary assessment of what a study for North Carolina would contain as well as a budget. Working group chair recommends that the Council review studies from other states and two publications from USDA ERS: "Comparing the Structure, Size and Performance of Local and Mainstream Food Supply Chains," and "Local Food Systems: Concepts, Impacts and Issues." PDF files of the executive summaries of these studies were distributed and are included with these minutes. Potential funding sources may be at the federal level. The chair has reached out to USDA ERS to discuss possibilities. Perhaps should look at Foundations. Federal AFRI Foundation (Agriculture Food Research Initiative (Used to be NRI) may be appropriate. See:
www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/agriculturalandfoodresearchinitiativeafri.cfm

- **Literature Review Report** Chair: Barry Nash (absent) Filling in: Charlie Jackson The working group is collecting research-based reports from across North Carolina and from select communities along the Eastern Seaboard to learn what has and is being done to create successful local food economies. The goal is to review and recommend documents to the other working groups with the Economic Development & Infrastructure Subcommittee to evaluate in more depth. Progress: To date this working group has compiled nearly 30 assessments and more are being collected. Jackson distributed a preliminary bibliography. Nash also provided a preliminary bibliography and reported that the working group will seek to understand where gaps exist in the information.
- **Regulation Report** Chair: Ron Fish The working group was not able to meet, but engaged in email dialogue. The working group's direction guided choice of subcommittee speakers for today's meeting.
- **Infrastructure Report** Chair: Debbie Hamrick The working group has not met as the chair needs more guidance from the Subcommittee on the purpose of this working group. Discussion. Work with Subcommittee by email on a consensus definition of infrastructure that will shape the activities of this working group as they identify gaps and needs.

The Subcommittee heard presentations from two regulatory agencies with oversight of various food law: North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Food & Drug Division and North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources Division of Water Quality and North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources and Division of Environmental Health. PowerPoint presentations have been presented with these minutes.

Presenters included:

- NCDA&CS: Jim Melvin, Assistant Director Regulatory Programs, Food & Drug Division and MacMullan, Food Compliance Supervisor, Food & Drug Division
- NCDENR: Coleen H. Sullins, Director, Division of Water Quality, and Mike Kelly, Deputy Director, and Larry Michael, Environmental Programs Supervisor, Food Protection Branch, Division of Environmental Health

Following the presentations, the Subcommittee adjourned for lunch.