

Use this form to take minutes at each Policy Action Team meeting. Proposed minutes must be available within eight business days after a meeting. Approved minutes must be available within five days after the meeting at which they are approved. Send proposed and approved minutes to Peter Simms at simmisp@ewashtenaw.org and to the Washtenaw Food Policy Council Google Group at: washtenaw-food-policy-council@googlegroups.com

Policy Action Team:	Farmers PAT
Date of Meeting:	February 12, 2013
Time of Meeting:	10:00am
Address of Meeting:	705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI
Washtenaw Food Policy Council attendees:	Kenny Siler, Tim Redmond, Michaelle Rehmann
Additional attendees (first and last names):	Alan Connor (alconnor1019@provide.net), Joanna Rosene-Mirvis (rosenemirvis@ewashtenaw.org), Chris Coulter (Christopher.coulter@mi.nacdn.net), Jennifer Kangas (capellafarm@gmail.com), Eric Kampe (Eric@a2seeds.com), Mike DuRussel
Public comment (first and last names):	
Note taker:	Michaelle Rehmann
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Presentation by Chris Coulter II. Introduction of New Attendees III. Defining Local IV. Edible City V. Food Systems Profile
Date minutes approved:	

Meeting Minutes:

MAEAP PRESENTATION

The group received a presentation by Chris Coulter, of MAEAP. A discussion of farm verification pros/cons took place. Chris shared the bulletin that is used to verify farm. The time commitment to complete verification varies on farm size and type of production. Technicians are available to assist with verification completion. Currently approximately 2,000 farms verified in the state. State has goal of 5,000 farms verified by 2015. There is no charge to work with technicians or to become verified. Program is completely voluntary.

Motivation for completing verification – it's one way to prove to the community that we're farming in a responsible manner (not polluting the river). Helps identify areas on farm where you can make improvements.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction of Joanna, Americorps VISTA volunteer serving with Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development. Joanna is from Boston, but went to school on the West Coast, where she got involved in local food.

Use this form to take minutes at each Policy Action Team meeting. Proposed minutes must be available within eight business days after a meeting. Approved minutes must be available within five days after the meeting at which they are approved. Send proposed and approved minutes to Peter Simms at simmssp@ewashtenaw.org and to the Washtenaw Food Policy Council Google Group at: washtenaw-food-policy-council@googlegroups.com

Introduction of Al Connor, one of the original FSEP Policy Council members who helped established the Washtenaw Food Policy Council. Farmed for many years, 160 acres in Washtenaw County, but farming was never his primary source of income. He taught for many years at U-M in Urban Planning and at University of Minnesota where he helped farmers organize and become engaged in the legislative process.

Introduction of Eric Kampe, has $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of vegetables that he grows for seeds to sell to gardeners. Starting first year of seed sales, second year of production. Will have labels and seed availability list within the next week. Goal over time is to grow the business so that he can grow seeds for farmers.

DEFINING LOCAL

Kenny and Stephanie were responsible for defining local for use on this policy action team. Grace Food Programs – local food system (or regional food system) is used to describe a method of food production and distribution that is geographically localized, rather than national or international.

Local food refers to food produced near the consumer, within X miles of the consumer. Kenny proposes 100 to 125 air miles from point of production to processing.

Jennifer moves that 100 miles becomes the definition of local for the food policy council. Michaelle seconds.

Discussion: Tim shared that Eat Local Eat Natural is defined as 150 miles, state boundaries are not considered in definition. The group had a discussion about what the purpose of defining local is, and how the definition will be used. What are the “real world implications of defining local?”

Amended motion:

“In order to support the farmers policy action team goal (adopted from the Michigan Good Food Charter) of 20% of food consumed and produced in Washtenaw county is local, we define local as a 100 mile radius from the center of the county.”

Motion passed unanimously.

EDIBLE CITY REPORT

Michaelle will send the report to Joanna and Al for review. Tim will invite Daniel Poon, author of Edible City, to attend our next meeting.

FOOD SYSTEMS PROFILE

Tim shared a food system profile of the county compiled by University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. The group discussed some key points in the report.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00am