



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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

Minutes

MEETING HELD ON Wednesday, September 6, 2017  
1688 W. Adams Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. Call to Order Sine Kerr, Chair
2. Roll Call Sharma Torrens

FAPAC Members: Sine Kerr (Chair), Nikki Bagley, Paul Brierley (Phone), Rocco Cardinale (Phone), Kara Egbert (Phone), Representative Charlene Fernandez, Leslie Fox (Phone), David Martinez III, Liz Taylor

AZDA Staff Present: Chris McCormack, Michele Mellott, Sharma Torrens

Public Present: Angie Rodgers (AAFB), Anthony Kamson (Kamson Financial), Jeff Sandquist (Veridus LLC),

3. Approval of July 25, 2017 Minutes Sine Kerr

The FAPAC discussed some necessary changes to the Minutes, which included the following, a) under Section 4, instead of "Finney funding" it should read, "FINI funding;" (b) under Section 4, the discussion was also about making farmers markets sustainable; (c) under Section 4, there was also discussion about expanding farmers market double up bucks expand to grocery store produce; (d) under Section 6(d), the list is not complete as it should also include a #6, which would be the "other subcommittees," and it should also include a #7, which would be "relevant examples from other states;" and (e) it should be noted that the Policy Subcommittee was to be dissolved.

With all of the above changes made, Nikki moved to approve the 7/27/17 Meeting Minutes. Representative Fernandez seconded this motion and the motion was approved unanimously by the members.

4. Presentation on Cooperatives John Penry

Sine deferred to David to introduce John Penry to the FAPAC. John is a consultant who works with Cooperatives around the country and trying to do so in Arizona.

John informed the FAPAC about Cooperatives. Cooperatives are member owned, where all members have a vote. The weakness of Cooperatives is that there is an inability to raise funds since the investment must come from the members. In Arizona there are 3 types of Cooperatives in statute: (a) Agricultural; (b) Electric Distribution and (c) Generation and Transmission.

The negative about the Arizona Revised Statute is that it does not allow for a multi-stakeholder approach (as they do in Wisconsin, California, etc.). The ideal scenario would be that the current governing statute would be modified (and added to) to permit a multi-stakeholder approach and add all types of Cooperatives. The AZ Corporation Commission will likely not have a steep learning curve since it is familiar with Cooperatives already. And John predicts that the agricultural cooperatives in this state will not have issues with the statute being modified since it still gives them the current rights, just expands the statute to include others.

Sine would like to hear input from the existing Cooperatives in Arizona.

5. Policy and Other Recommendations to present to Director Killian Sine Kerr  
(Information, discussion and action)

- Review recommendations from the Subcommittees as submitted in themes and as previously presented to FAPAC
- Discuss any additional recommendations to be submitted before September 15th
- Finalize policy recommendations from FAPAC

David showed the FAPAC a PowerPoint, which had all the recommendations from the 3 Subcommittees (Food, Needs and Access; Equity and Economic Development) for the FAPAC to recommend to Director Killian.

The Food Need and Access (FNAS) Committee recommended the following:

- a) Expand the existing state food donation incentive statute (A.R.S. § 43-1025) to include all food donations, especially dairy, poultry and fresh animal protein, and also to have the AZDA dedicate staff to promote these Arizona-grown food access opportunities, Good Samaritan laws, and connect food donors to food banks;
- b) Provide funding to food banks, non-profit organization, agricultural food cooperatives and the Double Up Bucks food program (exploring public private partnerships);
- c) Empower sustained Arizona Agriculture Food Production;
- d) Streamline state and county health guidelines, reducing cumbersome and costly third party certifications.

The FNAS would also like to stress to the FAPAC, but not formally recommend, the following:

- a) Expand A.R.S. § 10-2001 to include other agricultural entities and provide cooperative start-up tax incentives;
- b) Endorse cultivating a strong regional food system and partner with statewide coordination of existing Food Policy Councils.

The Equity Subcommittee (“Equity”) would like to recommend the following:

- a) Organize regular events to gather all in the production and distribution of food to gather and share information and concerns, and report back to the FAPAC and educate the community;
- b) Direct access to the Double up Food Bucks program;
- c) Consider subsidies, microloans, and education for new and small farmers;
- d) Identify and remove barriers and requirements to food production and access.

The Economic Development Subcommittee (ED) would like to recommend the following:

- a) Communicate and support the value of Arizona-grown food through the Double up Food Bucks Program & “Buy Arizona Grown Food” Initiative;
- b) Create uniform regulations and codes for small scale growers by adopting an approach similar to that used by Yavapai and Coconino Counties;
- c) Create a one-stop shop page on the Arizona Department of Agriculture website focused on increasing access to healthy food.

The ED would to recommend the following for further discussion by the FAPAC:

- a) Consider how to create uniform regulations and codes for small scale growers, as well as other scale growers, who wish to sell their products in-state;
- b) Consider training and education a shared goal with the FNAS of the FAPAC.

Overall, the recommendation themes from all 3 Subcommittees, were the following:

- a) Funding (Double up Food Bucks, Expanded state food donation tax incentive; PPP funding for food banks, etc.; Subsidies, microloans and other financing options)
- b) Removing Barriers (streamlined state & county health regulations); For food production, transportation, etc; and Expanded co-op definition);
- c) Dept. of Ag. Clearinghouse (Dedicated staff member and website; Promote AZ Grown food access & procurement; Promote tax incentive and Good Samaritan laws; Coordinate statewide food system coalitions;
- d) Land & Water Use

Some other recommendations from FNAS for future discussion include the following:

- a) Support current efforts for DES to seek waiver that allows DES staff to secure SNAP/TANF benefits for qualifying inmates prior to release (and training correctional officers on enrollment procedures);
- b) Support current efforts for the State of Arizona to adopt a “Delay the Box” policy as an employer (doesn’t ask about

- criminal record in first round of interviews);  
c) Support current efforts to strengthen and expand employment and training.

The FAPAC discussed whether the additional recommendations from FNAS were outside of their scope, but decided that there would be two different sets of recommendations.

The FAPAC discussed utilizing the term “unify” instead of “streamline” when recommending about state and county health regulations. Sine also had concerns that FAPAC adopt the Cooperative recommendation without having first consulted with the existing Cooperatives in the state.

David moved that the FAPAC recommend these specified in the language above, with the change recommended regarding the term “unify”, removing the Cooperative recommendation, with language to be provided to Sharma by Monday at noon. Nikki seconded this motion and the FAPAC unanimously approved.

6. Discuss and Possibly Adopt Ideas for Terms of Goals as Requested by Director Killian Sine Kerr  
(Information, discussion and action)

The FAPAC discussed tackling the mid-term goals at the next meeting.

7. Subcommittees and Potential Restructure Sine Kerr  
(Information, discussion and action)

In order to save on time and effort, the FAPAC is dissolving the 3 Subcommittees since the FAPAC can designate working groups to do the same tasks.

Nikki moved that the 3 Subcommittees be dissolved. Liz seconded the motion and the FAPAC unanimously approved.

8. Substantive Policy Statement A.R.S. §§ 3-561 to 3-563 Chris McCormack

The FAPAC has the Substantive Policy Statement handout. Chris wanted them to be informed about this matter.

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.

No public comments were made.

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 go into executive session.

11. Next Meeting

To Be Determined

The next FAPAC meeting will be some time in November. Sharma is to send out a Doodle Poll to the FAPAC members to find out a date that works.

The meeting was adjourned.