



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
MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, February 28, 2018
1688 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order Cassie Lyman, Chair

Cassie called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. Roll Call Sharma Torrens

Paul Brierley; Rocco Cardinale; Kara Egbert; Leslie Fox; Senator Sine Kerr; Chair Cassie Lyman; David Martinez III; Elizabeth Taylor.

AZDA: Chris McCormack, Michele Mellott, Sharma Torrens.

Public: Angie Rodgers.

3. Approval of November 8, 2017 Minutes Cassie Lyman

Paul moved to approve the minutes as written, David seconded the motion. The FAPAC unanimously approved.

4. Member Updates Cassie Lyman

Sharma updated the FAPAC that Juliana Davies has formally resigned, leaving twelve active members on the FAPAC.

5. Updated Status FAPAC Recommendations Presented to Director Killian Cassie Lyman
(Information, discussion and action)

- Next Steps for Current Recommendations

Cassie recapped that the revised letter, dated November 9, 2017, was submitted to Director Killian. Senator Kerr also informed the FAPAC members that in her former role as Chair she had met with Director Killian and that he was impressed with the recommendations made. Sharma also noted that Director Killian sought to present these recommendations to the Governor's Office, but was unsure if he had yet done so.

David updated the FAPAC members on the below recommendations (that are in the PowerPoint presented to Director Killian by the FAPAC on November 9, 2018):

- 1) A bill has been introduced to support the Double Up Food Bucks and Local Farmers which is moving through the legislature;
- 2) St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance did some initial research on the potential fiscal impact of expanding the food donation tax incentive (to include animal protein). This research is inconclusive, so the focus turns to direct state funding opportunities for the

emergency food network;

- 3) The Governor's budget included \$1M to build the emergency food bank network and so public/private partnerships for AZ Grown foods are being explored to enhance this funding;
- 4) The Food Summit is being planned for 2018 and the AZDA continues to host Food Access workshops;
- 5) The Governor's Office has submitted a waiver to allow pre-enrollment for qualified recipients (for SNAP and TANF);
- 6) The Governor has instructed ADOA to have the "delay the box" for all state employee applicants;
- 7) The Governor's Office, through DES, continues to work with local nonprofits to expand SNAP E&T offerings.

6. Discussion on January 16th, 2018 Cooperatives Meeting Cassie Lyman/David Martinez
(Information, discussion and action)
- Impact Discussion and Next Steps/Draft Statute

The Cooperatives Meeting, which was targeted towards existing cooperatives in Arizona, met on January 16, 2018. David, Paul, Leslie and Rocco attended from the FAPAC.

David noted that the meeting was well attended and that the group was to send around draft language of a revised statute (which is one of the FAPAC handouts). It is too late to run legislation this session, but next session could be an option should the FAPAC wish to make this a recommendation.

The FAPAC members discussed that it would be prudent to not only listen to existing cooperatives about this, but also to those that might be negatively impacted by such legislation. Cassie mentioned that more information is necessary in this matter since the FAPAC serves all of agriculture.

David moved that after this legislative session is over, the FAPAC would convene a stakeholder meeting which not only includes existing cooperatives in Arizona, but also inviting others that could be at risk from any such legislation, with the goal of the meeting to examine all sides of this issue, to refine any legislative language and to engage the AZ Corporation Commission to determine if any regulatory barriers exist. Paul seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Update on 2/6 AZDA Food Access Mohave County Workshop Sharma Torrens/Michele Mellott

Sharma informed the group about the last Food Access workshop. It was held in Kingman on February 6th. Two FAPAC members were in attendance, Liz and Leslie. There were approximately forty attendees. This workshop was more succinct and shorter than the Apache County workshop (the one prior to this one) since it concluded at 12:30 p.m. But, the feedback we have received is that it was educational and worthwhile.

The next workshop will be in Graham County (Safford) in either April or May. AZDA staff is working with Graham County and U of A Cooperative Extension to plan this next event.

It is likely there will be one other workshop before the end of June of 2018.

8. Working Group Updates on Findings Cassie Lyman

Cassie noted that she wanted to create a schedule and deadline for all of the Working Groups to report back on their findings. The Working Groups shall report back their findings at the FAPAC meeting (in May), so that the FAPAC can review and approve of the findings. Sharma will then compile the information and combine that with the FAPAC recommendations to create a progress report, to be presented at the next Food Summit meeting (planned for June of 2018).

Sharma will periodically check in with the groups for updates on their progress, which she will then share with the Chair.

- 1) Farm Bill Working Group (FBWG):

The FAPAC members noted that the FBWG has a sped up timeline since the House in Congress will likely be voting on a draft of the Farm Bill in late March. The FAPAC might find it necessary to hold a telephonic meeting in March to review/approve of the FBWG's findings.

Both Liz and Leslie would like to be updated on the FBWG and on the Farm Bill Coalition's meeting (a group created by the Association for the Arizona Food Banks).

2) Health Regulations Working Group (HRWG):

Liz updated the members that she had some ideas that came out of the Kingman Food Access workshop. One issue was selling food to the restaurants and how this posed a problem. Liz will reach out to Sharma to discuss this further.

3) Education Working Group (EWG):

There was no updates per se on the progress of EWG. But, the group noted their support for the Food Access workshops put on by the AZDA.

4) Transportation/Infrastructure Working Group (TIWG):

Liz noted that there were no updates for TIWG as of yet regarding progress. However, she will be attending the National Good Food Conference in Albuquerque in late March. After this meeting, she anticipates being able to share with the FAPAC what other states are doing (and other helpful information learned).

9. 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.

Angie Rodgers from the Association for Arizona Food Banks updated the FAPAC on the Farm Bill Coalition's findings. From what the Coalition has been hearing, Congress will not split up the titles in the Farm Bill, but there has been talk that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding will be cut by 50%. It is also anticipated that the House will be voting on a draft by the end of March.

10. Executive Session

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

The FAPAC did not enter into executive session.

11. Next Meeting

To Be Determined

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Sharma will send around a Doodle Poll to schedule the May meeting. And should a telephonic meeting be necessary in March, she will do the same for that as well.