

MINUTES

Illinois Department of Agriculture, 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Springfield, Illinois

Dial-in Information: 712-432-3066 292003#

Present In person: Wes King, Marjorie Sawicki, Crystal Cooley, Lavon Nelson, Dan Kenny, Deborah Cavanaugh Grant, Cheryl Metheny, Anthony Williamson, Jen Walling, Jerome Hurston (Gov. office), Kendra Schilling, Pat Stieren, Dave Bishop

Present on phone: Tom Spaulding, Karen Lehman, Harry Rhodes, Chef Bill, Jim Slama

Visitors: Fred Iutzi, Bob Heuer, Laura Silva, ILDOA (phone)

Meeting was called to order by Wes King at 1:05 pm. Because new members were present, each person gave some background as they introduced themselves.

The minutes were recovered from notes as the secretary's computer crashed. Corrections: The spelling of Anne Sills' name was corrected. Council member Bob Heuer worked with Robin Gabel on drafting a resolution to convene a meeting of several commissions and councils with shared missions. Bob Heuer urged the Council to request a full accounting of the 2010 DCEO grant to BIS at the University of Illinois. The Executive Committee agreed they would reach out to the Governor's office for help in getting the reports from DCEO regarding the grant. The minutes were approved as amended.

Due to the death of Council Vice President Julia Govis, the Executive Committee nominated Karen Lehman to fill the vacancy and Barbara Rose to be Secretary. The nominations were unanimously approved.

Director Roxanne Junge resigned due to family issues. A motion carried to accept her resignation.

Director Sandra Street has died. People shared memories and appreciation of all she contributed to the Council and to local food system development.

Karen Lehman reported on the draft compendium of policies promoting local food in six Upper Midwest states, similar to one produced by six New England states. Karen will send a spreadsheet/report to Wes King who will distribute it to Council directors.

Regarding legislative updates, Dave Bishop requested and council approved that we add discussion of raw milk legislation to the agenda. The Council, ISA, and others supported HB 5657, designed to develop uniform standards for farmers markets. A Farmers Market Task Force is studying regulations and will make recommendations to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Pat Stieren and Deborah Cavanaugh Grant have sponsored webinars on this topic and will provide links to the Council directors. Emphasis so far is on health departments' regulations. They are looking at sampling and training programs among other issues. A public meeting is scheduled on October 6 at IDOA from 10 to 3pm.

We are supporting SB 3438 which affects cooperatives' administration and amount of money individual members can invest.

IL Department of Public Health began reinterpreting rules on selling raw milk, and is writing new regulations. In September they proposed rules that would require small farms to comply with rules currently applied to larger commercial farms. It was moved and seconded that the Council request that comment period be extended. It was also suggested that we create an ad hoc committee to prepare a statement. Moved and seconded and approved with one abstention.

Fred Iutzi, MS, from IL Institute for Rural Affairs delivered a presentation on the USDA Cooperative Development Project, followed by a Q & A session. Discussion around farmer coops. He emphasized that farmers were able to increase their incomes by adding value to their products. Barriers are the need for up-front capital to begin and it is a business model that many people are not familiar with.

Jen Walling lead a discussion of previously established priorities. We would pursue those that directors were interested in and would be willing to lead.

1. Asset Maps. Several groups are working on mapping. What is needed is a person to pull it together. Kendra will discuss with Lavon to see if someone at IDOA could assist.
2. Manage Data to Track & Forecast. No one volunteered to lead.
3. Farmer Training. Tom is heading active group. Deborah and Karen are working with him.
4. Increase State Procurement. Need infrastructure to enable food to be delivered. It was suggested that this topic be subsumed under #5
5. Legal and Regulatory Barriers. Jen and Wes working on this and others are willing to participate.
6. Public Awareness Campaign. Marjorie works on website and underwrites it. No action now.
7. Raise and Manage Financial Resources. More discussion is needed.

8. Infrastructure development. Dave Bishop will lead.

We have received 501c3 status. Karen reported that an online donation system, Public Good Software, is being beta-tested. It is used to raise funds from individuals for not-for-profits. Food system groups can apply for the cost of credit card fee during the testing period. Karen Lehman volunteered to register the Council to receive donations.

Next Meeting will be held on November 13 at Heartland Community College to piggy-back on Local and Regional Food Summit. It would be a shorter meeting to take place after summit.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Rose