



MEETING MINUTES

Utah Local Food Advisory Council

Wednesday, December 1st, 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/>

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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

Garrick Hall
Gene Davis
Jack Wilbur
Kelsey Hall
Craig Buttars (Kelly Pehrson voted)
Tamra Jorgenson
Janae Duncan (came in late) (Brad Belnap)
Jordan Riley
Steve Handy
Gina Cornia

Voting Members Excused

Alison Einerson
Bjorn Carlson
Clare Collard

Non-Voting Members In Attendance

Regan Emmons
Ruby Ward
Symbria Patterson

Non-Voting Members Excused

Colleen Dick
Ashley Patterson (Georgina Griffith-Yates)

1. Welcome & Introductions - Representative Steve Handy

- a. Roll call attendance

- b. Review and approve meeting minutes from the August 2021 meeting. Motion to accept- Representative Handy. Roll call vote: Senator Davis, Jack Wilbur, Kelsey Hall, Kelly Pehrson, Tamra Jorgenson, Jordan Riley, Representative Handy, and Gina Cornia- Accepted.
- 2. Food Task Force Report Review - *Gina Cornia, Utahns Against Hunger***
The Food Task Force was formed in August and formed three (3) workgroups:
 - Outreach and Community Resources
 - Economic Stability
 - Policy and Access to Health Food

The workgroups came up with three (3) overarching recommendations to address underlying issues of food security:

- Increase inventory of affordable housing
- Deal with income disparity by increasing wages
- Make higher education more affordable

Nine (9) state level recommendations were made, including removing sales tax from food. Support is being put behind the work that is happening on the Federal level and the group is working with Senator Escamilla on proposed legislation. A copy of the report was forwarded to the group for reference with additional details.

3. Appropriations Updates

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

The 2021 Season of Double Up Food Bucks was the best yet. 2021 Quick Takeaways:

- Expanded into two (2) additional counties
- Added six (6) new farmers markets and two (2) farm stand
- Added three (3) year-round locations
- Launched four (4) SNAP/Double Up CSA programs

Food Hub Start-Up Grant Opportunity - *Linda Gillmor, UDAF*

Senator Davis was successful in his appropriation request for the Local Food Hub Startup and Dev. Grant funding. UDAF reviewed applications based on eligibility and will monitor progress of approved projects through next summer.

Two (2) projects were approved:

1. *Mobile Farm to Table Co-op HUB Initiative*: Connects farm-fresh food to local consumers with delivery centers across the Wasatch front. Will purchase a delivery truck and develop an online ordering system.
2. *Oliver's Place*: Expanding agrotourism and providing local farmers access to local buyers in a storefront.

Comments:

Darin Mann: Have we an Advisory Council looked into successful models of Food Hubs, such as St. Louis? It's important to build a local food economy that has more support for local growers. If Urban growers could obtain tax exemption and have access to more water, it would be more affordable to grow in Urban areas.

Symbria Patterson: Tax issue can be examined in the regulatory committee in future meetings. Will add the subject to the agenda.

Laurie Seron: Visited Urban Farms in St. Louis a few months ago. Farmers explained their processes in switching from mass-rural growing to urban farming. These small grows incorporate healthy soil and drip irrigation, have less overhead, and more profit.

4. Local Food Advisory Council Strategic Planning

- a. Reauthorization Plan and Process: Rep. Handy feels confident in going forward with requesting reauthorization.
- b. Member Roundtable Discussion: Ideas of how this council can operate moving forward?
 - i. *Darrin Mann:* The council should support and move legislation initiatives forward to help urban growers. Tax exemptions and/or grant support could benefit Urban farmers.
 - ii. *Laurie Seron:* We need to identify pieces of open land that could be turned into a growing plot, possibly develop a "land inventory" in Utah Urban areas.
 - iii. *Tamra Annett:* A workgroup of retailers and distributors would be beneficial.
 - iv. *Kelsey Hall:* Suggested the council could find ways to make equipment used for SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks more affordable to small business so more people could take advantage of those programs. Additionally, Kelsey will be leading a discussion group with local farmers to identify issues concerning the operation of the Double Up Food Bucks program. The council could assist with support to fix these problems as they come up.
 - v. *Natalie Loots:* the council needs to continue to offer support to the projects we have already established. The Department of Health submitted a plan for the Senior Farmers Market Program, and the council's support of this program would be beneficial.
 - vi. *Gina Cornia:* Rep. Stuart's office approached Utah's Against Hunger to discuss a WICK Farmers Market program. The council could support this effort.
 - vii. *Representative Handy:* Senator Davis, Rep. Handy and Kate Wheeler are working on "Farm-to-School" Legislature. Overall goal of the bill is to:

institutionalize Farm-to-School at the state level, change culture, create three (3) staff positions, and formalize state agency to run the taskforce.

viii. *Jack Wilbur*: There should be a food council in every county of the state. The LFAC could facilitate “regional councils”, while continuing to work with those council groups that already exist. Additionally, we need to examine the existing work groups. Ag Land Preservation needs more representation for Urban Agriculture.

ix. *Senator Davis*: Reach out more to Agriculture Extension agents that are in every county and get them to work with county commissions.

x. *Gina Cornia*: This committee provides a whole food landscape. Utahns Against Hunger focuses on food access and LFAC could be a great support to those local efforts.

xi. *Laurie Seron*: Perhaps workgroups could be organized into the many pieces within the food system. Secondly, Laurie is working with a land developer that is putting a community garden and orchard alongside their building. It is important to support those who think out of the box.

xii. *Symbria Patterson*: More speakers and experts in their field could be a part of more agendas.

xiii. *Allision Williams*: Ogden Food Policy Council is looking for the LFAC to be the body where they can come and report their efforts and what is happening in their region/area. Calli will add an Ogden Food Policy Council update to upcoming agendas.

c. Virtual vs In-Person Meetings

i. Currently, the council is leaning toward having virtual meetings three times a year virtually, and once a year in-person. The in-person meeting will need to have some virtual component as well.

5. Closing Remarks - Representative Steve Handy & Senator Gene Davis

Legislative Session will be on January 18th, 2022. Jack Wilbur motion to adjourn- approved.