

**Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC) - Community Economic Development
(CED) Committee –Minutes
October 7, 2008 – Crown Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

Recorder: Katherine Pigott

List of Participants:

Katherine Pigott, Food Secure Canada (Waterloo, Ontario) *co-chair*
Ken Meter, Crossroads Resource Center (Minneapolis) *co-chair*
Amanda Behrens, Center for a Livable Future (Johns Hopkins University)
JoAnne Berkenkamp, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (Minneapolis)
Ilana Blankman, Farm to Table, (New Mexico)
Hilary Booker, Antioch University New England (New Hampshire)
Katherine Brown, Southside Community Land Trust (Providence)
Katherine Camp, East Liberty Development, Inc.
Greg Donofrio, Cornell University graduate student
Melissa Emminger, Livewell Colorado / Alamosa Community Gardens
Chris Farber, East End Food Coop (Pittsburgh)
Gül Güleriyüz, Prince George's County Planning (Maryland)
Sarah Hackney, Gorge Grown Food Network (Hood River, Oregon)
Peggy Fogarty-Harnish, Penn State University
Andrew Heinrich, Open Roads Institute (Cleveland)
Annalisa Hultberg, Minnesota Project (St. Paul)
Carla Kaiser, City Harvest (New York City)
Jerry Kaufman, Growing Power (Milwaukee)
Destin Joy Layne, Eat Well Guide (New York City)
Karen Lehman, Fresh Taste (Chicago)
Rebecca Livengood, Brick City Development Corporation (Newark)
Jen Risley, Monadnock Farm and Community Connection (New Hampshire)
Wayne Roberts, Toronto Food Policy Council
Clark de Schweinitz, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
Jane Shuput, Food Systems Network (New York City)
Sheila Simpson, Ontario Trillium Foundation
Jill Slater, Wesleyan University (Connecticut)
Hilde Steffey, Farm Aid (Massachusetts)
Dawn Story, Growing Food and Community
Cindy Torres, Boulder Farmers Market / Boulder Food Policy Council / Jefferson Fellow
Elisa Wong, Kaiser Permanente
Vanessa Zaifen, Center for Food & Justice, (Occidental College, California)

1. Welcome

Ken Meter welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the CFSC CED Committee

2. *Review of Initial Meeting of the CFSC CED Committee*

Katherine Pigott provided a quick review of the initial CFSC CED Committee that took place in Vancouver, BC on October 9th, 2006.

Thirty-nine people attended this meeting which 1) helped CFSC and Food Secure Canada members working on CED issues to get to know each other, 2) decided that a CFSC CED committee should be formed and 3) discussed the possible role of this committee.

Participants at the initial meeting felt a CED Committee could help achieve the following:

- Inject CED issues into food security work and inject food security consciousness into economic development practice
- Move beyond the charity model by building a stronger local economic base
- Build value-based exchanges
- Empower people of colour/ethnic groups
- Claim local power
- Get better informed and refine our analysis
- Build local health and wealth
- Reduce poverty
- Create new products, businesses and venues
- Build local connections
- Create labor opportunities
- Facilitate policy and planning

Participants felt the following activities would help achieve the above:

- Inform each other
- Build collaborative networks
- Refine our practice
- Launch educational and action campaigns

3. *Brief Update on American Planning Association (APA) Food and Economic Development Meeting*

Katherine Pigott provided a brief update of the above meeting that happened earlier in the morning of October 7th.

Kami Pothukuchi chaired a breakfast meeting to learn about participants' work related to food and economic development linkage, give and update on the American Planning Association action plan following the adoption of the "Community and Regional Food

Planning Policy Guide” in 2007, and explore specific actions to advance food and economic development.

Ken Meter and Katherine Pigott attended this meeting to ensure information sharing takes place between APA’s work and the activities of the CFSC CED Committee. In turn, several planners attended today’s meeting.

4. Brief Canadian Update

Katherine Pigott reported that the Canadian CED Network has formed a Food Policy Working to identify issues and barriers preventing the development of food initiatives and food systems in local communities and to strategize about how these issues and barriers can be addressed.

The Quebec Commission on Agriculture and Agrifood recently released a report called “Agriculture and Agrifood: Securing and Building the Future”. It contains many policy recommendations to support local and regional economic development through the production and processing of food.

The British Columbia Co-operative Association is undertaking several research projects to study and demonstrate how co-operatives can be used in new and innovative ways to add value to agriculture.

The City of Toronto will soon embark on the development of a Toronto Food Strategy and Action Plan. This strategy and plan will look at how Toronto, as Canada’s six largest government, can improve the health of its residents through steps to localize the food economy.

5. Discussion of Action Steps to build a Place for Community Economic Development within the CFSC.

Ken Meter invited participants to name strategic action priorities, or to provide suggestions for terms that need defining, favorite definitions, and any other offers to assist! The following action steps were identified. Additional suggestions for action priorities are welcome from folks who were unable to attend the meeting.

- (1) Case studies** of successful CED efforts
(University of Northern Iowa has already developed several)
- (2) Solid stories** that convey the potential for local food as CED.
- (3) build a glossary of CED terms** to help people make their case to local governments.
- (4) Develop a list of FAQs.**

- (5) Write brief memos explaining **how to talk about local foods** with local officials.
- (6) Devise a list of specific **talking points** to take into these meetings.
- (7) Work with **planning professionals** in each planning specialty to weave in local foods planning and its economic importance.
- (8) Develop a fact sheet about the concept of **Value Networks**, and why they are important to food systems.
- (9) Develop specific materials for **rural communities of less than 15,000** where budgets are limited.
- (10) As decided at the Vancouver meeting in 2006, discuss the importance of local economic issues to **all CFSC committees** and position our food and community economic development message accordingly.
- (11) COMFOOD, the CFSC list serve, could serve as a valuable tool to the CED Committee as it could be used to post stories, comments, and discussion items related to food and the community economic development

6. Messages about the Local Economic Impact of Local Food

Wayne Roberts, Toronto Food Policy Council, and retiring board member of CFSC (we thank Wayne for serving as our committee's liaison to CFSC) offered the following seven arguments he makes to local officials in promoting local foods in Toronto (not all will be relevant in each locale):

- A. Food manufacturing is the largest employer in Toronto, second only to Chicago. It is key in providing work for new immigrants, and often pays living wages.
- B. Local food businesses are difficult to outsource.
- C. Food-related businesses are the largest service employers, so they are important to the social fabric of the city. For example, food related businesses provide employment to students and those who work in the Toronto film industry when they are between jobs.
- D. Every dollar earned by a farmer cycles multiple times through the region (Wayne offered to post this data).
- E. One of every seven dollars of the municipal budget is food-related -- including the fact that one-third of the city's garbage stream is food waste.
- F. Every child who develops diabetes costs \$1 million in health expenditures over his or her lifespan
- G. Special markets, such as Halal, Kosher, etc., are important economically and socially.

7. *Other Projects and Activities*

Center for Food & Justice in Los Angeles is building a food distribution business.

Monadnock Farm & Community Connection in New Hampshire is developing value-added processing from local farm products.

Public Health Law Project in Oakland is developing a set of community measures to raise issues of community empowerment and development with an international retailer locating a store in inner-city Oakland.

Minnesota Project and the University of Minnesota are launching a GIS map of local food sources in Minnesota.

Johns Hopkins University's Center for a Livable Future is creating a GIS food system map of Maryland.

BALLE (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) is launching a new sustainable business network with a focus on food access in low-income communities.

Groups from Maryland, Ohio, New York City, Rhode Island, Colorado, and New Mexico told stories about negotiations with local officials to persuade them of the importance of local foods.

An incoming planning professor spoke of the need to develop a set of formal methodologies to demonstrate how local foods can create public benefits.

A fresh food program in Newark, New Jersey is working to attract new supermarkets and increase the number of farmers' markets

8. *List of Specific Issues and Challenges Raised by Participants*

How can we bring language and lexicon of economic development to the urban agriculture discussion?

How do we bridge the tension between the economics of local food production (which demands a certain price to be profitable) and a commitment for low income individuals to have access to local food?

Need to be clear that we are not interested in any kind of local food; We need to promote healthy, nutritious local food.

Need to link more directly with funders and educate them around these issues.

Planners attending the morning meeting suggested adding attention to issues of equity to the fact sheet.

9. Two Pager – “Local Food as Economic Development”

Ken Meter distributed a 2-pager “Local Food as Economic Development” and asked participants for comments. (The audience for the 2-pager is local economic development officials.) This is still being reviewed by CFSC.