

Connecticut Food Policy Council Minutes

April 12, 2018

Members in attendance: Steve Anderson (DoAg), Don Casella (DAS), Flavia Pereira (DOT - phone), Monica Pacheco (SDE), Bill Seedman (DSS)

Guests in attendance: Michael Puglisi (UCONN), Aimee Jovino (UCONN), Lucy Potter (Hartford Legal Aid)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Steve Anderson.

Welcome and Introductions: Steve Anderson welcomed the members and guests. Introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Postponed until the next meeting (no quorum).

Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Administration

Agency appointments are now completed, and legislative appointments still are a work in progress.

Local Food Policy Council Updates

There were no representatives present from local food policy councils, and no others present to give updates of local FPC activities.

Member Updates

UCONN (reported by Michael Puglisi) – Jiff Martin is continuing efforts to survey UCONN community working on food security issues, and they have convened at least one meeting so far with the intent of coordinating efforts on food security work.

DoAg – legislative work continuing. Related to FPC, there are bills related to solar developments on farms, CT grown farm products sold to schools and a bill related to senior vouchers for farmers markets

DAS – Don Cassella reported that he has been working on the “4 town contract” which helps towns that want to work together to do procurement. Under that program, 3 or more towns can utilize DAS contracts to pool resources and help fulfill purchasing needs.

SDE – Monica Pacheco reported that SDE has been working on farm to school programming and on the “put local on your tray” initiative. Monica also reported that there is a farm to school census performed by USDA, which is linked here: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>

DSS – Bill Seedman reported that DSS is hiring case workers & program staff to help with improving timelines. He also reported that the President’s recent Executive Order related to SNAP may result in limiting participation, and that the Farm Bill negotiations could further impact SNAP programs. Bill also noted that staff has been added to the Board of Regents to help with the SNAP employment & training program.

Lucy Potter (Greater Hartford Legal Aid) noted that they commented on the above cited Executive Order.

NEXT STEPS:

Next meeting; May 10, 2018