

**Grant County Food Policy Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
 Thursday, January 20, 2011

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE(S)
A. CALL TO ORDER	Call to order 5:00 p.m.	2
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum	2
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	2
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	None	3
E. PUBLIC INPUT	Discussed	3
F. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS	Discussed	3
G. BUSINESS		
1. Presentation on developing local food systems (C. Smith)	Discussed	3-4
2. Adoption of council bylaws	Approved	5-6
3. Election of Co-Chairs	Approved	6
4. Local procurement legislation (A. Edwards)	Approved	6-7
5. Development of subcommittees	Discussed	7
H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS	None	7
I. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR(S)	Discussed	8
J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL	Discussed	8
K. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned 6:52 p.m.	8

**Next meeting: February 17, 2011—5:15 p.m. at the Grant County Administration Center**

**Grant County Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 20, 2011

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Grant County Food Policy Council was called to order by staff member, Andrea Sauer, on this date at approximately 5:00 p.m. at the Grant County Administration Building, 1400 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum<sup>1</sup> as follows:

Members Present

Judy Billings  
J.J. Dabbs  
Alicia Edwards  
Melvyn Gelb  
Alma Grijalva  
Deborah Nennich  
Richard Olson\*  
Pete Walden\*  
Brandi Warhank\*

Members Absent

Anthony Gutierrez (excused)  
Sylvia Mendez-Lopez (excused)  
Genevieve Morgan (excused)  
Jon Saari (excused)

Staff Present

Andrea Sauer

Others Present

Carolyn Smith- Silver City Food Cooperative

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Gelb moved to add an agenda item about establishing priorities for the Council, time permitting. Mrs. Sauer moved to approve the agenda as presented with Mr. Gelb's addition. Council members approved unanimously by consensus.

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<sup>1</sup> A quorum of the Grant County Food Policy Council is comprised of three government representatives (denoted by an asterisk \*) and four non-government representatives.

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Sauer noted there are no minutes to approve or disapprove, given this was the first official meeting of the Grant County Food Policy Council.

#### **E. PUBLIC INPUT**

Carolyn Smith noted she was glad the food policy council was in place.

#### **F. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Sauer reviewed the packet of handouts provided to each member for the meeting. Handouts included:

- 1) Written comments from Council member Genevieve Morgan (not present);
- 2) Draft of bylaws for the Grant County Food Policy Council
- 3) Senate Bill 63 relating to local food procurement
- 4) Examples of Food Policy Council subcommittees or working groups

Mrs. Sauer stated that public notices must be posted at least 10 days prior to regular meetings of the Food Policy Council, following rules established for the County and its advisory boards. Notices will also be posted online on the Grant County and HKHC websites, as well as Gila Community Net, Grant County/Silver City Chamber of Commerce community calendar, the Sun News and Daily Press.

Agenda and minutes will be posted on the HKHC website ([www.grantcountyhealthykidshealthycommunities.org](http://www.grantcountyhealthykidshealthycommunities.org)) until a Food Policy Council website can be developed. Mrs. Sauer noted the URL for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities will be shortened in the Spring to an easier to remember web address.

Mrs. Sauer noted she is planning to hire an additional staff member through the AmeriCorps program to coordinate the Food Policy Council and other aspects of local food system development pertaining to Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities. The new position is slated to begin in mid-February.

Mrs. Sauer announced she will be seeking volunteers from the Council to attend the Gardening Expo/ Seed Exchange and Farmers' Market fundraiser event on March 26 at the Grant County Business and Conference Center. Other events can be found on the HKHC website.

#### **G. BUSINESS**

- 1. Presentation on developing local food systems by Carolyn Smith of the Silver City Food Cooperative**

Carolyn Smith gave a 15-minute presentation on what the Silver City Food Cooperative is doing to promote the development of local food production. Highlights of her presentation included:

- Several reasons to promote local food include it's fresher, better quality, preserves genetic integrity, better taste, safer, and makes our community more food secure.
- The Co-op sells local food in their store and they would like to see other local businesses do the same. Ms. Smith suggested that local business set attainable goals and be open to purchasing smaller amounts of local food, then working up to larger quantities.
- If growers know in advance that they have a guaranteed market for their products, they can plan to grow more.
- Ms. Smith noted the importance of creating a system to purchase locally among local business. For instance, the Co-op determines pricing, purchasing, delivery, and coordinates among growers to ensure a variety of foods are produced at any given time. The Co-op also tries to address needs and provide resources to local producers such as boxes and twist ties in order to facilitate an easier process for production and sales.
- The Co-op uses creative approaches to advertise and market local products including handouts, signage, labels, producers' pictures and biographies, etc. used to denote local products in the store so people can easily buy a local product if they wish.
- The Co-op has a lower margin on food to give farmers' more for their money, but keep rates comparable with food coming in from out of state.
- In addition to buying local goods for their store, the Co-op cultivates relationships with local growers through the annual Farmers' and Friends meeting, hosting workshops and community forums, and sponsoring events and activities such as the Silver City Farmers' Market and Farm2Chef Challenge.
- The Co-op partners with local organizations and initiatives in the community such as the Grant County Extension Service, the Grant County Health Council, Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce, the Volunteer Center of Grant County, and the Grant County Food Policy Council.

Ms. Edwards asked how the Co-op defines "local". Ms. Smith said West Texas, Eastern Arizona all of New Mexico are included in the Co-op's definition of "local food", but preferably within 100 miles. She noted that the definition of "local" is different here than other areas of the country because of our watersheds, geography, and other factors. The Co-op is considering labeling where food is from to let the consumer decide what is "local" and what is not. Mrs. Nennich thanked Doug Zilm, manager of the Co-op, for reaching out to W & N Enterprises and she is working to include more local products in the Food Baskets.

*Ms. Smith is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Silver City Food Cooperative, serves on the Silver City Farmers' Market Board, partner of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities initiative, and is a member of Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce 'Local Food Committee'.*

*Ms. Smith can be reached Tuesday through Thursday, 12-5pm at the Co-op (520 N. Bullard Street in downtown Silver City) or 388-2343.*

## **2. Adoption of Council bylaws**

After reviewing the drafted bylaws for the Grant County Food Policy Council, the members present and Genevieve Morgan (through written submission prior to the meeting) agreed to adopt the bylaws as drafted, with the following amendments:

- Ms. Billings asked to change the wording on the fifth bullet in Article II, Section 4. Goals to “work to facilitate the promotion and support of local farmers’ markets...”.
- Ms. Edwards asked to change the wording on the seventh bullet in Article II, Section 4. Goals to “facilitate access to emergency food due to natural disasters or other causes....”
- Ms. Morgan submitted written comments to add language to the second bullet in Article II, Section 4. Goals to say “Make recommendations to the County and its communities on food, agriculture and land use planning policy.”
- Ms. Morgan submitted a written suggestion to add language to the tenth bullet in Article II, Section 4. Goals to include, “...promote and facilitate sustainable economic development opportunities for food producers in Grant County.”
- Mr. Gelb raised concerns about using consensus as a voting procedure. He suggested Article IV, Section 7, letter c include an option stating that if an issue requires immediate action, the Council may approve a motion by a two-thirds majority vote. Mr. Olson concurred that reaching consensus is often overrated and there needs to be procedures to establish a vote.
- Mr. Gelb suggested the words “shall” and “automatically” be omitted in Article V, Section 8.
- Council suggested amending Article V, Section 9 to allow members to participate in regular Food Policy Council meetings live via electronic means such as conference call, Skype, or other technological options. Council suggested that for voting purposes, a quorum must be physically present. Council also suggested establishing a process for proxy voting: by which a voting member must give his or her decision in writing prior to the meeting to another voting member of the Council who will be physically present at the meeting. Council determined these changes would be in the best interests to allow flexibility for members who still wish to participate in Council business, but have an excused absence.
- Ms. Edwards suggested amending Article VI, Section 1 to establish Co-Chairs to share the responsibilities in leading the Council, rather than Chair and Co-Chair. Ms. Edwards also suggested that the term for the Co-Chairs would be one year rather than two years. Mrs. Sauer noted she would combine letters a. and b. of Article VI, Section 1 to reflect this change and replace the word “Chair” with “Co-Chairs” throughout the document.

- Mr. Gelb proposed that language be added to Article VII, Section 5 that includes reviewing the bylaws annually for changes. He suggested that this process could include developing a temporary subcommittee to review the bylaws.

Mrs. Sauer moved to approve the draft bylaws as amended. Mr. Gelb seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **3. Election of Co-Chairs**

Ms. Morgan submitted a written nomination to elect Mrs. Nennich and Ms. Edwards as Co-Chairs. Ms. Edwards respectfully declined to be Co-Chair. Mrs. Nennich accepted her nomination. Mr. Gelb nominated Mr. Olson to the Co-Chair position, to which he respectfully declined the nomination. Mrs. Nennich nominated Ms. Billings, to which Ms. Billings accepted her nomination. The question was raised about whether one Co-Chair should represent the government sector and the other Co-Chair should represent the non-government sector. Mrs. Sauer said this was not specified in the bylaws and it was up to the Council to determine their preference on this issue.

Mrs. Sauer made the motion to nominate Debbie Nennich and Judy Billings as Co-Chairs of the Grant County Food Policy Council. Ms. Grijalva seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **4. Local procurement legislation**

The Council discussed the details of Senate Bill 63—proposed state legislation that would require the purchasing division of the State of New Mexico general services department to set a procurement requirement for a minimum percentage of the total dollar amount of food purchased by state agencies and local public bodies to be food produced in New Mexico and requiring a biennial progress report.

Mr. Walden asked what the present percentage is that the State spends on food procurement. Mrs. Sauer referenced a document published by Farm to Table for the 2011 legislative session showing that in fiscal year 2010, the general services department spent \$45,516,264.24 on food-related products and supplies.

Ms. Billings and Ms. Morgan raised the question of who would enforce this bill if adopted in the state legislature. Mrs. Sauer noted that the bill includes provisions for biennial progress reports devised by the State Department of Agriculture and it is not the function of the Food Policy Council to enforce this legislation.

Melvyn said he appreciated that this addressed the loophole of the bill requiring New Mexico producers, and not just offices.

Ms. Edwards noted that in her research and experience, the topic of local food procurement can be controversial. She said to present all facets of the bill to the commissioners including that its passage could potentially add costs to local governments and could add a layer of bureaucracy. Ms. Billings added that passage of the bill may create more work for the government when there isn't another layer of oversight.

Mr. Gelb noted that the advantages of the bill should be noted as well, including that the bill could at least be on the books and implemented. Ms. Warhank commented that the state is supposed to procure locally, but this would help require them to do so. Ms. Edwards said supporting this bill sends a positive message about the goals of this Council, which is to encourage local production. Mr. Olson noted that this could potentially help create small business for New Mexico. Ms. Billings said it could help with food security as well to ensure an emergency food system.

Ms. Billings and Ms. Warhank clarified that endorsing the bill would make the Council proactive and supporting the “whole concept” of local food. They said the details could be left to the legislature to determine and that was not the primary role of the Council.

Ms. Billings made a motion that the Council endorses Senate Bill 63 and moved that the Food Policy Council submit a proposed memorandum and resolution declaring the Grant County Board of Commissioner’s intent to support Senate Bill 63. Mr. Gelb seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Mrs. Sauer will prepare and submit the memorandum and proposed County resolution to the Commission for their approval/disapproval at the February 10 regular County Commission meeting.

## **5. Development of subcommittees**

Mrs. Sauer presented the importance of developing subcommittees so non-Council members can get involved and provide input to the work of the Food Policy Council.

Ms. Warhank recommended a “public education and outreach” subcommittee to further outreach efforts in the community. Ms. Billings concurred and added that this subcommittee could include public education around local food production and ranching. Ms. Edwards added this subcommittee should include what services are available in the community.

Mr. Gelb proposed a “farm to institution” subcommittee. He has heard comments about food served at the Senior Centers, schools and other institutions, and thinks this type of committee could address some institutional food-related issues.

Ms. Edwards suggested one subcommittee work on creating a local marketing campaign for local food products. Carolyn Smith noted that the Green Chamber of Commerce local food committee is working towards this. Mr. Olson said he doesn’t want the Council to duplicate efforts in the community, but rather the Council could be a clearinghouse for existing efforts and coordinate activities. Mr. Gelb suggested that the Southwest Green Chamber of Commerce local food committee, and other groups working on food initiatives, could report to the Council periodically. A suggestion was made that Council members attend other groups’ efforts and have those groups participate or be part of Council subcommittees.

Ms. Billings suggested the Council develop a list of existing groups and individuals currently working on food system-related issues and ideas. Mrs. Sauer said she would compile this list and distribute to members at the next meeting.

## **H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Subcommittees are not organized at this time and therefore no reports were given.

**I. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR(S)**

Ms. Billings suggested that the next meeting begin at 5:15 p.m. rather than 5:00 p.m. to allow some members time to leave work and begin Council meetings on schedule. Council agreed by consensus vote.

**J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

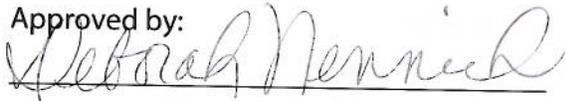
The Council suggested that the Green Chamber of Commerce local food committee be invited to speak at February's meeting.

Ms. Edwards thanked Mrs. Nennich and Ms. Billings for their willingness to serve as Co-Chairs of the Food Policy Council.

**K. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 17, 2011 AT 5:15 P.M.**

Having no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Approved by:



Deborah Nennich, Co-Chair



Judy Billings, Co-Chair

Submitted by:

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Andrea Sauer, Staff