



Arizona Department of Agriculture

Office of the Director
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-3191 FAX (602) 542-5420

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FAPAC)

Minutes
MEETING HELD ON Tuesday, June 25, 2019
1688 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order Cassie Lyman, Chair
2. Roll Call Sharma Torrens

FAPAC Members Present In-Person: Chair Cassie Lyman; Leslie Fox; Elyse Guidas; David Richins; Elizabeth Taylor

FAPAC Members Present via WebEx/Phone: Glenna McCollum-Cloud; Bruce Gwynn; Rocco Cardinale; Rafael Tapia

AZDA Staff Present: Sharma Torrens; Michele Mellott

Public Present: Jessie Gruner, Pinnacle Prevention; Ashley St. Thomas, Assoc. of AZ Food Banks; David Scwhake, Agua Fria Food Bank; Ashley Dussault, Farm Express

3. Member Update Sharma Torrens

Sharma updated the group about the current FAPAC members. Paul Brierley stepped off of the FAPAC due to other commitments. However, he recommended Bruce Gwynn, who has now joined the FAPAC. Bruce gave the members a brief introduction.

4. Approval of April 2, 2019 Minutes Cassie Lyman

Leslie suggested the following changes to the meeting minutes under section 5, 3rd paragraph: (1) remove the word “no” in the first sentence; (2) and change “water” to flood zone; (3) and make it clear that composting is a chemical reaction that is not managed properly can result in a fire.

Leslie moved to approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes with the above amendments, Dave seconded this motion.

Rocco Cardinale AYE
Patty Emmert
Rep. Charlene Fernandez
Leslie Fox AYE
Elyse Guidas AYE
Bruce Gwynn AYE

Chair Cassie Lyman AYE
Glenna McCollum-Cloud AYE
Dave Richins AYE
Rep. TJ Shope
Rafael Tapia AYE
Elizabeth Taylor AYE

5. Continued Discussion on Director's Desired Next Steps for FAPAC Cassie Lyman/Director Killian
(Information, discussion and action)

A. Focus on 2017 Recommendations

The FAPAC went over their eight 2017 Recommendations.

1. Follow-up Action for 8 Recommendations and Deadlines

Cassie mentioned in terms of Recommendation #5 (streamline country health regulations) that she contacted several farmers markets. Most are independently owned and most she spoke to (she spoke to 12 total in the state) were not worried about food safety and did not want further government regulation imposed upon them. Dave also noted that it might be good to look to recommend legislation and note that this is a statewide concern.

Regarding Recommendation #5, Sharma mentioned that she spoke with the Director and the Chair about contacting the association that manages all of the AZ counties instead of writing a letter as the letter (to call for a county meeting) might not attract enough attendees. Sharma is in contact with the County Supervisors Association of AZ and her contact there suggested she speak with the AZ Local Healthy Officers Association meeting. Sharma was unable to make the last two meetings, but she will try to go speak at their next meeting. Leslie also offered to do this as well.

Leslie also mentioned that Yavapai County has an Industrial Food Safety Council trying to gather all stakeholders together and that this would be the contact for that county (since all of the key folks are involved).

Elyse offered to Chair any informal ad hoc working groups to reword the wording on Recommendations #1, #2, #5 and #6. Liz offered to do the same for Recommendations #7 and #8. Leslie also noted that in #7 we might just want to change the word "consider" to "create." And Leslie offered to reword #3 and #4.

The Chair appointed both Elyse and Liz as leads for these informal working groups, to report at the next FAPAC meeting about all of this (in August). Leslie was also appointed to work on #3 and #4.

Liz mentioned that there have been new developments in food banks and the food system and she would like to see the surplus food sold to institutions (e.g. hospitals, schools, etc.) and wondered if another recommendation should be created. The FAPAC will think this over, but it might be that Recommendation #6's language is changed to reflect the above.

Sharma brought up the Map of Food Access Workshops/Food Summit as well as the Outcomes spreadsheet as this related to Recommendation #6. The FAPAC liked these documents, wants to see this continually updated and would like funding for these workshops. A suggestion was made that the AZDA get some interns to help, to which Sharma responded that she, with permission of the Director, was working with A.S.U. to try to make this happen. Leslie wanted to be in on these conversations since she too was researching whether interns could help. Glenna suggested also keeping her posted and pulling in N.A.U. and U of A as well.

Related to these requested metrics Dave, Glenna and Elyse also met to discuss collecting food insecurity data throughout the state

B. Any New Challenges to Discuss

Dave noted that California has a system in place that encourages the purchase of local food from their producers and that it would be nice to see this implemented in Arizona.

6. USDA Trade Mitigation Update Ashley St. Thomas, Assoc. AZ Food Banks

Ashley St. Thomas presented about the trade mitigation status. The second year has been approved with \$1.4B being distributed to producers for their food that cannot be sold to China (due to on-going trade negotiations). The Dept. of Economic Security will be receiving \$950,000 in funds to distribute to the food banks for distribution and storage issues (since 800 truckloads are expected).

Ashley noted that only two producers from Arizona are enrolled in the trade mitigation program (with USDA) and this could be a topic for an upcoming AZDA Food Access workshop.

7. Hunger Advisory Council Membership Updates

Sharma Torrens

Inadvertently, Sharma spoke about #8 first.

Sharma reminded the members that she and Elyse were on the Hunger Advisory Council (HAC). At the meeting last week Sharma broached the subject of having the FAPAC and HAC recognize their overlapping priorities (with the HAC's 2017 Hunger Action Plan and the FAPAC's 2017 Recommendations) and the possibility that the two groups can collaborate at some point.

On-going discussions will continued.

8. Conflict of Interest Form

Sharma Torrens

It was brought to AZDA's attention that all members of public bodies need to sign and submit a conflict of interest (i.e. Disclosure Statement) form. Sharma would like each member to sign and submit this back to her, where it will be held by our Human Resources.

Sharma will send around a better definition of "substantial interest" to the members.

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.

Jessie Gruner, Pinnacle Prevention, informed that FAPAC that they are doing another push for state appropriated coordinated efforts to promote local producers and that infrastructure is needed for the producers. She also noted that they are holding meetings in different regions (north, south and in Phoenix) to get input from the local food system leaders on priorities for a statewide Food Plan. The meeting up north and down south have been held, the next meeting will be in Phoenix in September.

Pinnacle Prevention and Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture are also going to try to get an Agricultural Workforce Development bill run. It would help farmers/ranchers get the needed training.

David Schwake commented about Farm to School, its importance and that he has been involved long-term in trying to further these efforts. He also mentioned that he would follow-up with Glenna about some item to discuss.

10. Executive Session

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

None was held.

11. Next Meeting

To Be Determined

Sharma will send around a Doodle Poll for dates for the next meeting (which will be in August).

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