



**San Mateo County Food System Alliance
Meeting Results
January 27, 2009 2-5pm
Health Department, San Mateo**

Attendance

	Jim Anderson	✓	Lisa Wasilewski	✓	Gail Raabe
	Ryan Casey	✓	Jim Howard	✓	Francine Serafin-Dickson
✓	David Kane	✓	Jered Lawson		Linda Shak
	Gladwyn D'Souza	✓	Scott Morrow	✓	Susan Stansbury
✓	Tim Frahm		Kellyx Nelson		Erin Tormey
✓	Robin Galas		Jack Olsen	✓	April Vargas
✓	Jennifer Gross		Pietro Paravanno	✓	Terry Witzel

Facilitator: Joseph McIntyre, Ag Innovations Network

Guests: Beret from Swanton Berry Farm

Information share

- RCD is quasi-frozen, Kellyx's hours have been cut back; need movement on state budget
- Sustainable Conservation applied for funds from San Francisco Foundation to re-activate ponds project
- NRCS working on 2009 Farm Bill contracts
- Second Harvest has gone from \$160k to over \$200k between two counties, increased support from USDA through Farm Bill; great online donation system
- San Mateo County Office of Education interested in new school garden, dependent on funding
- Sheriff's Dept interested in farm at women's correctional facility in Redwood City, working with Farm Bureau
- Drought - farmers having to irrigate in winter
- How to get school garden produce into school lunch
- To subscribe to ComFood: <https://elist.tufts.edu/wws/subscribe/comfood>
- Helpful to have food safety guidelines for garden based education programs
- Healthy Silicon Valley Food Provider sector conducting a food assessment, could include SMC, possible collaboration
- Charlene Silva retired from SMC, got \$18k donations for Second Harvest instead of having a retirement party
- David Bosch, new head of SMC, has an economic response team, Gail is on the Food and Shelter Committee; guide to services for people who find themselves in need

- County is conducting a survey of school gardens
- AmeriCorps application currently being reviewed by federal government, received high ranking from California
- All are invited to HEAL Night: February 12 at El Granada Elem., March 5 at Farallone Elem., and March 26 at Hatch Elem. – all 6-8pm, free dinner, slide show & performance
- HEAL students will be participating in SF Flower & Garden Show (March 18-22, San Mateo Convention Ctr.)

ACTION: *Susan will post ComFood query about school garden produce in school lunches*

Ag Innovations Update

- Joseph will stay with SMFSA; Serene will come to future meetings to support Joseph
- Ponds Project as potential statewide issue through CA Roundtable; need for policy change around 1600 permits
- Recruiting an Alliance Council – members from each FSA/AFA; SMFSA members needed – 1 phone call per month
- Sonoma County Health Action Project – public land leased below market with agreed price for food to supply local schools

Land Use/Ponds Project Update

- Tim, Kelly, Gail and Jim Howard
- Taking lead role to coordinate communication of ponds project; will provide resources, act as liaison to growers
- Trout Unlimited and Sustainable Conservation coming into San Mateo County, funded to study San Gregorio stream flows
- American Rivers and Natural Heritage Institute also in county – all studies, no implementation
- Committee requests full SMFSA endorsement/advocacy as needed for Ponds Project
- Power of this group: political power, modeled collaboration and cooperation, objective perspective
- How to get productive land into production; water issues need to be solved first or simultaneously; housing and labor issues too

ACTION: *Committee will draft letter (with help from April) to all four organizations, cc SMC Board of Supervisors; provide background of group, information on funders, invitation to participate in roundtable discussion*

ACTION: *Gail will send November subcommittee report to Joseph to be included with notes*

Garden Based Education Follow Up

- Creating set of white papers with targeted audiences
- Present them in October at Bioneers Conference <http://www.bioneers.org/>
- How to disseminate: for grants/funders, partners, to motivate administrators, share with other alliances, for the media, policy makers
- County policy: garden in every school
- Questions for committee: What are we addressing? How will we get them out?

- Include references

ACTION: *Joseph/Serene to provide white paper templates.*

Institutional Food Purchasing Update

Hospitals

- SMFSA, Hospital Consortium and Health Dept. convened hospital food service directors, enjoyed a local meal; Lena Brook with SF Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility; local food is on priority list, there is excitement
- Group purchasing constraints
- Next step to connect with farmers, mass produce purchases
- Need for delivery mechanism, intermediary mechanism
- Scott working on county rule to buy 25-50% locally, in season and organic (?); economic development, carbon reductions; change language to “environmentally sound production” rather than “organic”
- Need for press release to document progress
- NRDC/Western Growers working on sustainability benchmarks; stewardship indicators; Real Food Challenge is developing similar gauge

Schools

- Gathering information, possibly to conduct a food service survey tied to Susan’s school garden survey
- Convene food system directors, asses needs
- Resource: Erica Cardenas with the Orfalea Fund’s Initiative: s’Cool Food (www.scoolfood.org/welcome/index.cfm); Erica is a former Roots of Change Fellow based in Santa Barbara

Next SMFSA Meeting Logistics

The next meeting will be from 2:00-5:00 on February 24, 2009 at Enso, 131 Kelly Ave in Half Moon Bay

Robin will look into EPA location for our March meeting.

Notes Prepared by Lisa Wasilewski and Joseph McIntyre