

MINUTES OF THE
NAPA COUNTY LOCAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
September 25, 2013 - **DRAFT**

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

(Reminder: Audio portion of meeting is being recorded.)

The meeting was held in the Ag/UCCE conference room, 1710 Soscol Ave., Ste. 3, Napa, CA 94559 and called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Cromwell.

Roll call was taken and the following council members were present:

Lisa Bissell Paulson, Michael Cromwell, Joy Hilton, Juliana Inman, Lizzie Moore, Kristina Muelrath, Holli Scheumann, Karen Schuppert, and Elizabeth Skylar.

The following council members arrived after roll call was taken:

Jeannie Kerr.

The following council members were excused or absent:

Excused were Diane Dillon and Ted Hall. Absent were Lynn Brown, Mark Dommen, and Kara Scoggins.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Karen Schuppert to approve the minutes for the special meeting held July 24, 2013 as presented.

Motion seconded by Lisa Bissell Paulson.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. **REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed by Chair Cromwell.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michelle Risso from Ag in the Classroom gave an overview and update on the Harvest of the Month program. The Program has been very successful, expanded to 8015 students. There is one year left on the current Grant which is limited to NVUSD elementary schools.

Carrie Strohl introduced herself to the Council. She is a Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and will be heading up a new project, "School Garden Task Force". She will also be doing a Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education workshop for educators on Wednesday, October 2, 4-6 p.m. at the Language Academy garden, 2700 Kilburn Ave., Napa.

Shirley King, Director of the Community Action Napa Valley Food Bank introduced herself.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. CropMobster

Nick Papadapolous will discuss his organization that facilitates distribution of excess food

Nick Papadapolous was unable to attend the meeting because he was caught in traffic resulting from an accident. Greg Clark stepped in to share what information he had, and he and Michael Cromwell said they would try to reschedule this item for the November meeting. Greg shared that Dave Whitmer had attended the CropMobster presentation and felt it would be of interest to the Council. Greg suggested that the Council read the handout provided and visit the website; he played a promo video from the website. Elizabeth Skylar discussed her knowledge of CropMobster.

6. **NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

B. Jamie Smith, School Nutrition Specialist

Jamie will talk about his experience working in school nutrition

Jamie Smith was also unable to make the meeting, so Greg Clark will attempt to reschedule him for November.

C. Update on Farm Bill round table meeting

Jessica Grega will solicit ideas for the meeting scheduled for October 9

Jessica discussed how the workshop came about and what they hope will be achieved.

Community Food & Justice Coalition will be presenting the workshop and several local agencies will be partnering. The workshop will be held at the Napa Library on October 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Jessica asked the Council members to promote the event to their own networks, and to be a part of the workshop by talking about how the Farm Bill affects the Napa County Local Food Advisory Council. Jessica stated that it looks like the current Farm Bill will be extended.

D. Powerpoint presentation on School Gardens

Jessica Grega

Presentation made by Jessica Grega and Michelle Risso. Jessica shared that they had their first ad-hoc subcommittee meeting specific to school gardens on September 24. Napa Valley Vintners manage the national Adopt-A-School program locally, and most schools have been adopted by a winery. The Powerpoint school garden visual inventory was shown to the Council with narrative by Jessica and Michelle giving each school's current status. They discussed the issues of gardens faltering as parent volunteers move on with their children, and the lack of summer maintenance. They plan to share this information with vintners about their individual adopted schools and request support. Ag in the Classroom offers support for school garden volunteers. The subcommittee has set four goals:

- 1) Attend school board meetings. The next meeting is at Yountville elementary on October 17, 7 p.m.
- 2) Establish a Napa County school garden network. Currently, school gardens are not communicating. The subcommittee would like to partner with the Master Gardeners, Farm Bureau, and vintners. Jessica encouraged the Council to review Sonoma County's school garden network.
- 3) Investigate successful programs, take the best parts from those, and designate a model school.
- 4) Help schools with set-up, maintenance, grade appropriate lesson plans, and other necessary support.

Elizabeth Skylar shared that she had been contacted by Lynn Anderson of Sodexo regarding their interest in being part of developing a process that would utilize school gardens for a "garden to table" program; not for school lunch room at this point, but it's progress.

Jessica will schedule another school garden specific subcommittee meeting after all of the Food Day events.

6. **NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

E. Update on Napa Reads

[Elizabeth Skylar](#)

Elizabeth gave an overview of the Napa County Reads program. The book selected this year was “Food Rules” by Michael Pollan. Mr. Pollan will be speaking at the Lincoln Theater in Yountville on November 13. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$5 College students, and K – 12 free; proceeds go to support the Napa Reads program. Tickets have not yet gone on sale. Some of the planned activities are book sales and signing, possible cookbook from recipes of participating students, and a cook-off at St. Helena High School on November 16; they are in need of chefs to judge the cook-off. It’s still a work in progress but Elizabeth will keep the Council informed; she will send out the curriculum and flyer she received to the Council.

F. Update on Food Day 2013

[Food council member Elizabeth Skylar will give an update on Food Day 2013 planning efforts](#)

Elizabeth reviewed and gave a short overview on each Food Day event scheduled.

10/16	Napa County Library	7 p.m. (for policy makers)
10/22	American Canyon	7 p.m.
10/24	Copia	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
10/26	Napa Farmer’s Market	8 – 11 a.m. (geared towards kids)
10/27	Farmstead-Long Meadow Ranch	7:30 p.m.

A mailer will go out with the October garbage bills.

Greg Clark asked Shirley King to share Food Bank client statistics. She shared that currently 62% of their clients are “working class poor families”; 14% seniors (60 years of age and older); 19% multi-family households. The number of people they serve has gone down, but the frequency of service has gone up; more food going out to fewer people. Many of their clients have left the area because of the high cost of living.

G. Local Food Advisory Council ad-hoc subcommittee reports

[Subcommittees are encouraged to submit brief written reports for e-mail distribution prior to the Council meeting whenever possible.](#)

1. [CAFF Buy Fresh Buy Local – Lisa Bissell Paulson](#)

The ad-hoc subcommittee, and anyone else interested in attending, will meet with Diana Abellera from Buy Fresh Buy Local on Monday, October 7. Lisa believes the main question BFBL has at this point is the Council’s funding for marketing, beyond the start up cost. The Council discussed the issues to be addressed at the meeting with BFBL, possible funding sources, and alternative marketing programs like Sonoma County’s “Go Local”.

2. [Community Gardens – Juliana Inman](#)

The ad-hoc subcommittee met on September 10. The City will ask that the temporary parking lot currently on the Little League site stay so there will be no parking conflict. Looking to develop 1- 1½ acres. Juliana will meet with Dave Perazzo of Parks & Rec next week to discuss services to the site and tentative layout. The subcommittee discussed changing sign-up policies, expanding low income plots, and including several low income programs. Elizabeth Skylar asked Juliana to talk on this issue at the Copia Food Day event. The subcommittee also discussed strengthening the language on genetically

G. Local Food Advisory Council ad-hoc subcommittee reports

2. **Community Gardens – Juliana Inman** (continued)
modified seeds and plants. Juliana met with the property owner of the existing community garden in North Napa, who expressed his interest in the City taking over the land as part of the community garden program.
3. **Emerging Farmer –Lizzie Moore**
Lizzie reviewed the handouts that she had presented, “How can we contribute to making Napa County a place where emerging farmers can be successful?” She proposed that the Council sponsor a multi-year seminar series for existing landowners; the Farm Bureau is on board, and, she’s looking forward to talking to the Napa Valley Grapegrowers. Frog’s Leap has offered to be the site of the first seminar which Lizzie is proposing be held in January 2014, with a second before harvest starts. The Council discussed the proposal and suggested some additional resources and ideas.
4. **School Wellness – Joy Hilton**
This was covered by Jessica’s presentation on school gardens.
5. **Website – Greg Clark**
Greg met with Jeff Brooner, Napa County Purchasing Officer. There needs to be a way to evaluate the proposals, so a Request for Proposal will be issued, target date September 30. Greg gave an overview of how the process would work and hopes that everything will be in place by November 1.
6. **Policy – Michael Cromwell**
Nothing new to report on policy. Losing Hillary Gitelman to Palo Alto, this is a big loss to Napa County.

7. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Greg Clark mentioned SHED in Healdsburg; possible future agenda item? Please submit any ideas you have for the November meeting, he will plan to reschedule the speakers that were unable to attend today. Greg also asked that Council members be thinking about the January annual meeting, ideas for locations and subject matter.

The film “Symphony of the Soil” is being presented at the Napa Valley Opera House on October 2; there are flyers on the table – Michael Cromwell and Elizabeth Skylar.

Janet Fletcher will be doing a book signing for “Eating Local” at the Napa Library on October 3 – Michael Cromwell. She will also do a book signing for “Cheese & Beer” at the Farmer’s Market on October 5 – Karen Schuppert.

Latino heritage month, September 15 to October 15. More information on website: somosnapa.org – Elizabeth Skylar

Karen Schuppert suggested that the Spring meeting be held in St. Helena focusing on the school garden progress. She also reminded everyone that the Farmer’s Market runs through the end of October, and suggested that Farmer’s Markets be considered as a future agenda item; ask managers and farmers to come talk to give a better understanding and gain more support.

8. **NEXT SCHEDULED SPECIAL MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 in the Ag/UC Coop conference room, 4–6 p.m. Future meeting sites will be discussed at the January meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. by Chair Cromwell.

MICHAEL CROMWELL, Chairperson

ATTEST:

CANDACE FISKE, Council Secretary