

**Grant County Food Policy Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
 Thursday, April 21, 2011

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A. CALL TO ORDER	Call to order 5:21 p.m.	2
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum†	2-3
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J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL	Discussed	5-6
1. Outsourcing of food service at Cobre schools (A. Grijalva)		
2. Update on commercial kitchens at Grant County Senior Centers (A. Edwards)		
3. Update on County economic development plan and food/agriculture (A. Gutierrez/J. Saari)		
4. Other updates from Council members		
K. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned 7:03 p.m.	6

**Next meeting: June 15, 2011—3-5 p.m. at the Grant County Business and Conference Center, Ft. Bayard Room (east side of building)**

† A QUORUM WAS PRESENT ONLY FOR A PORTION OF THE MEETING (6:10-6:26 P.M.).

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Thursday, April 21, 2011

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Grant County Food Policy Council was called to order by Co-Chair, Mrs. Nennich, on this date at approximately 5:21 p.m. at the Grant County Administration Building, 1400 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061. *Special note: The meeting was held in the front hall due to a room conflict with the Commissioner Board Room (another meeting went over and room was not available for the Food Policy Council. Therefore, the meeting was not filmed by the Community Access Television Station-CATS).*

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated a quorum<sup>1</sup> was not present to conduct official business for the majority of the meeting. However, a quorum was present from 6:10-6:26 p.m. at which time the Council voted to approve specific agenda items:

Members Present

Judy Billings  
Alicia Edwards  
Deborah Nennich  
Genevieve Morgan  
Melvyn Gelb  
Sylvia Mendez-Lopez  
Richard Olson\*  
Jon Saari\* (late)  
Anthony Gutierrez\* (late)

Members Absent

Alma Grijalva (excused)  
J.J. Dabbs (excused)  
Brandi Warhank\* (excused)  
Pete Walden\* (excused)

Staff Present

Andrea Sauer

Others Present

Huetoeft Lopez + kids  
Roberta Trujillo, HKHC assistant

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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.

Ed Greenberg, community member  
Steve Nienhaus, Mimbres Farmers' Market  
Lorraine Walter, community member  
Staff member from the Gila Beat (online newspaper)

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Members did not have a quorum present at the time of voting and agreed the agenda was acceptable to proceed. At 6:10 p.m., a quorum was present. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gelb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Members did not have a quorum present at the time of voting and agreed to table approving the minutes until a quorum was present. At 6:10 p.m., a quorum was present. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 17 and March 17. Melvyn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**E. PUBLIC INPUT**

Steve Nienhaus announced that the Mimbres Farmers' Market will open on May 5 at a new location, the Mimbres Round Up Lodge. The market will be 4:30-6:30 p.m. every Thursday, with the first Thursday of the month including arts and crafts. The Mimbres Farmers' Market website is: [mimbresvalleyfarmersmarket.blogspot.com](http://mimbresvalleyfarmersmarket.blogspot.com). Information will also be advertised in the Mimbres Messenger. Mrs. Nennich offered to distribute information about the Mimbres Farmers' Market at the W & N main office off Highway 180. The sponsors of the Mimbres Farmers' Market are the Round Up Lodge, Mimbres Valley Health Action League, and The Volunteer Center.

Ed Greenberg informed the Council of Casa de la Cultura's family garden project. He is exploring hydroponics and a greenhouse in Santa Clara to grow food locally.

Lorraine Walter was pleased the Council existed and mentioned her involvement with a church garden in Ventura County, California, that grew food for low-income families.

**F. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Sauer provided several updates and announcements:

- Email from Pam Roy: SB 63 and associated bill SB 19 passed all State committees and the legislature, but were vetoed by the governor. Council could play a role in future legislative sessions to advocate for bills pertaining to food and agriculture.
- Request for assistance from the County was accepted in part. Beginning in May, future Food Policy Council agendas and archived agenda and minutes will be posted on the County website rather than the HKHC website.

- Roberta Trujillo is the new project assistant for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities and may also assist the Food Policy Council as needed.
- The local food infrastructure survey conducted by the Green Chamber of Commerce sheds light on the gaps and opportunities to expand local food systems. Specifically, the survey found that a wide variety of commercial kitchens could potentially be made available across Grant County. The survey also determined possible site locations for cold storage facilities in the Silver City area. Mrs. Sauer will post a brief report and the maps on the HKHC website: [www.grantcountyhealthykidshealthycommunities.org](http://www.grantcountyhealthykidshealthycommunities.org)
- Farmers' markets will be opening soon in Grant County. Contact Roberta for a list of farmers' markets locations, days, and times, or refer to the HKHC website in May. Also we are working with the markets to set up EBT machines to accept SNAP benefits, and most markets do accept WIC and Senior Nutrition Program Checks.

## G. BUSINESS

- 1. Food Policy Council subcommittees:** The Council reviewed the Subcommittee matrix and determined to proceed with setting up initial meetings for each group as soon as possible. Council members suggested setting up a blogspot for each subcommittee, filming subcommittee meetings for CATS, submitting newspaper articles, and going on the Morning Show. Mrs. Sauer will investigate these suggestions. Ms. Edwards asked to be removed from the "institution" subcommittee and added to the "economic development" subcommittee.
- 2. Future dates and times for Food Policy Council meetings:** Council discussed alternative meetings times and dates, such as moving to a quarterly schedule rather than the current month-to-month. Ms. Edwards noted that four meetings per year may not be enough to reach the community; Mr. Lopez concurred. *[At this time (6:10 p.m.), Mr. Gutierrez arrived and a quorum was present. The Council briefly passed motions to approve the agenda and minutes, and returned to this agenda item].* Mr. Olson made a motion to meet quarterly starting in June 2011 with an option of having special meeting inbetween months if necessary. Ms. Edwards did not approve on the grounds that quarterly meetings are too few to reach the community, and the vote did not pass by consensus and was nullified.

The Council discussed their options again. Mr. Gutierrez suggested the Council meet during the day. Mr. Saari said that if the Council met 3-5 p.m., the County could possibly provide someone to take minutes. Ms. Morgan said meeting later in the day would be easier for farmers to attend during the growing season. Ms. Billings cannot meet the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays. Based on this discussion, Mrs. Nennich called for a second vote. Ms. Edwards made the motion to change the regular Council meetings to June 15 and August 10 rather than every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, and re-evaluate the

schedule at the August 10 meeting. Mr. Gelb seconded and the motion passed unanimously. *[At this time (6:26 p.m.), Mr. Gutierrez exited the meeting and quorum was no longer present for the remainder of the meeting.]*

#### **H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

#### **I. ITEMS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS**

Mrs. Nennich announced that the Viva New Mexico Grocer program will be starting in June at the Silver City Food Basket. This is an initiative of Hidalgo Medical Services and the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities program in partnership with W & N Enterprises. The month of June will feature a Heart Healthy Breakfast and the HMS La Vida program will give discounts on featured fruits and vegetables. There will also be periodic cooking demonstrations. For more information, contact Debbie Smith at HMS.

Flyers for Nancy Jean's community supported agriculture (CSA) are available at W & N Enterprises, or people can contact Nancy directly: 313-6883 or [hamlett83@yahoo.com](mailto:hamlett83@yahoo.com)

#### **J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

1. **Outsourcing of food service at Cobre schools** (A. Grijalva). Ms. Grijalva was not present, so Mrs. Sauer informed the Council that the Cobre Consolidated School District is considering outsourcing its food program to an outside company next year. This decision will be voted on at the April 26 Cobre school board meeting at 7 p.m. Mrs. Sauer will send an email to the Council about the exact time, location, and logistics of the meeting and encourage residents to let the School Board know their thoughts about this issue. Mr. Saari commented that Summit Foods is the contractor for the County jail, and they keep things "local" by hiring local staff. The jail prepares roughly 300 meals a day. Mr. Saari noted that state food procurement regulations are a barrier and he has to look at bottom line costs.
2. **Update on commercial kitchens at Grant County Senior Centers** (A. Edwards). Ms. Edwards met with Mr. Saari and Commissioner Miller. They are still working on the anti-donation and insurance issues associated with using Senior Center kitchens. They are figuring out how to get around these issues to off-set costs and fair market value equivalents to justify an exemption to the anti-donation clause. The County attorney is also looking into this.
3. **Update on County economic development plan and food/agriculture** (A. Gutierrez/J. Saari). Mr. Saari announced the County has a master economic development plan and will be exploring infrastructure needed. Related to this effort, the Gila-San Francisco water commission agreed to create a larger distribution system in the Mining District to the tune of \$33 million a year. The

proposal will create a reservoir in the Twin Peaks area to provide more water for Santa Clara.

4. **Other updates from Council members:**

- Ms. Edwards updated the Council on EBT machines at the farmers' markets. The Income Support Division will put promotional materials at their offices. All farmers' markets in Grant County are members of the New Mexico Farmers' Market Association, except the Gila Growers' Market. The Volunteer Center is setting up one bank account to manage EBT for all the markets (except Gila) and create EBT tokens that could be used at each market. Each market manager will be responsible for the EBT machine on site, but The Volunteer Center will handle the bookkeeping. Ms. Edwards will be meeting with the markets on April 25 to discuss this model. There is also interest in accepting debit cards at the markets. Mrs. Nennich offered Mr. Nennich's assistance with figuring out the logistics. There is less money this year in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program, so fewer seniors may be attending markets.
- Mr. Olson said all funding has been cut for Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils. The Black Range RC& D will be dissolved, but he can continue his job exclusively through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mr. Olson will continue working on projects like the Cron ranch and providing info on NRCS programs.
- Ms. Morgan said ATTRA funding was also cut.

**K. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING: JUNE 15, 2011 AT 3 P.M.**

Having no further business to discuss, Ms. Billings made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Grant County Food Policy Council approved these minutes on August 10, 2011.

**Submitted by:**

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Andrea Sauer, Staff