



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2507
www.CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2019

Members in attendance: Bryan Hurlburt (DoAg Commissioner), Bill Seedman (DSS), Flavia Pereira (DOT- by phone), Monica Pacheco (State Department of Education, Marcia Pessolano (Department of Public Health),

Guests in attendance: Erin Windham (DoAG), Martha Page (Hartford Food System), Miranda Muro (FoodShare), Chelsea Gazillo (Working Lands Alliance), Helana Hoover- Litty (UNH, Nutrition and Dietetics), Peggy Zamore (Danbury Farmers Market), Hamsa Ganapathi (General public), Molly Stadnicki (End Hunger CT!), Jiff Martin (UCONN)

By phone: Michael Keilty (Maple Spring Farm), Flavia Pereira (Dept. of Transportation), and Jaime Foster (CT Food Bank), Barbara Shaw (Hands on Hartford)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Commissioner Hurlburt.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from the August 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were noted and a motion to accept was made by Willard Seedman and seconded by Marcia Pessolano.

Public Comment

Introductions of council members and guests were made during the public comments.

Reports

Legislative

Commissioner Hurlburt noted that the agency was working on legislation but he would like to refrain from further comment until approval from The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is received.

Peggy Zamore would like to see incentives for doubling of SNAP be proposed and discussion followed regarding potential funding sources noting that currently there is grant funding in place.

Martha Page asked about previous proposals for changes to Food Policy Council in Legislature. Commissioner Hurlburt noted that currently the goal is to engage our current Food Policy Council towards action and that at this point there is nothing being led by DoAg.

State/ Local Food Policy Updates

Peggy Zamore (Danbury Farmers' Market) reported that Danbury would like to form a food policy council, which would fit nicely with current projects focusing on seniors and healthy kids. They are in the process of planning listening sessions to gather input from the community. Commissioner Hurlburt suggested sharing any draft charters that may be available and Peggy noted that there is now a staff person at United Way focusing on food policy. She will share the contact.

Martha Page (HFS) gave an update on behalf of Meg Hourigan for Hartford Food Systems. Meg is convening a group of local/ state Food Policy Councils to discuss collaborative efforts in Connecticut. The first call took place in October. Mag can report when she returns.

Noted that the Mayor is back for another term but the council makeup is new and they would like to be proactive in engaging the council. Hartford Food Systems had a meeting on 11/13/19 with the Mayor and others attending. They would like to have Commissioner Hurlburt attend future meetings.

Member Updates

Flavia Pereira (DOT) reported by phone that the CT2030 plan was unveiled last week. This included projects and the funding sources for those projects and is available online. This is expected to increase jobs in CT.

Monica Pacheco (SDE) – reported that October was National Farm to School Month. CT also celebrated CT Grown for CT Kids Week with legislator visits to schools. Gave a brief introduction to the FTS Action Plan and the Summit which took place Nov. 6-7, 2019.

Marcia Pessolano (DPH) reported that the State Health Assessment is in process and DPH is looking at USDA funding to focus on ECE. They would like the focus to be on non-school based programs. She will be in touch to discuss collaborative opportunities. There was no old business taken up at the meeting.

Commissioner Hurlburt (DoAg) reported that the agency will be putting out an RFP for a CT Grown marketing campaign. Anticipated release is January. There will be a survey released requesting input. Commissioner asked that this be shared among networks.

DoAg has been working with CT Dairy to promote Connecticut dairy farms and is looking at ways to get CT dairy back to schools. Dispensers were discussed as an option. Currently RI is running a pilot program to use dispensers in schools.

New Business

Appointments to Food Policy Council were discussed. Current appointees were asked to speak with their Commissioners for new appointment letters. A request for volunteers and recommendations was made. Susan Pronovost was discussed to fill the vacancy



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representing an agricultural organization or a producer/wholesaler. It was agreed that Susan would be a good fit for either appointment.

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Martha Page (HFS) reported that no decision had been made regarding the USDA AMS FMLPP Grant but that they were expecting news. The Connecticut Food System Alliance has been awarded \$50,000 over a one year period from the Kendall Foundation to pursue the State Food Action Plan. Martha presented the question of how the CT FPC would like to move forward with the action plan and how to do that.

Commissioner Hurlburt suggested that the Connecticut Food System Alliance write a formal proposal for submission to the CT FPC outlining its needs and how the FPC can assist. He noted that this proposal can then be used to share the project with networks to raise awareness and perhaps funding.

Commissioner Hurlburt shared information about the Maine Act to Reduce Hunger and Promote Maine Agriculture. The project was discussed as well as opportunity to move something similar forward here in CT. Members and guests were asked to share their ideas for funding and execution of such a project.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.