

Tri-State Food Policy Council Minutes November 13, 2007

The Tri-State Food Policy Council met at 3:00pm on November 13th, 2007 at the University of Illinois Extension Office in Quincy, Illinois.

Attending: Dave, Greg, Scott, Dan, Richard, Mike, Brenda, Carrie

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Council members were welcomed by co-chairs Greg Billingsley and Dave Moore.
2. Food Policy Council Mission Statement – After considerable discussion of the proposed mission statement, the council agreed on the following amended wording:

“To promote a sustainable local food system within the Tri-State area through:

- accurate Assessment of locally grown food issues and needs
- improved Awareness of locally grown food benefits and uses
- enhanced Access to locally grown foods and food products
- aggressive Advocacy in support of a local food system at all government levels.”

3. Committee Reports

a. **“Defining Local” ad hoc committee:** The committee recommended that “local” be defined as the 35-county area currently embraced by the Tri-State Summit organization – namely: Illinois: Adams, Brown, Pike, Cass, Schuyler, Morgan, Scott, Fulton, McDonough, Hancock, Henderson, Mercer, Warren, Knox; Missouri: Marion, Lewis, Clark, Ralls, Pike, Scotland, Schuyler, Adair, Knox, Shelby, Macon, Monroe, Randolph; Iowa: Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Van Buren, Wapello, Jefferson, Davis. This would allow for synergies between the efforts of the Food Policy Council and the Tri-State Summit in highlighting the opportunities for growth within this region. The Council approved this definition.

The committee also proposed a series of 7 tentative criteria for use in controlling the Locally Grown Logo – namely:

1. Whole foods, animal feed and seed products that are grown or raised within the geographic area defined above.
2. Acceptable whole food products include: meats, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs and grains.
3. Processed foods must contain at least 80% locally grown food, as defined above.
4. Acceptable process foods include honey, jams, jellies, preserves, pickled products, juice, syrup, baked goods, cheeses and wines
5. Acceptable animal feed and seed products include: (to be defined)
6. The logo may be used by: (to be defined)
7. Suggestions for use include: (to be defined)

Dan suggested that the committee look into developing a scoring process for the criteria to identify those who would be eligible to use the logo.

The committee will meet again on Monday, December 3rd at 2:00pm to finalize the criteria for formal recommendation and final approval at the next FPC meeting on December 11th.

b. Assessment **Sub-committee**: Dan reported that the committee proposes to undertake assessments of five target groups to determine current attitudes and expectations: consumers, institutions (schools, nursing homes, etc.), hospitality industry (restaurants), processors, and producers. The committee will be researching potential surveying techniques and will attempt to tap into the expertise that will be present at the Locally Grown Conference on November 29th.

c. Awareness **sub-committee**: (no report)

d. Access **sub-committee**: (no report)

e. Advocacy **sub-committee**: Scott reported that the committee would undertake to educate the public and aggressively influence public policy on the following issues:

- Reduce or eliminate sales tax on farmer's markets sales in the state of Missouri
- Support sustainability provisions of the current Farm Bill before Congress
- Support the Country of Origin Act (full disclosure of country of origin)
- Oppose the Animal Health Protection Act (national animal ID program)
- Support enforcement of the Packers/Stock Yard Act (ensure market access and animal ownership for independent producers)
- Support of the National Economic Stabilization and Recovery Act

4. New Member Challenge – Council Membership Mailing: Attending council members were encouraged to share council proceedings with associates and each was challenged to invite a new participant to attend the next meeting. A master contact list will be developed by combining the contents of several mailing lists into one composite database.

5. Locally Grown Conference: Registrations are going well with 70+ to date from throughout the Tri-State area and beyond. Council members are encouraged to register asap, if they have not already done so. Volunteers are needed to provide administrative and logistical help on the day of the conference – interested individuals should contact the Extension Office to sign up.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm. The next meeting of the Tri-State Food Policy Council meeting will be December 11, 2007 at 7:00pm at the University of Illinois Extension office in Quincy, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Moore