



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Ag Development & Resource Conservation**



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2501
CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2021

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Marcia Pessolanno, Willard Seedman, Robin Lamott Sparks, Lynn Peccerillo-Hills, Patrick Doyle, Molly Devanney, Monica Pacheco, Priscilla Cotto, Martha Page

Members Absent: Susan Pronovost, Jiff Martin

DoAg Staff: Jaime Smith, Erin Windham, Kayleigh Royston, Cyrena Thibodeau

Guests: Flavia Pereira, Meg Hourigan, Alison Ghiorse, Michael Puglisi, Nyree Hodges, Lori Martin, Peggy Zamore, Marcella Micillo, JHlemeyer, , Jenna Nicol - CT DCP, Tida Infahsaeng

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Commissioner Hurlburt, Jaime Smith announced that recording was taking place due to FOIA requirements.
2. **Review and approval of meeting minutes from May 20, 2021 and June 14, 2021** Motion to consider the minutes was made by Bill Seedman. Seconded by Molly Devanney. Monica Pacheco noted that she was in attendance at the June meeting. Minutes will be amended to reflect. Motion to accept both as amended. All in favor. Motion passed

Introductions of newly appointed members were made. Priscilla Cotto, DOT-Transportation planner- Ride share Prior to DOT- HTFD Transit, customer service. Martha Page, Executive Director of Hartford Food Systems- has been a regular attendee at CFPC Erin Windham introduced other members.

3. **Public Comment** No public comment
4. **Old Business**
 - A. **CT Food System Alliance/Hartford Food System Update, Meg Hourigan:** In process of developing a work plan related to food action plan, including data collection/ farmers markets, summit and tracking for legislative session for food bills. Want to do more of their legislative labs and policy development for members to engage. Planning a Fall

summit to present a map for the food action plan. They are scanning the state existing adjacent plans- ie SHIP, Governor's Council on Climate Change and assessing them so there is no duplication. Hosting NE feeding NE to figure our production targets. July 27 @ 12:15. Will extend invite to this group. Martha- The update on the 27th will be 1st of quarterly events. DoAg will share the invite to the group.

- B. Recap of past year-how FPC came to be where it is now, Cyrena Thibodeau:** Shared ppt and recapped the work that we've done and some of the discussions that have taken place over the past 9 months.

SNAP and other benefits- Acceptance and Technical Assistance, Erin Windham: Introduced the topic of SNAP TA and Robin Lamott Sparks went over the work that End Hunger CT! Is doing to gather data on barriers to utilization.

Working on 2 program. 1. Feds asking for priority areas and we are focusing on students, vets, and mixed status families. (Immigration status) 2. Working with CT Health foundation and others as well as an Anthropology professor to look at perception and barriers. Working with institute for research to look at how we gather usage information from the user/ client side as well as from policy makers, retailers, and others to develop a process for policy going forward. Work w/ FM doubling in the region. Our goal is to expand usage up to 100 markets and include CSA's. Looking at data and GIS mapping and how to use those together. Michael asked about college students. Robin is working with 10 states and the USDA to help college students and working on a toolkit to reach students.

Erin went over the question of potential next steps for SANP usage and TA and discussion followed. Marketing in and out of the market as well is seen as needed.

Commissioner Hurlburt asked that as we're thinking about how to use our funds, maybe communication and marketing is the way to do that? How does that fit in? Is there a desire for DoAg to look into merchandise and marketing? Patrick made a motion for DoAg to research marketing and merchandise and Monica seconded. No comments. All in favor, motion passed.

5. **New Business** Long term planning and revised meeting approach

Cyrena Thibodeau went presented a Powerpoint and discussed the future of the food policy council going forward and asked for input on option for working with a consultant and went over potential goals/ outcomes of the work.

Martha Asked if those were the options? What do we do with the work after?

Commissioner Hurlburt asked to think about ideas and then use those to work on in monthly meetings, noting that this is not a one-off, but developing a work plan for the council. Robin noted that the one day would be great to include the "outsiders" . Monica agreed. The in-person opportunity has a different feel, and a consultant helps to keep it moving forward and supports the in-person idea. Patrick supports as well.

Follow up- send out a doodle poll with ideas to consider. Work on a facilitator and questions to pose in advance of coming together.



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Erin Windham then led a discussion on what agencies and organizations could contribute to the food policy council and members shared their thoughts.

Monica- Food security for the children that we serve. Meal programs. Support local work with DSS as they are all interwoven.

Patrick- Providing perspective on how policy affect urban and BIPOC farmers as well as those receiving food benefits, and see that reflected in policy and implementation. Coordinate collaborate and learn together.

Molly- SNAP , access to stores, solutions for future, and participating in the CT Grown program and looking at how we can do things differently. Food supply chain relationships

Martha- Intersection of policy and program. How to formulate a good policy and how it works. Connection to statewide efforts and local food policy councils.

Robin- Policies and advocacy, bringing federal information back to the council. Asked the council to think about how we can work outside of the silos, noting that this group serves as a marrying place for all of the work being done.

Priscilla- Connection between state and the community through transportation and access. Need consistent connection between communities and state.

Lynn- Procurement and using the contracts to support local. This has a greater overall effect than most people know, but we see how it affects the greater picture.

Marcia-= Health, Equity, Upstream movement

6. **Next Steps:** Marketing, retreat planning
7. **Board Member Updates** - none
8. **Adjournment** Motion to adjourn by Robin, seconded by Martha. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 2:56.

Respectfully submitted, Erin Windham, AMIR I, July 9, 2021