

**Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC)  
Community Economic Development (CED) Working Group Orientation Session  
Draft Minutes  
Polk County Convention Centre  
October 11, 2009**

This meeting was convened by Ken Meter, co-chair of the working group. Minutes were prepared by Katherine Pigott, co-chair of the working group.

A list of participants can be found below.

***1. Welcome***

Katherine Pigott welcomed everyone to the orientation session for the CED Orientation Session. Katherine serves on the Steering Committee of Food Secure Canada which promotes food security in Canada and internationally. Ken Meter also extended a warm welcome to everyone.

***2. Definition of Community Economic Development***

Ken Meter gave a brief definition of community economic development. By "community economic development," we mean development that is centered on building strong communities, not simply a concern for the bottom line. This is often a goal of community-based food networks that strive to create health, wealth, connection and capacity in their locale. CED may emerge out of sustainability planning, or carbon-emission reduction initiatives, or "triple bottom line" accounting. It may arise naturally as cultural groups establish a stronger sense of building economic presence.

***3. Background***

This orientation session is the third time a group has come together to discuss ways to further community economic development under the umbrella of the Community Food Security Coalition. Previous meetings were held at CFSC conferences in Vancouver (2006) and Cherry Hill, New Jersey (2008). Many have shown enthusiasm for this idea. However, we need to find committed volunteers and resources to make this happen.

***4. Issues that could be addressed by a CFSC CED Committee***

Participants were asked what issues could be addressed through a CFSC CED Committee. The following ideas were put forward.

*Measuring the Economic Impact of the Local Food Economy*

- There is a need to track the economic impact of the food localization efforts over time.
- Need indicators to track progress (indicators must be timely and not be resource intensive)
- Communities need funding, capacity, resources and expertise to do above
- Extension services could help develop systems to do this work
- U. S. Census of Agriculture could be encouraged to track direct farmer-to-consumer sales in greater detail (e.g., via farmers markets) every five years
- A CED Committee could send a letter to the Agricultural Census to ask for more local data to help CED efforts. This could be done with some minor adjustments to existing data collection protocols
- Farmers are compelled to take part in the census
- The USDA used to track fruit and vegetable shipments through food terminals in the US
- Bar codes that track the origins of specific food items are already in place in England
- Lobby for new data sets to help measure the local food economy; this will minimize the need to extrapolate
- There are some ways to determine local production and consumption of food now. Co-ops are likely to track the origin of the food they sell. You can also look at the number of community shared agriculture programs and farmers' markets

*Development Pressure and Agriculture*

- We need solid economic arguments that show that preserving agricultural land for food production has economic benefits. How can we argue that converting agricultural land for housing or industrial development isn't always the best economic decision?

*Effective Scale-Up Strategies*

- Farmers' markets are successful distribution points for local food. There are many hurdles as we experiment with other distribution points.

*Consult Farmers*

- What barriers and challenges are farmers facing as they try to get involved in food localization efforts? This Committee needs to hear from them.
- Many farmers are not making money. There is lack of food security in farm country.

*Attraction and Retention Strategies*

- Local food economy has potential to complement economic development attraction and retention strategies
- Need to look at local food as an import substitution strategy

- Grand Rapids Michigan has done a study on the multiplier effect of local food

#### *Spreading the Word and Building Capacity*

- We need to bring other sectors into the fold. For example, we need to seek buy in from economic development extension officials, chambers of commerce, rural county economic development officials and other economic development officials
- How can we build local capacity (e.g. Chamber of Commerce to respond to food and economy issues. (This would allow smaller communities to by pass larger systems)

#### *Compelling stories*

- We need to create and share compelling stories. A representative from the Virginia Co-operative Extension shared a Virginia based example. If each household in Virginia, spent \$10.00 a week on local food this would inject \$1.65 billion each year into the Virginia economy. This is roughly the equivalent of treatment the health costs related to obesity in Virginia annually.

#### *Environmental Constraints*

- Need to link development of the local food economy to peak oil and pending water shortages. It would be helpful to have access to models that will show which regions will be most affected by water shortages. It would be also helpful to know what sort of increase in the price of oil (used for transportation of food) will start to make local food processing attractive again. It would also be helpful to understand the effect on the local food economy if the cost of oil goes up to \$10 a gallon
- How could we develop a protocol for local food that is modeled on the LEED program?

#### *Local Food Procurement*

- Awareness needs to be raised concerning the economic potential of food procurement and technical assistance in this area would be most helpful. (Food procurement refers to strategies to encourage large larger institutions (hospitals, universities and colleges, schools, and municipal governments etc) to purchase local foods

#### *Urban Agriculture*

- Promote urban agriculture and its potential to support economic development and work force development in de-industrializing cities (e.g. Flint, Michigan)
- Some of these de-industrializing cities are well suited for urban agriculture as water mains are in place under ground
- SPIN Agriculture (Small Plot Intensive Farming) is technique that allows farmers to grow vegetables on plots less than 1 acre and has been used in successfully in

cities such as Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and is taking hold internationally ([www.spinfarming.com](http://www.spinfarming.com))

## **5. Next Steps**

- Many interesting and relevant studies and examples of food and economic development were shared during the session. Ken Meter asked that these be sent to him at [kmeter@crcworks.org](mailto:kmeter@crcworks.org). He will then post them on the website. The website address is [crcworks.org/cfscCED.html](http://crcworks.org/cfscCED.html)
- Interested participants were invited to attend the session on October 12<sup>th</sup> that would more formally discuss forming a CFSC CED Committee.

### **Partial List of Attendees (85 participants were counted):**

Ken Meter, co-chair  
Katherine Pigott, co-chair  
David Abazs, LAPS Assessment  
Scott Allegrucci, Local Burger (Lawrence, Kansas)  
Bria Anderson, FoodLink (Rochester, Minnesota)  
JuliAnna Arnett  
Bahia Barry, Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative  
Janet Bearden, Madison Cannery Project  
Eric Bendfeldt, University of Vermont  
Richard Berkfield, Post-Oil Solutions  
Bradley Bobbitt, RARE / Americorps  
Patty Bruder  
Thomas Burkhead, Drake University  
Steve Cohen, City of Portland  
Ashley Colpaart, Tufts University  
Chris Corbin, Story County Planning and Zoning, Iowa  
Carol Coren, Rutgers Food Innovation Center; Cornerstone Consultants  
Julie Dodds, Greentown  
Sarah Eichberger, Heartland Alliance Refugee Health  
Becky Elias, City Seed / New Haven Food Policy Council  
Martelle Esposito, CFSC/Tufts University  
Jennifer Fahy, Farm Aid  
Greg Fogel, University of Michigan  
Miles J. Gordon  
Lisa Grifford, National Family Farm Coalition  
Annrose Guarino, LSU Cooperative Extension  
Leslie Hatfield  
Dottie Holland, UNC Chapel Hill Center for Integrating Research & Action  
Natalie Hsueh, Urbane Development, LLC  
Kris Igo, University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives  
Grayson James, Petaluma Bounty  
Edie Jessup, Fresno Urban Ministries

Tish Johnson, University of Missouri Extension  
Erika Jones, University of Wisconsin  
Susan Jutz, Local Harvest CSA Katherine Kelly, Kansas City Center for Urban  
Agriculture  
Vicky Karhu, Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative  
Linda Kingery, Northwest Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership  
Marcia Kingslow, Kingslow Associates, LLC  
Ingrid Kirst, Community Crops  
Peter Komendowski, BL2  
Les Kniskern, Neighborhood Nutrition Centers  
Margaret Larson, University of Illinois Extension  
Susan Lightfoot  
Kenner Love, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Jill Lucht, University of Missouri Community Policy Analysis Center  
Kim McMann, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts Maggie Menefee, Healthy  
Youth Partnership, Inc.  
Mildred Mattfeldt-Beman, St. Louis University  
Dan Miller, University of Minnesota  
Don Nonini, UNC Chapel Hill  
Leo Pollock, Southside Community Land Trust, Providence, RI  
Tom Quinn, West CAP  
Sarah Ratermann, University of Missouri graduate student in rural sociology  
Barbara Rusmore  
Erin Schneider, MOSES / Hilltop Community Farm  
Liz Sheehan, Worcester Food Policy Council  
Jonathan Sherwood, Iowa State University  
Amy Schuster, McIntosh SEED  
Daniel Bowman Simon, The Who Farm / NY State Dept. of Ag & Markets  
Jill Stankiewicz, Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association  
Emily Stewart  
Kathryn Strickland, Food Bank of Northern Alabama  
Jan Tusick  
Terry Van Der Pol, Land Stewardship Project  
Noreen Warnock, Local Matters  
Katie Weaver, CAPECO, Pendleton, Oregon  
Ashley Wennerstrom, Tulane University School of Medicine, Office of Community  
Affairs and Health Policy  
Julie Whitson, Harvesters Food Bank  
Stephanie Wiesenbach, Iowa State University  
Margaret Williams, The Food Project