



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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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 Tuesday, July 25, 2017  
1688 W. Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order. 12:09 pm Sine Kerr, Chair

2. Roll Call. Laura Oxley

Kara Egbert, present  
Nikki Bagley, present  
Paul Brierley, present  
Rocco Cardinale, present  
Julianna Davies, not present  
Rep. Charlene Fernandez, (phone)  
Leslie Fox, present  
Sine Kerr, present  
Cassie Lyman, not present  
David Martinez III, present  
Erich Schultz, present  
Rep. T. J. Shope, present  
Elizabeth Taylor, present

**Others:** Laura Oxley, Chris McCormack, Michele Mellott.

Jessie Gruner (Pinnacle Prevention), Angie Rodgers (Association of Arizona Food Banks) Marco Lin (CFBSA)

**Public:** Traci Lemon(Bonds of Charity and Peace, Inc.), Cherilyn Yazzie(Navajo Nation), Nicole Olmstead(AHA), Chelsea McGuire (AZFB), Jeff Sandquist (Veridus), Ben Henderson (Gov. Office)

3. Approval of June 13, 2017 Minutes Sine Kerr, Chair

Sine called for a motion to approve. Kara so moved. Nikki seconded. Approved

4. Fruit & Vegetable Legislation Presentation Jesse Gruner, Pinnacle Prevention & Marco Lin (CFBSA)  
(Information, discussion and action regarding Committee support)

The Double-Up Food Bucks Program allows SNAP recipients to buy up to \$20 more for Arizona grown fruits & vegetable at Farmers Markets. Currently that funding comes from a matched USDA grant; this proposal would ensure matched funding with state funds. There was a presentation with a handout. 19 farmers markets now accept SNAP. Federal funds longevity unknown.

Sine opened up for discussion:

David supports that this council recommends to Director Killian for Federal support of FINI funding and reauthorization in the Farm Bill; supports council advising the director to secure state investment and researching maximization of funding to support famers markets (and making them sustainable) and streamlining (with the Equity Subcommittee pushing for this). We can act on this immediately and it is well articulated. There is a strong business opportunity here for health care to write prescriptions for produce, most of farmers markets are small producers. Since this is on other Sub-committees priorities and topic is up for discussion later in meeting, action was not taken.

There was also discussion about expanding farmers markets double up bucks to the grocery store produce.

5. Hunger Action Plan Presentation Angie Rodgers, Association of Arizona Food Banks  
(Information, discussion and action)

The Hunger Action Plan emphasizes nine areas to address hunger in Arizona. Increasing food access is an essential part of the plan. And while agriculture producers are already part of the solution, the report presents expanded options and addresses Food Policy Councils.

Handouts: Arizonans Preventing Hunger Action Plan 2017. Nine Strategies to Increase Food Security.

Work is focused on transportation between 5 food banks. Distribution and logistics work to 140 million pounds of food. Distribute to 12, 000 locations. Department of Economic Security hunger Advisory Council: talk about needs. Overview of Arizona food insecurity, 17.4% poor, 44<sup>th</sup> worst state, 15.8% food insecurity rate, Child Food Insecurity rate 24%. The impact of Food insecurity on health. Food insecurity on the economy cost \$3. 960, 000, 000. The impact of FI on Children. The solution Arizonans Preventing Hunger Action Plan: 3 goals: 1. Increase the economic security for people, communities, and the state of Arizona, 2. Cultivate a strong Regional Food System, 3. Maximize the effectiveness of Arizona's food assistance safety net. [Tinyurl.com/2017azhungerplan](http://Tinyurl.com/2017azhungerplan)

6. Subcommittee Reports & Direction to Subcommittees Sine Kerr, Chair  
(Information, discussion and action)

We are a work in progress. Our charge is to provide recommendations to Director Killian - all aspects of emergency food systems and access to healthy nutritious food produced here in AZ.

**a. Food Needs, Access & Sources**

**David Martinez III**

Two main points: 1. Have the subcommittee work with Dept of Ag to map accurate and timely data on food need, sources and opportunities to increase food access across AZ AND 2. Report more generally about collaborative, Policy, Regulatory and Funding recommendation points. The FAPAC discussed prioritizing the list what is not touched in other committees and identified by the Food Desert Summit.

The members discussed regulatory information that Yavapai and Coconino has is slightly different interpretation about that producers and growers can sell their produce and the regulatory responsibility is on the purchaser, Art Babbitt has that information and Elizabeth will share that information.

**b. Equity**

**Kara Egbert**

1. Coming together and share information.
2. Direct access to double up bucks.
3. Encouraging new and small farms, micro loans.
4. Removing barriers to food access.

**c. Economic Development**

**Liz Taylor, PhD**

1. Communicate the value of AZ grown food. Improve and increase access. Revisit Buy AZ Food. Private and public.
2. Create better opportunities for business. Reduce regulations.
3. Support agricultural financing through the commerce bank and microloans.
4. Improve land access for growers. Identify land incentives to keep land in agriculture.
5. Share best practices. AZ Farm bureau has a page to access all the links for beginner farmers.
6. Improved transportation and infrastructure.
7. Use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to ensure food access.

Liz commented that Northern AZ doesn't feel connected.  
Farm Bill has a number of programs. Address transportation and access. Explore the use of St. Mary's #9.

Platforms for more efficient food availability. Restaurants can indicate they have a surplus. Mid or long term goals. All about quick food transport.

#### **d. Policy**

**Paul Brierley**

Topic areas of policy suggestions or changes: 1. Food summit; 2. Food Bank; 3. Pinnacle Prevention; 4. Farm Bill; 5. Regulations or relief and uniformity; 6. Other subcommittees; 7. Relevant examples from other states.

Liz wants a chart or map to look at overlap, talking about what we do and how we report.

Suggest this group focus on the farm bill.

Take fundamentals map of the governor and make a motivational and informative document.

Sine suggest we need to make a report on short term goals soon and then work on medium and long term goals. Each subcommittee comes up with 3 immediate goals.

David sees 4 actions: 1. Set up a farm bill subcommittee to be a clearing house or compiler of information to show AZ impact on the farm bill, example: continuing of the Finney funds. 2. Subcommittee gets the 3 immediate goals. 3. Policy committees 4. Compile reports for action plan at the next one.

David and Liz will compile a map. Goal is to capture all that is done so far. Then we can see the overlap and areas of emphasis.

Possibly vote to create a Farm Bill Sub Committee and absolve the Policy council – no action because it wasn't on the agenda

#### **e. Policy Subcommittee**

The Policy Subcommittee should be dissolved.

7. No number 7.

#### **8. New Subcommittee Member Consideration**

**Sine Kerr**

(Information, discussion and action)

Dean Brennan (Maricopa County Food System Coalition), Nicole Olmstead (American Heart Association of America). Both have asked to be on the Policy subcommittee. However, this subcommittee is going away. Sine can appoint them to appropriate subcommittee without a meeting.

#### **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.

Traci Lemon (Charity and Peace): Regarding the policy committee going to the Farm Bill, would it be effective for the policy subcommittee to still function to become a guru on policy for policy to the other committees? Element of Education: add that as a subcommittee. Bill Robinson Crazy Chili Farm): 1.2 million meals for our neighbors, Maricopa County Community Garden Association, have a large farmers market in Maricopa County in the middle of a food desert, 21<sup>st</sup> of October Desert Harvest Festival. Director Killian will attend. Going to whip a new field. Need a single bottom horse drawn plow. Cherilyn Yazzi (Navajo Nation): focus on food systems and active living changes in Navajo, problems for native community.

#### **10. Executive Session.**

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

No.

11. Next Meeting.

To Be Determined

Doodle poll and will email.

12. Adjourn

Paul made a motion to adjourn, Kara seconded. Passed. 15:38

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