

Grant County Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE(S)
A. CALL TO ORDER	Call to order 3:03 p.m.	2
B. ROLL CALL	No Quorum	2
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Discussed	3
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Tabled	3
E. PUBLIC INPUT	Discussed	3-4
F. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS	Discussed	3-4
G. BUSINESS		5
1. Update on Deming meat processing & packing facility (Jon and Susie Eickhoff)	Discussed	5
2. Proposed change in FPC bylaws (M. Gelb)	Tabled	5
H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS	Discussed	5-6
I. ITEMS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS	Discussed	6
J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL	None	6
K. ADJOURNMENT	Adjourned 4:48 p.m.	6

Next meeting: August 10, 2011—3-5 p.m. at the Grant County Administration Center

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Wednesday, June 15, 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 3:03 p.m. at the Grant County Business and Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East, Silver City, NM 88061.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated a quorum¹ was not present to conduct official business for the meeting.

Members Present

Judy Billings
Deborah Nennich
Genevieve Morgan (late)
Melvyn Gelb
Sylvia Mendez-Lopez (late)
Anthony Gutierrez*
Alma Grijalva
J.J. Dabbs

Members Absent

Brandi Warhank* (excused)
Alicia Edwards (excused)
Jon Saari* (excused)
Richard Olson* (excused)
Pete Walden*

Staff Present

Andrea Sauer

Others Present

Randy Hernandez (proxy for Jon Saari via text message to Council Co-Chairs during the mtg.)
Jon Eickhoff (rancher)
Susie Eickhoff (rancher)
Huetotl Lopez (late)
Alisha Esquivel

¹ 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

Members did not have a quorum present at the time of voting and no action could be taken. However the remaining members decided to proceed with the non-action items. The Co-Chairs requested to switch Business Item Nos. 1 & 2 so that the Deming meat processing and packing facility would go first during the Business part of the agenda.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members did not have a quorum present for the meeting. Therefore, no action was taken. The minutes for April 21, 2011 would be placed on the next agenda.

E. PUBLIC INPUT

See Public Input (2) below.

F. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Sauer provided updates:

- Update from 4/21 meeting: The Volunteer Center set up a Grant County Farmers' Market Association including the markets in Silver City, Mimbres, and Bayard. This structure enables each market to use EBT machines in order to accept SNAP (formerly food stamps) as a form of payment. In addition to accepting SNAP, the Silver City, Mimbres, and Bayard Farmers' Markets all accept WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers as well.
- HMS Viva NM Grocery Program: Started June 1 and will continue throughout the summer at the Bayard and Silver City Food Baskets. The program includes free food demonstrations, displays of healthy food options, and a free brochure of "heart healthy items" throughout the store. Mrs. Nennich said the "colorful quesadillas" cooking demo went well. Mr. Gelb asked about discount coupons for produce and will follow up on this. Contact Debbie Smith, RD at Hidalgo Medical Services for more information.
- FPC on the web: The Food Policy Council now has a permanent link on the County website. Approved minutes, agendas, videos, resources, announcements, and anything else pertaining to the FPC will now be posted on the County website not HKHC's website. The link is: www.grantcountynm.org/food. Mrs. Sauer would like the Council to take a photo at the next meeting, August 10, for the website.
- Staff development: Mrs. Sauer spoke with Commissioner Miller and Jon Saari about progress of the FPC and a possible match for a FT AmeriCorps staff member starting this Fall. Commissioner Miller requested that I give the Commission an update on Council activities soon.

- Mrs. Sauer recently spoke on a panel about Food Policy Council's at the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities grantee conference in early June. On the panel was FPC expert, Mark Winne. Would the FPC be interested in bringing Mark Winne to Grant County for a community training, and if so, would the Council be interested in submitting a Community Enhancement Fund proposal? Contact Mrs. Sauer if you are interested in helping write the proposal.
- Committee development:
 - 4 of 6 met since the 4/21 FPC meeting:
 - 1) Farm to Institution
 - 2) Economic Development
 - 3) Advisory Committee
 - 4) Public Outreach and Education
 - No response for Local Food Marketing Campaign and Food Producers.
 - Outreach included: Ads in Glenwood Gazette, Daily Press, and on the radio and Roberta contacted those who signed up or said they were interested in joining a committee.
 - Mrs. Sauer asked the Council how she should proceed with the subcommittees. Mr. Dabbs asked Mrs. Sauer to create a contact list for subcommittee members to distribute to the Council.

Genevieve Morgan, Sylvia Mendez-Lopez, and Huetoetl Lopez came into meeting late. Huetoetl Lopez asked the Council to return to the public input. After discussion from the Co-Chairs, they allowed public input.

PUBLIC INPUT (2)

Mr. Lopez apologized for being late and wanted to know why Food Council Meeting was not held at the Grant County Commission Room. Then he referenced Business Item No. 2 (Deming Meat Packing) and went on to say the idea of a meat processing center in Grant County would not be a good idea for environmental concerns, public health, land use, and water use. He asked the Council to consider costs of creating jobs vs. affects on the environment and health. He asked whether the meat processing facility would be for grass-fed beef or conventionally-raised meat. He then gave supporting reasons why red meat is bad for you. Mrs. Nennich said it was recommended by a doctor to eat red meat in moderation and she didn't think that all of America was going to cut out all meat and milk from their diets. Mrs. Lopez suggested having fields of greens instead of a meat processing center. Mrs. Nennich suggested tabling the discussion for the public outreach and education committee to consider further. Discussion continued and began to become hostile between Mr. Lopez and Council member Melvyn Gelb. Mrs. Nennich then called for a short break and Co-Chair Ms. Billings left the meeting (time unknown).

G. BUSINESS

1. Mr. Eickhoff updated the Council on a meat processing facility. The location is still up for grabs; it may not be in Deming but probably Doña Ana County (or another central location). The mobile montanza idea was put on the back burner due to financial feasibility. Instead, the Eickhoffs are exploring the NMSU Meat Lab with Nick Peterson. Mr. Peterson put paperwork into USDA but they have been slow to respond. Barring opposition from NMSU and USDA, the facility may be available by December 2011. A veterinarian has been identified and labels have been approved. They are looking for political support at the County, State, and Federal level. NMSU has a livestock program, and the facility currently only processes animals that are raised at the University.

Council members proceeded to ask questions about the project. Mr. Dabbs asked if ranchers were expressing interest and need for this facility. Mr. Eickhoff said yes, and that it would be direct sales and retail sales. The average rancher is being priced out of the market. Mr. Gelb brought up concerns about hidden costs, and how it's difficult to compete with meat processed and raised locally. Mrs. Nennich said for some people low cost is not the bottom line. Mr. Dabbs said that model is on the way out, people are becoming more educated about hidden costs. Mr. Dabbs suggested exploring farm shares or another model to get meat to people. Mr. Eickhoff noted that they are raising a small herd of Creolollo cattle: a desert-adapted, smaller breed that uses less water and is easier on local ecology because of smaller footprint and leaner meat. Mrs. Lopez asked how much water it takes to raise a pound of beef.

2. Bylaws tabled until August 10 meeting.

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Economic development – Anthony Gutierrez announced the County has a master economic development plan and grant monies are available.
- Farm to Institution – Melvyn Gelb gave a brief update on this subcommittee and stated that it would be beneficial to identify companies/entities (Detention Center, Hospital, Schools, etc.) that would give preference to local producers. Melvyn will talk to Terry Trujillo about senior centers. Kristin Haggerman will investigate GRMC. No next meeting scheduled. Doug is investigating the role of the Green Chamber and county vs. state policy for local food procurement.
- Public Outreach and Education – No Committee members were present. Mr. Dabbs, and Mr. and Mrs. Lopez expressed interest in being on this committee.
- Advisory Committee (This item was added by Co-Chair, Mrs. Nennich) – Ms. Morgan stated that the Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 4-5:30 at the

Co-op meeting room. Farm2Chef Challenge date set September 10 at the Silver City Farmers' Market. Ms. Morgan asked for ideas for chefs. Ms. Smith is compiling a list of local growers, which is project that could be handed off to producers committee. Susan Wilger is writing FMPP grant with assistance from some members of advisory committee. Ms. Morgan requested that the letter of the support for the grant. Council agreed and Mrs. Sauer will send a formal voting request via email to Council members.

I. ITEMS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Mrs. Nennich noted a community forum will be offered about sugar-sweetened beverages on June 23, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Grant County Business and Conference Center. Also, the next display for the Viva NM Grocery program at the Food Baskets will be a "healthy picnic" in July, and there will be a free cooking demonstration on July 9 at both stores.

J. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

No items mentioned.

K. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 10, 2011 AT 3 P.M.

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

The Grant County Food Policy Council approved these minutes by a two-thirds majority vote on September 6, 2011.

Submitted by:

Andrea Sauer

Andrea Sauer, Staff