



Utah Local Food Advisory Council - Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 17th, 2021: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Hosted virtually via Google Hangouts and streamed on Facebook Live from the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/utahagriculture/>

Anchor location for those who wish to view the virtual meeting in person: Main Conference Room of the UDAF Building
(350 N Redwood Rd, Salt Lake City, UT, 84116)

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gene Davis
Gina Cornia
Jack Wilbur
Kelsey Hall
Craig Buttars(joined late) / Kelly Pehrson (voted in place)
Tamra Jorgenson
Steve Handy
Janae Duncan (joined late)
Jordan Riley (joined late)

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Alison Einerson
Bjorn Carlson
Clare Collard
Garrick Hall (voted in today)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ashley Patterson
Colleen Dick
Ruby Ward
Regan Emmons
Symbria Patterson

1. **Welcome & Introductions - Representative Steve Handy / Senator Gene Davis**

a. Roll call: See member attendance above. Calli confirmed we had a quorum in attendance.

b. Review and approve meeting minutes from April 2021 meeting. Representative Handy motion to approve, seconded by Jack Wilbur. Roll call vote in favor - Senator Gene Davis, Jack Wilbur, Kelly Pehrson (for Craig Buttars), Kelsey Hall, Representative Steve Handy, Tamra Jorgenson, Gina Cornia.

c. Membership announcements:

Council vote for Garrick Hall of Farm Bureau representative for the Local Food Advisory Council. Kelly Pehrson (for Craig Buttars) motion to approve,

seconded by Gina Cornia. Roll call vote in favor - Senator Gene Davis, Gina Cornia, Jack Wilbur, Kelly Pehrson (for Craig Buttars), Kelsey Hall, Representative Steve Handy, Tamra Jorgenson.

2. Open and Public Meetings Act Training - *Nicole Hanna, Utah Attorney General's Office (presented by Melissa Ure)*

Two (2) types of Conflict of Interest:

1. *Actual conflicts*: Requires members of the board to abstain from making certain decisions. Actual conflicts do need to be declared, witnessed and submitted to Calli. This declaration will then be submitted to the Attorney General's office. Examples of a Actual Conflict are:

2. *Perceived Conflicts*: Any issue that could be perceived by the general public as a conflict. This conflict wouldn't necessarily have an impact on decision making.

Open Meetings:

Requirements of an Open and Public Meeting:

- Must have a quorum to conduct business.
- All business must be discussed in an open forum.
- Must be publicly noticed 24 hours in advance.
- Written Notice must be posted at the principal office/building of the meeting.
- Notice must be provided to media (established by using Utah Public Forum website)
- Public notice includes: agenda and any material shown to the body.
- Topics not on the agenda can be raised, but no action can be taken until notice
- Written minutes and audio recording must be kept and include: date, time, place, individual members, names of attendees, substance of what is discussed, individual votes taken, names of person that provides testimony.
- Within 30 days of meeting: Pending minutes must be posted
- Within 3 days of meeting: Approved minutes, materials provided, and all recordings must be unedited and posted.
- If communicating (texting or emailing) during a public meeting, that information must become part of the public record.

GRAMA: If a GRAMA request is received, please notify the Department.

3. Utah County Agriculture Toolbox w/Envision Utah - *Ari Bruening & Ryan Beck, Envision Utah*

Ari Bruening (screen share presentation)

Utah is a rapidly growing state, the fastest in the country for the last 10 years. *Envision Utah* wants to bring everyone together and talk about ways to manage that growth.

"Your Utah, Your Future" survey (2013)

Utah is becoming less self-sufficient in regards to growing its own food. Today, we only produce 3% of our fruits and 2% of our vegetables. Over 50,000 Respondents responded to

the survey about their desires for the future of Utah. Results:

Top two things motivating Utah to improve agriculture:

- 1- Food self-sufficiency
- 2- Ability to eat locally grown foods.

The Agricultural Vision:

"Utahns envision feeding their families with healthy, high-quality food grown in Utah. They see an abundance of locally grown products as a part of a healthy lifestyle that will improve the quality of life for them and future generations. Utahns also envision being more self-reliant and less dependent on other states and countries to provide their food. They also want a future in which Utah's food industry provides jobs across the state."

Ryan Beck (screen share presentation)

Utah County is the #1 for Ag Receipts in the state with \$189 Million (2017). Utah County is ideal for growing tart cherries, sweet cherries, pears, etc. Production land acreage is quickly dwindling by development trends. Balance needs to be struck between where we live and where food is grown.

Needs and Goals of Utah County Agriculture Toolbox:

1. Give options to protect high quality Ag lands in UT county.
2. Tools that the cities, the county, landowners, and state can put into practice.
3. Multiple options provided to landowners when deciding the future of their land.
4. Example of processes and toolboxes to help other places in Utah.

After many meetings with 100+ stakeholders, farmers, and ranchers- **two (2) main goals** were identified:

1: Work to make agriculture more economically & socially viable in Utah County. Examples of how to meet this goal:

- Look at the way cities treat agriculture.
- Shift to growing high-value specialty crops.
- 40,000 acres are currently used to grow Hay and Alfalfa. Shift a small percentage of acres into fruits & vegetables.
- Food distribution systems (i.e. industrial food system & local food system)

The average age of a farmer in America is over 58 years old. How do we get new farmers into farming/agriculture based businesses?

2. Encourage development patterns and implement measures that support Ag land & water resources. Examples of how to meet this goal:

- A compact development footprint leaves more space for Ag land & open space.
- Cluster Development: allows landowners who wish to develop a tract of land to concentrate development with smaller lot sizes in a smaller portion of that tract.
- Develop a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.
- Change Ag 5 and 10 to Ag 30.

All strategies and toolbox can be found at: utahagriculture.org

Envision Utah will be rebooting the “You’re Utah, You’re Future” project again later this Fall and report progress of that project at a later date.

4. Appropriations Updates

a. Utah Produce Incentives - *Natalie Loots, Utah Dept. of Health*

The 2021 Market season of “Double Up Food Bucks” has begun. As of last week, there has been \$5,423 in SNAP & Double Up redemption. Comparatively, this time last year, \$1,442 had been redeemed. 10 new markets and CSAs are now in operation.

b. Food Hub Start-Up Grant Opportunity - *Linda Gillmor, Utah Dept. of Ag & Food* (screen share presentation)

Utah is one of the few states in the nation that don’t currently have a Food Hub. Food Hubs are invocation distribution centers which bring multiple smaller producers together to pool their goods and fulfill orders. The benefit to farmers and ranchers being additional revenue streams and more time on the farm.

\$112,500 has been allocated in seed funding to develop a Utah Food Hub.

- Access more information about the Start-Up grant at: <https://ag.utah.gov/foodhubgrant/>
- Accepting application July 1, 2021 through August 27, 2021.

c. Farm to School Legislation - *Rep. Handy, Sen. Davis, Kate Wheeler, USBE*

Next school year, Utah will be directly rewarding schools who purchase Utah grown foods and products. Reimbursement will be determined by how much of their food funds were spent on local foods.

5. Incentivizing Local Purchasing for Schools & Future Farm to Fork Legislation - *Kate Wheeler, Utah State Board of Education*

More positions believe more positions could be created to make farm-to-school network more a priority and create a better food system in Utah. Kate has met with folks at UDOH and UDAF to discuss funding.

Representative Handy will assist with the bill. Data presented today from Envision Utah will be instrumental to demonstrate the need. Will speak to the School Board this Fall to request their endorsement.

6. Utah Drought Conditions Update

a. Utah State University - *Anastasia Thayer Hassett* (screen share presentation)

In 2021, more of Utah’s land area is in “exceptional drought”. Reasons being:

- Snowpack and precipitation are lower than normal, leading to low soil saturation.

- Water Availability: 10 of 18 of tracked water basins are below normal levels.
- Above average temperatures.

For more information, see monthly report and podcast, “Precip & Prices” at:

<https://extension.usu.edu/apec/precip-prices-podcast>

b. Utah Department of Agriculture & Food - Jay Olsen (*screen share presentation*)

There is decreased Irrigation & livestock Water. Below are the current reports:

- Bear River Canal Company is at 90%, but pulling heavily from their storage pool.
- Coal Creek peaked at 60 CFS this year and usually averages 300 CFS.
- Gunnison Irrigation Company reported Gunnison Reservoir is now empty.
- Nine Mile reservoir is now empty.
- Ephraim Irrigation Company is running at 9%.

The Farm Service Agency has reported that producers were hauling water last year and/or still hauling now. Springs and creeks that have never been dry are now dry. Producers have indicated crop production will be reduced anywhere from 90% in the southern part of the state to 20% in the northern part of the state, depending on their water right and storage. All producers have a certain number of fixed cost taxes, operating loan and long-term loans. They still have to meet those obligations. Some producers might choose to go out of business because they have limited credit.

Agriculture Impacts: limited irrigation & livestock water, hay prices increase, increase to temperature, wind & fire, liquidation, crop production and forage production.

7. Local Food Advisory Council Work Group Updates

a. Ag Land Preservation, Bjorn Carlson & Calli Forsyth

We will start looking at Ag Land Preservation and Rural Ag Land Preservation separately. Currently working to identify what barriers are there to farming, and why farmers are not continuing to farm.

b. Statewide Community Food Assessment, Natalie Loots & Brad Belnap

Food assessment committee has not met this month. No updates.

c. Innovations in Production, Jack Wilbur

Working on an assessment and feasibility report related to co packing. Dr. Karen Allen and Utah's Own program are working on this project together. Hoping to have a preliminary report in the August meeting.

Spearheading social media efforts. Follow the Local Food Advisory Council facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UtahLocalFoodAdvisoryCouncil>

d. Innovations in Distribution, Ruby Ward

Will have outside speakers concerning food hubs in July's work group meetings.

e. Regulations, Representative Handy & Calli Forsyth

Will review 33 barrier items identified by Envision Utah with the work group in next meeting.

Senator Davis encourages everyone to get in touch with Calli Forsyth with topics you want to explore further or if you have interest in joining any of our work groups.

8. Open Discussion

a. Ag-land preservation funding

Commission Butters reports that Rep. Snyder is looking at legislation, but no updates to report at the moment.

9. Closing Remarks - Representative Steve Handy / Senator Gene Davis

Senator Davis requested the legislative appointed task force concerning food islands be added to the next meeting's agenda. **Next Meeting: Thursday, August 26th 2-4 pm.** Senator Davis takes a motion to adjourn. Motion approved by Representative Handy. All in favor.