

**Grant County Food Policy Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
 Wednesday, August 10, 2011

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE(S)
A. CALL TO ORDER	Called to order 3:07 p.m.	2
B. ROLL CALL	Quorum	2
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	3
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- <i>April 21 and June 15, 2011</i>	Approved/Tabled	3
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F. BUSINESS		4-6
1. Appointment of Alicia Edwards and Susan Wilger as co-chairpersons of the economic development subcommittee	Tabled	4
2. Proposed change in quorum requirements in FPC bylaws (M. Gelb)	Approved	4
3. Discussion of purpose and mission of the FPC (A. Edwards and A. Gutierrez)	Tabled	4
4. Future schedule for regular Food Policy Council meetings	Approved	5
5. Vision for sustainable agriculture at Faywood Hot Springs (Louis Baum)	Discussed	5-6
G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS		
1. Economic development	Discussed	6
2. Farm to Institution	Discussed	6-7
H. ITEMS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS	None	7
I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL	Discussed	7
J. PUBLIC INPUT	Discussed	7-8
K. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned 4:48 p.m.	8

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 6, from 3-5 p.m.**  
**at the Grant County Administration Center**

**Grant County Food Policy Council**  
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Wednesday, August 10, 2011

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Grant County Food Policy Council was called to order by Alicia Edwards on this date at approximately 3:07 p.m. at the Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061. At this time, Ms. Edwards reminded the Council that they are a County advisory body, that they abide by adopted procedures and guiding principles, and to follow the agenda in regards to public input.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated a quorum<sup>1</sup> was present to conduct official business for the meeting.

Members Present

Genevieve Morgan  
Melvyn Gelb  
Sylvia Mendez-Lopez  
Alma Grijalva  
J.J. Dabbs  
Brandi Warhank\*  
Pete Walden\*  
Alicia Edwards  
Randy Hernandez (proxy for Jon Saari)\*

Members Absent

Deborah Nennich (excused)  
Jon Saari\* (excused)  
Richard Olson\* (excused)  
Anthony Gutierrez\*

Staff Present

Andrea Sauer

Others Present

Commissioner Miller  
Louis Baum (guest speaker)  
Members of the public (approx. 5)  
Silver City Daily Press

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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.

### **C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Edwards asked Mr. Baum to do his presentation at the end of item F; Mr. Baum accepted. Ms. Mendez-Lopez asked to also present items for discussion under Item F. Ms. Warhank made a motion to approve the agenda with proposed changes. Mr. Gelb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Mendez-Lopez read comments she would like added to the June 15 minutes. She will send these changes in writing to staff to distribute to the Council for approval/disapproval at the next regular meeting. Ms. Warhank moved to table the June 15 minutes so the Council has a chance to review and discuss on September 6. Ms. Grijalva seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dabbs made a motion to approve the minutes from April 21. Ms. Warhank seconded and the motion passed through unanimous vote.

### **E. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Sauer provided updates:

- FMPP grant: An email quorum passed and Mrs. Sauer drafted a letter of support for the USDA farmers' market promotion program grant, signed and submitted by Council Co-Chair, Debbie Nennich. If awarded, the FMPP grant would provide technical assistance, training, planning, and some small infrastructure for local farmers' markets to encourage the expansion of local agriculture and sales.
- Staff development: Mrs. Sauer is accepting applications for a one year full-time AmeriCorps position to staff the Council, assist with its subcommittees, and provide support to local agriculture and healthy food initiatives beginning September 2011. Anyone interested in applying should contact her for details: (575) 388-1198 x 14 or [asauer@grmc.org](mailto:asauer@grmc.org).
- Mark Winne: The Grant County Fitness and Nutrition Community Action Group and Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities received a grant to bring Mark Winne to Grant County in October. The dates for his visit are October 4-5. Mr. Winne is an expert in Food Policy Councils and local food systems development. With him will be Pam Roy, executive director of Farm to Table and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council. Mrs. Sauer would like to organize a special session of the Food Policy Council led by Mark Winne and Pam Roy, executive director of Farm to Table, to provide training, resources, and capacity building to the Food Policy Council. After some discussion, the Council scheduled a special meeting from 10 a.m.-noon on October 5 with Mr. Winne and Ms. Roy.

- Council photograph: Immediately following the meeting, Mrs. Sauer will be taking a photograph of the Council for the County website: [www.grantcountynm.org/food](http://www.grantcountynm.org/food).

## **F. BUSINESS**

1. Appointment of Alicia Edwards and Susan Wilger as co-chairpersons of the economic development subcommittee: Item was tabled because Mrs. Nennich was not present.

2. Proposed change in quorum requirements in FPC bylaws (M. Gelb and S. Mendez-Mendez-Lopez): Mr. Gelb explained the Council has had difficulty meeting the quorum requirements. He proposed that a quorum be a simple majority (7 members from any sector). Ms. Mendez-Lopez noted that there are other ways to make decisions such as an email quorum. Ms. Edwards asked Ms. Mendez-Lopez if she is comfortable with simple majority, and Ms. Mendez-Lopez said yes. Mr. Hernandez, proxy for Mr. Saari, noted that a change in quorum rules could only be done by amending the original Food Policy Council resolution; but the FPC could vote to propose the change to the Commissioners for consideration. Mr. Gelb made the motion to amend the bylaws pending approval and amendment to Item F: Meetings in the original resolution by the County Commission; Ms. Morgan seconded. Discussion: Ms. Mendez-Lopez asked if majority could be comprised of government sector. Ms. Edwards explained that if amended to a simple majority, the quorum could be any combination of government or non-government members as long as at least seven members are present.

Ms. Mendez-Lopez read proposed language she wanted added to the FPC bylaws regarding disorderly conduct, use of police, and "racist" remarks. She will send Mrs. Sauer her proposed language with page numbers and sections where it would be included.

Ms. Mendez-Lopez asked if the time for public input could be extended beyond five minutes. Mr. Hernandez asked Ms. Mendez-Lopez to draft the language and send to Mrs. Sauer for distribution to the Council. Genevieve asked if there was a public input sign-up sheet at each meeting; there is not currently a sign-up sheet.

Ms. Mendez-Lopez asked that there not be a limit to regular business items from non-Council members who have been asked to be placed on the agenda. Ms. Mendez-Lopez asked clarification about whether time limits were in the bylaws. Mr. Hernandez noted that the Council follows the procedures of the County, which generally limits time given for public input and is up to discretion of the Co-Chair. Mr. Gelb asked for clarification about five minute time limit, and noted that the time limits currently outlined are reasonable. If the non-Council members need more time, the Council can ask them to be put on the next agenda.

Ms. Edwards reiterated that Ms. Mendez-Lopez outline the changes in writing, send it to Mrs. Sauer, and distribute to the Council for discussion at the next meeting.

3. Discussion of purpose and mission of the FPC (A. Edwards and A. Gutierrez): Tabled because Mr. Gutierrez was not present.

4. Future schedule for regular Food Policy Council meetings: October 5 will be a special Food Policy Council meeting with Mark Winne. Ms. Edwards recalled that two summer meetings were scheduled at the April 21 Council meeting. Mr. Gelb said the 3-5 p.m. worked because it accommodated most people's schedules. Ms. Morgan suggested bi-monthly meetings for future meetings. Mr. Gelb agreed, but noted there is a special meeting October 5. Ms. Mendez-Lopez does not want to meet less than 6 times a year. Ms. Warhank noted her challenges with scheduling and said she would like the meetings to be consistent in time, date, place, etc. Mr. Walden suggested the first Tuesday of every other month from 3-5 p.m. Ms. Warhank suggested starting this schedule in September. Ms. Morgan noted the FPC advisory subcommittee meets at that time; but she said they could probably reschedule that. Mr. Hernandez noted that the first Tuesday is fine for use of the County Commission room as long as meeting ended promptly at 5 p.m. with clean up immediately following. Ms. Morgan motioned for the Food Policy Council to schedule their regular meetings on a permanent bi-monthly schedule, the first Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Mr. Walden seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Vision for sustainable agriculture at Faywood Hot Springs (Louis Baum): Mr. Baum presented his project proposal for Faywood Hot Springs to the Council, which is to revitalize the property to become a sustainable agri-tourism operation. The project has been in the works since the mines closed in 2009. The Faywood property is 1,280 acres with multiple uses, available facilities, plenty of water, and room for expansion. He noted that the City of Bayard is wasting 5,000 gallons of water per day at the wastewater treatment plant, and that this could be purified and repurposed for agriculture. Mr. Baum has talked to many individuals about his vision including County government, NMSU, and USDA. The current sale price of the property is \$1,800,000. Mr. Baum distributed a report conducted by doctoral students at New Mexico State University in December 2010. The report includes financial forecasts for proposed project operations such as a winery, a vineyard, a fish farm, and greenhouses. He noted that only the vineyard would initially lose money, but that everything else would be profitable with an estimated \$1 million a year in gross profit. The Faywood operation would initially employ 45 people, but could employ over 200. He believes it would help our economy and wants more stability than the mining industry in our area to help stabilize revenue and provide jobs.

Ms. Morgan asked who owns the land currently. Mr. Baum said the property has been vacant since July 2007, and that there have been some prospects but so far not purchases made. People are interested in the hot springs mostly; his proposal would utilize the whole property. [Mr. Baum passed out the summary and financials to Council members at this time].

Mr. Gelb asked about profitability before 2007; Mr. Baum said it was about \$280,000 in revenue. NM State doctoral program walked the property and worked on the project for a semester and completed it in 2010, which is why they started financials in 2011. He asked for the Council's support in putting this proposal together. His cell is (575) 313-5767. He is currently in the process of approaching investors. The current owner is not interested in being part of the project. He thanked the Council.

Mr. Gelb asked if this is a project for the economic development subcommittee; Alicia said she could approach the subcommittee with his proposal to see how they could assist.

[Mr. Walden left the meeting at this time].

Ms. Morgan said that there are many projects like this and she thanked Mr. Baum for presenting it. Ms. Edwards said it has a lot of potential as an agricultural project. Ms. Morgan asked about NMSU's continued involvement; Mr. Baum said it was a one-time report, but Ms. Edwards suggested that maybe a partnership could be sustained, perhaps through the proposed Small Farm Institute.

## **G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Economic development – Ms. Edwards said they have met twice and are still discussing the role and activities of the subcommittee. They are forming a strategy to guide their development. They have discussed local capital, local investors for priority areas identified through HKHC assessment (cold storage and other infrastructure), and investigating grants. They want to be a clearinghouse for projects in the County related to food and agriculture, such as SET and the County economic development master plan.
- Farm to Institution – Mr. Gelb noted they have met once so far. Mr. Gelb met with Mr. Trujillo, director of County Senior Services, and Mr. Trujillo indicated his interest in purchasing local food (they already use a couple of local people for small amounts). The County serves seniors 270-300 lunches a day, which may or may not include meals on wheels program. The barriers are County contracts with Shamrock Foods. Mr. Gelb read an email from Mr. Saari regarding local procurement, which explained that the County doesn't need quotes for orders under \$500. Therefore, Mr. Gelb said it's just a question if a provider wants to provide for the County, they should talk to Mr. Zamora (county procurement officer) and submit a W-9. Mr. Dabbs sent Mr. Gelb an email asking how much food was prepared versus from scratch at senior centers; Mr. Gelb said they make up meal plans in advance and he can find out more than. He noted the economic benefits and health benefits of local purchasing.

Mr. Gelb does not have another meeting set, but he plans to soon to discuss a local purchasing preference policy.

Mr. Gelb asked Mrs. Sauer to give an update on the Farm to School project. Mrs. Sauer said organized a pilot project with Silver and Cobre Consolidated Schools to purchase local produce for the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program the week of September 19, 2011. The project will purchase local tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and lettuce for 1,800 kids total at six different Elementary schools across Grant

County. Mrs. Sauer asked anyone who would like to help to notify her. Ms. Warhank said she would like to help at Bayard Elementary; Ms. Edwards would like to help at Sixth Street Elementary. Organizing the project exposed several barriers including the lack of cold storage, transportation/distribution issues, lack of a “middleman” to communicate between the farmers and schools, costs, and quantities of product needed to supply the schools regularly. If the project goes well this Fall, there is a possibility to do it again in Spring 2012 or initiate a longer-term Farm to School program.

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

Co-Chair, Mrs. Nennich, was not present therefore no updates were given.

#### **I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

- Mr. Dabbs will be attending a carbon series workshop where Joel Salatin will be the guest speaker. The topic will be supporting local agriculture. Mr. Dabbs will be speaking about this at the Co-op community forum in October, tentatively October 11 and 13.
- Mr. Dabbs asked that he be placed on the next meeting agenda to discuss local food sovereignty ordinances. He mentioned a private food club in Los Angeles was raided for certain items they were selling, and said we need to stand up for our food rights. He noted several communities that have proposed local ordinances to support cottage industries and supporting small business, such as what they’ve passed in Maine; may be something we could consider to put that forth to the County Commission. Mr. Gelb said he would be interested in that. He suggested we’ve looked at examples possibly at the next meeting. Ms. Edwards suggested adding it to the policy subcommittee.
- Ms. Mendez-Lopez suggested that Rachel Bighley give a presentation at the next meeting to follow up on her recent Co-op community forum talk entitled, “Where do we get our protein”. The Council also suggested that the public education and outreach subcommittee organize a community event for Rachel, as her presentation time would be limited at a regular Council meeting.
- Mr. Hernandez noted that the County Commissioners will be appointing a member tomorrow (in the regular commission meeting at 9 a.m. Alicia asked Randy to clarify appointment process. He said it’s on the business agenda, and they will look at applicants. If applicants are here they may call on them. They were discussed at the last work session.

#### **J. PUBLIC INPUT**

- Susan Almon agreed with Ms. Mendez-Lopez’s point about the language; she wants to allow for diversity and wants to draw up a list of acceptable terms and names. She suggested that there not be a five minute time limit to allow for more ideas from the public. She wanted the school program to be seasonal and the

schools to be aware of that; she eats seasonally. She suggested the children be part of seasonally gleaning in the neighborhoods as part of the school lunch program. She wants to work with the University students as well. She suggested meeting times be on Monday nights.

- Huetotl Mendez-Lopez thanked the Council for everything that has resolved between the last Council and now to move forward. He was disappointed that Judy Billings resigned. Regarding the Commission appointment: he wants to see many different perspectives from a rancher that may be appointed. He is always going to come back to the table because they have a personal stake with small children and as members of the community. He and Ms. Mendez-Lopez are passionate about education around a milk and meat-based diet and what it does to the human condition. He is going to try to incorporate education and professional information for people about alternative sources of protein. He was disappointed in so much meat in the school lunch program. Ms. Mendez-Lopez distributed an article about moderation. He thanked the Council for being patient with him and Ms. Mendez-Lopez. He wanted to thank Mrs. Sauer and Ms. Grijalva for organizing the Farm to School project and would like to help out.
- Ms. Morgan asked how the Co-Chair election process would work; Alicia noted this was tabled and to be thinking about it for the next meeting.

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, Ms. Edwards adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

The Grant County Food Policy Council approved these minutes by unanimous vote (one abstention from Ms. Smith) on September 6, 2011.

#### **Submitted by:**

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Andrea Sauer, Staff