



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director  
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Approved MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
*ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAPAC)

Minutes  
MEETING HELD ON Thursday, August 23, 2018  
1688 W. Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order Cassie Lyman, Chair

Madam Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call Sharma Torrens

FAPAC Members Present: Chair Cassie Lyman, Liz Taylor (via WebEx), Leslie Fox (via WebEx), Glenna McCollum-Cloud, Elyse Guidas, Paul Brierley, Dave Richins

AZDA Staff: Sharma Torrens, Michele Mellott

Public Members: Anthony Kamson, Angie Rodgers, Ashley Thomas

3. Member Update – Introduction New Members Cassie Lyman/Sharma Torrens

Cassie has the new and existing members introduce themselves. Staff also introduced themselves.

4. Approval of May 3, 2018 Minutes Cassie Lyman

Leslie noted that Kara Egbert was present at this meeting and not mentioned on the minutes. Additionally, she wanted it to be clear in the language that the Yavapai Food Council (YFC) needs to be listed as Cornucopia. Leslie will email Sharma the other minor edits about the portion about the YFC.

Paul wanted the language to clear that the City of Phoenix discussed the needs for shade trees to alleviate the urban heat island effect.

Glenna mentioned a few typos in #4 and #9.

5. Discussion on Recommendations Presented to the Director and Next Steps Cassie Lyman/Mark Killian  
(Information, discussion and action)

Sharma informed the members that unfortunately Director Killian could not make this meeting. However, she and the Director had

spoken at great length about this topic. Sharma sent an email to the FAPAC back in July about all of this. She also emailed it again on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

1) Expand existing state food donation tax incentives

- Sharma was to check with St. Mary's Food Bank to see where they are on this as they were going to lead these efforts. However, St. Mary's no longer has an advocacy person.

The members discussed whether this should be a group effort. Angie informed the members that there are politics involved and that there need to be more discussions with producers as a significant discount might be a better. This could be an on-going recommendation and researched further.

2) Provide funding to food banks, etc.

- The Governor had \$1M in his line item budget for the food banks.

Dave also noted that there was another \$400,000 for the Double Up Food Bucks. This could be an on-going recommendation.

3) Empower sustained food and ag food production (promote scholarships, etc.)

- The Director is going to send a letter to Univ. Presidents and the Board of Regents to request this information. Liz mentioned that she has relationships with NAU and she can work on part of this letter.

Sharma has created a preliminary draft, which she will send to the FAPAC members for input. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

4) Streamline county health regulations.

- The Director wanted a list of which regulations are burdensome from the FAPAC.

Leslie mentioned that she sent an email to Sharma that in Yavapai County, one needs to take food safety training and has to allow inspections while in Coconino County there are no such requirements. The FAPAC discussed having Stewart Jacobsen from the AZDA to discuss GHP/GAP needs as well as Norm Barnett to discuss the Produce Safety Rule (Food Safety Modernization Act) requirements for growers.

5) Endorse cultivating a strong regional food system and partner with existing food councils

- Sharma said she would need a list of other food councils through the state.

The Hunger Advisory Council's 2017 Action Plan has a list of these. Sharma will get the list of councils from that document and she will send this document to the FAPAC members.

6) Organize regular events to share information and educate the community

- The AZDA is holding the regional Food Access workshops and to continue to hold these. In addition, the AZDA is leading the efforts to plan the next Food Summit on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (in Tucson).

7) Consider subsidies, microloans and education for new and small farmers

- The Director was going to send a letter to the USDA to determine what finances they have for new and small farmers

The FAPAC suggested contacting Ashley Schimke from the AZ Department of Education for this information.

8) Create one-stop shop page on the AZDA focused on increasing access to healthy food

- The AZDA was to create a one-stop shop (website) for folks looking for information relating to food access as well as have a FT staffer in the AZDA to be the contact.

The FAPAC mentioned that they should still recommend that the AZDA hire a FT staffer for this. As far as the website, in order to not duplicate efforts (Local First AZ's Good Food Finder; AAFB's website, etc.), the AZDA should work with its IT to create links to the other websites (so folks can find what they need). Sharma said she would talk to IT about this, but it might take them a few months (or more) to put this together.

6. Farm Bill Updates

Angie Rodgers, Assoc. AZ Food Banks

Angie handed the FAPAC Members a PowerPoint. For those members attending via WebEx, Sharma emailed it out prior to the

meeting. Angie mentioned that the first portion of the PowerPoint relates to the agricultural items in the Farm Bill and was presented by the Farm Bill, but she will relay the information relating to the SNAP and nutrition programs.

AAFB met with Congressman O'Halleran and he is pessimistic that the Congress will come to agreement on the Farm Bill prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>. In which case, the Farm Bill would be raised by the new Congress next year.

There is a concern about the work requirement that currently exists in the House version of the bill. The concern is because the Mandate requires a short-time to comply, it would break the system and it would impact lots of folks, including the children. Any works requirements in the Farm Bill should focus on sustainable employment & self-sufficiency.

7. Presentation for Mesa Cooperatives Anthony Kamson

Anthony presented to the group about his desire to expand the existing Cooperatives laws in Arizona to allow him to develop a Cooperative in Mesa that focuses on a family farm centered pilot project. It would integrate housing, have gardens on the rooftops, have solar, include 20 units (four level each) and include greenhouses. The Chair asked what Anthony would like from the FAPAC and he mentioned that he would like support for this project.

The FAPAC is still determining whether they would support expanding the current laws relating to Cooperatives. The last conversation was that Paul, Leslie and Rocco would look into whether others would be harmed (disadvantaged) by any expansion of the existing law.

8. Updates on Food Summit and Food Access Workshops Sharma Torrens

In the interest of time, Sharma did not present about this. She will send an email to the FAPAC.

9. Discussions about a 5-Year Road Map Cassie Lyman  
(Information, discussion and action)

In the interest of time, this was not discussed and it will be tabled to the next meeting. Ashley mentioned that it would be preferred that the Chair speak at the Food Summit (in January) about progress and discussions about a 5-year road map. As such, the FAPAC discussed the need to have a meeting in October and November.

10. Update on Position Change and Arizona Grown Grant Sharma Torrens

In the interest of time, Sharma informed the FAPAC that she would email them about this.

11. Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Committee may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

None.

12. Executive Session

To obtain legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A) (3) on any matter on the agenda

None.

13. Next Meeting

To Be Determined

Sharma will send out a Doodle Poll for the next meeting.

Glenna moved to adjourn the meeting, Elyse seconded this motion. The FAPAC unanimously approved.