

Tri-State Local Food Policy Council Minutes **January 7, 2008**

The Tri-State Local Food Policy Council met at 3:00 pm on January 7, 2008 at the American Red Cross in Quincy, IL. Those attending included Dave Moore, Greg Billingsley, Carrie Edgar, Mike Roegge, Deborah Lee, Becky Fischer and Brenda Derrick.

Council members were welcomed by co-chairs Dave Moore and Greg Billingsley, with Greg presiding.

Committee Reports were given as follows:

- “Defining Local” ad hoc committee: Brenda reported that the committee will be meeting January 14, 2008 to finalize the criteria for the use of the locally grown logo. Brenda will check into using the Railroad Park Eatery in Camp Point, IL as a location for the meeting and will forward location info to the committee members. It is hoped that the committee will have the final recommendations ready to present at the February meeting.
- Assessment Sub-committee: Mike passed out drafts of two surveys that the Assessment committee had developed. One survey to target producers/farmers, and one to target consumers. Members made recommendations for changes in wording. Mike will revise the surveys based upon those recommendations. Discussion was held on how to distribute the surveys. Suggestions for distribution for both producers and consumers included Extension websites in all three states, tri-state area farmers markets, email lists, retail establishments, the upcoming WISAS and Gardeners Palette events, and the Locally Grown Conference Committee and attendees. U of I Extension will absorb the cost to copy surveys. It was also suggested that we might be able to use information from the survey to develop a “Tri-State” directory of producers. This information may already exist via the web. The Assessment committee will look into this issue further.
- Awareness sub-committee: No Report. There was discussion that the awareness committee would assume leadership in developing the publicity pieces in support of the councils’ initiatives.
- Access sub-committee: No Report.
- Advocacy sub-committee: No Report.

Dave reported that he gave a presentation about the council to Rotary. He and Brenda had quickly adapted a previous informational letter for Dave to use to pass out at the meeting. But it is evident that we need to pursue the development of some type of promotional piece specifically about the council. Dave will ask his wife, a graphic artist, to draft something for our review at the next meeting. Carrie will talk to GREDF about underwriting the printing costs of such a publication.

Brenda has submitted additional invitations to potential members. If anyone has others who they feel we should consider inviting, please let Brenda know.

The council discussed the need for “ACTION”, which may also help with member recruitment. Carrie reported on a project that she and Brenda had heard about when visiting with sustainable ag folks in Columbia, MO. The project, a LOCAL FOOD DRIVE, seeks to raise funds for use by food pantries and similar organizations to purchase food from farmers market to then distribute as part of the food baskets provided to low-income individuals. This allows farmers to get paid for the produce they raise, and gets fresh, local fruit and vegetables into the hands of those who may not have access to the food. Carrie will follow-up with Mary Hendrickson of the Univ. of Missouri and council members are asked

to bring ideas to the February meeting for further discussion. It would be great to get this up and running by this growing season.

After much discussion, it was decided to change the meeting times to 3:00 pm. Attendance has been lower at the evening meetings so at least in the short term, all meetings will be held at 3:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Moving the meetings around the Tri-States was also discussed. Pros and cons are that until we have increased membership we may lose our current members if they have to travel too far, but we may not be able to increase membership unless we do become more mobile. Brenda will look into options for the February 12, 2008 meeting and will send out an email announcement.

Brenda will also contact Lisa Gruver to discuss the work being done by the group in Macomb to see if we can schedule a joint meeting in March. This will allow us to share ideas and discuss areas where we may be able to collaborate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Derrick