Q3 2024 MEETING NOTES

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Co-Chair: Ann Cooper Co-Chair: Nicholas Marquez
  September 5th, , 2024

ATTENDEES

Members in attendance (in person): Marci Cochran, Mandy Nuku, Al Goodman, Greg Thomason, Michele Meyer, Liza Marron, Julie Moore, Larry Pollart, Krista Garand, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar, Libby Christensen, Dawn Thilmany, Ann Cooper

Members joining virtually: Derrick Hoffman, Joan Brucha, Nicholas Marquez, Juli Babcock, Tessa Hale, Geonna King, Kaydee Lucero, Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts

Guests: Rebecca Robbins, Todd Hagenbuch

Staff: Lily Lake, Alex DeJoy

Members Not in Attendance (emailed in advance): Angelika Sunie

Members Not in Attendance (did not email in advance): AJ Roche

NOTES

Staff and Membership Update

- Welcome to our new Staff Director, Lily Lake
  - Libby will step into the CSU seat that Dawn is currently in
  - Dawn will participate in working groups as she is able
- Michele Meyer will be moving into CDA Rep seat
  - This will leave "Representative of a food distributor or a food hub" seat open (term ending 10/31/25)
- Welcome to our Young Leaders Geonna King and Kaydee Lucero
  - Both interested in joining the institutional procurement working group

- We are still waiting for General Assembly to appoint the seats we provided recommendations for last Fall
  - Representative of a statewide healthy food systems organization
    - We've recommended Rebecca Robbins

    - Representative of institutional procurement from an educational setting
        - We've recommended Deb Trevor
    - We're waiting on Minority Leader of the House to make their appointment
    - Mandy will try to nudge her GA contact about getting an appointment letter
    - Ann said someone from GA reached out to Deb recently and asked if she was still interested in being appointed, she answered yes and then heard nothing back
    - Lily will try to follow up with appointers and/or their staff in person
        - Hope that face to face meeting will help with getting this next round of appointments we're going to recommend

- Upcoming seats expiring 10/31/24

Tamaan Osbourne-Roberts	Nutrition expert, licensed physician, or registered dietitian
Liza Marron	Member with expertise in rural community and regional development programs or community and economic development programs
Derrick Hoffman	Representative of agricultural production and as a member who sells agricultural products to a public school or school district
Michele Meyer (seat is open now, term will expire 10/31/25)	Representative of a food distributor or a food hub
Marci Cochran (Governor)	Recipient of a federal food assistance program
Julie Moore (Governor)	Representative of food wholesalers or food retailers and as a direct market retailer
Tessa Hale (Governor)	Representative of institutional procurement from a health care setting

    - We will add these seats and application links to the COFSAC website and make a shareable PDF you can send to your networks
    - We'll also reach out with a scheduling poll for reviewing applications for any current COFSAC members who want to participate and provide recommendations

Vote to approve Q2 minutes

- Dawn motions to approve
- Larry second
- Unanimous approval

Budget

Proposed budget 2025

FY 24 COFSAC BUDGET AND EXPENSES				
EXPENSES	ACTUAL FY 23	Proposed 24	FY 24	Proposed 25 July 1
CSU Central Appropriation		$51,363	$51,363	$51,363
Staff (Salary & Fringe)	$73,153	$70,000	$67,361	$75,000
Communications	$6,625	$12,000	$4,783	$22,000
Research Consultants	$2,289	$18,000	$6,000	$8,000
Extension Interns		$7,000	$5,000	$7,000
Supplies, Travel, Misc	$5,258	$7,000	$1,498	$12,000
Strategic Planning	$30,000	-	-	$15,000
Contingency 10%	$10,770	$10,770	$10,770	$10,770
TOTAL EXPENSES	$128,095	$176,133	$146,775	$201,133
REVENUE				
Allocation	$107,619	$151,068	$151,068	$151,068
Carryover	$52,105	$42,399	$42,399	$51,692
CSU Extension Internship		$7,000	$5,000	$7,000
TOTAL	$159,724	$200,467	$198,467	$209,760
UNALLOCATED	$31,629	$24,334	$51,691.95	$8,627

- Comms budget is changing from past years
    - Initially planned a larger amount to accommodate policy videos
    - Could also use those funds for different form of communications for COFSAC
    - Nourish CO-put together fantastic videos, not a ton of views
        - 5 min videos, also have 1 min summary of 5 min videos
        - All have Spanish subtitles
        - Worth it to have and then use as promotion and on the website
        - Good to capture message and story
        - Would say it has been worth making them-also developing guidebook which will hopefully increase views
        - CDE has used them in trainings and Julie has shared with board

    - It makes sense for COFSAC promote videos that already exist and keep from duplicating efforts

- Potential for COFSAC to pair with value chain coordination course through CSU
    - Contribute to what will already exist as a data base of food systems terms
    - What could COFSAC role in CSU course be?
        - Noncredit online course for folks in value chain coordination
        - Have heard from Farm to Loading Dock work that there is a need for value chain coordination training
        - Wallace Center has an existing course that Elliott Smith helped put together
            - Very general; gives broad overview but doesn't go into Colorado specifics
        - CSU will have a certificate program
            - Going to include some embedded video pieces that COFSAC could contribute to
- Another option for videos will happen at the seven Regional Food Convenings that are happening in place of the statewide Food Summit this year
    - Try to have each region make video like what is shared at statewide food summit; this could showcase how different the regions are across the state
    - COFSAC hasn't contributed to regional convenings yet, we could give funds towards videos in each region

- Recommend the Communications & Strategic Relations working group talk about this and put forth a proposal for COFSAC to consider, including a budget.

- Most of the rest of the budget is staying the same, with the exception of potentially allocating funds towards Strategic Planning in preparation for our next Sunset Review in 2026
    - Our last strategic planning process was painful, dragged on and on
    - Probably worth it to do some kind of strategic planning before next sunset, but need to find a different system
    - Can we deploy energy earlier to make for a less painful sunset review?
    - We will follow up with Jordan Beezley CDA

- How does the budget work?
    - There is a state mandated line item from the state budget $153k
        - Financially housed at CSU, CSU takes indirect off top and manages all fiscal processes

External events and partner outreach

- CDE HSMA Advisory Committee
    - Stakeholder outreach has begun

    - Planning for a couple of meetings throughout fall
    - Lily attended for the meeting for COFSAC yesterday
    - Hour focus group with Urban Institute who is putting together report for JBC
    - Came up with ways to get under budget
        - Doesn't seem they've looked into data much yet but just putting together budget options at this point
    - Didn't mention grant programs in meeting yesterday
    - Next meeting in oct

- Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger is putting together Food Sovereignty tool
    - Considering how to define food sovereignty
    - They are interviewing, looking at existing info, telling people's stories to ultimately put together a tool around food sovereignty

- Governor's Office – Healthy Eating Proposals
    - Dawn at CSU was just contacted to see if CSU Extension does this work
    - Proposals around healthy eating and how that can look from different perspectives; there seems to be interest around urban growing
    - Dawn asked if they knew they had a council that meets about food systems work?
    - Prefer to work with them through COFSAC and CSU can support
    - Trying to make governor reach out and talk to COFSAC as the advisory board we are supposed to serve as
    - CDPHE was also contacted by Gov's office about this

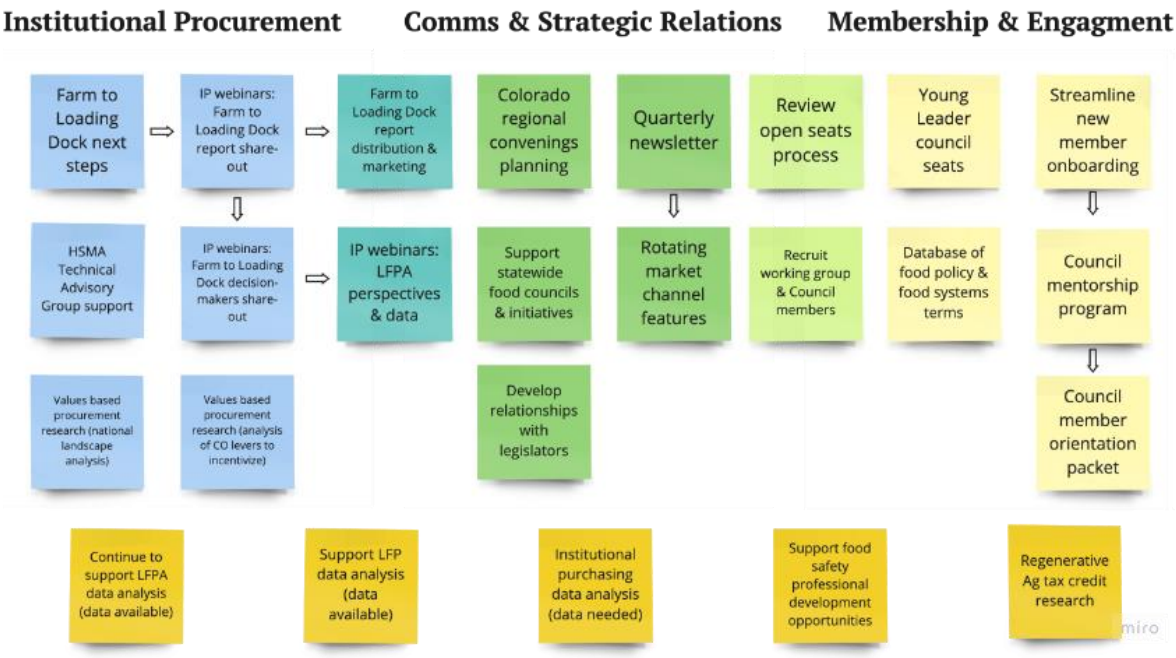
- Institutional Procurement webinar series
    - Feels like there is a series emerging because of all the data in the state right now
    - Looking at 12pm-1:15pm Oct 25 to do webinar where we share out Farm to Loading Dock Report
    - Have also looked at doing separate webinar specifically for decision makers that makes them aware of our report
    - Want to do an LFPA webinar next year
    - We'll share out webinar invite with all of you to share with your networks

- CO Blueprint for Food and Ag
    - Becca Jablonski was food systems lead - leaned into summits and regional convenings
    - We could consider if there is place for that
    - Makes sense for us to support written documents
    - Not moving right now because of shifting leadership
    - Before Becca left, she developed mapping/reporting tool with 500+ data layers across the food system
    - Can revisit and do webinar on data mapping set

- Regional Convenings
    - Previous regions map for CO blueprint had 11 regions of CO
    - Current Extension map has 6 regions
    - Right now, have interest from 10 organizations across the state to host their own food systems focused convening in their region
    - Also asking each region for their data
    - Those ten organizations will put on events from Oct 2024-March 2025
    - How are reg convenings going to be communicated?
        - We're leaning on host committees in each region to advertise but we could support more if needed
        - Will use our newsletter as one way to promote
        - Sent regional convening interest form to all past food summit attendees
    - We've heard the statewide summit has been a problem because of being Denver centric
    - Al has heard that people thought COFSAC was going away because they hadn't heard about a food summit for this year
        - Maybe hasn't been clear what is CSU and what is COFSAC
    - The more that COFSAC members can attend and participate in planning for their region it will help our visibility
    - Western region had a planning committee yesterday, all spots filled and had a productive meeting

- We should start a Linkedin page - can post our webinar

Working group next steps



- Want to make sure we are engaging our new Young Leaders
    - Want to capitalize on their skills and experience and promote their work while also providing professional development for them
    - Should try to work more closely with organizations around the state that are positioning young people
    - Geonna is involved in her Regions' Convening
    - We can talk more to Kaydee about getting involved in the western regional convening
    - If there are anyone who is interested in mentorship and mentoring these young leaders let us know

Any other next steps?

- Something to connect regional convenings, new data analytics, and what Libby talked about in terms of how we keep informing our primary data for people at play
    - Should revisit this when we're making plans moving forward
- Governor's office has started work on Healthy Eating Proposals, hasn't informed or reached out to COFSAC
    - Can the Comms & Strategic Relations working group be part of this?
- In the past we have talked about meetings with other councils and coalitions around the state
    - Have COFSAC representation at events
    - Make sure there is at least one COFSAC member at each regional convening

- What does it mean by support food safety professional development opportunities? CSU does a lot with cottage foods already
    - This is more directed at the producer level
    - Seeing if we want to step into cold cellar and processor space given the grants coming out
        - Would require heftier certifications and education requirements

- Are there any next steps in the bottom row that don't fit into any of the current working groups?
    - Regenerative Ag tax credit may not fit
    - Went through General Assembly last session, got stuck in the Senate
        - Tax credit to food and beverage producers who use ingredients grown/raised with regenerative ag practices
        - If CDA needs guidance on how to implement a program like this, we could help there

- Should working group attendance be included in our Council bylaws?
    - Not currently part of bylaws, includes general structure but not working group attendance requirements
        - Currently ask for 50% attendance at working groups
    - Yes, a smaller group can meet to review and rewrite bylaws
        - Ann motions that the Executive Committee plus two volunteers take this on before next council meeting; Michele second

Working Group Updates

Institutional Procurement

- Farm to Loading Dock Report being formatted by graphic designer
    - Webinar coming up 10/25 to share out Farm to... report
- Identifying next steps in policy solutions/suggestions
- Next steps focusing on values-based procurement
    - Goal to research transparency policies focused on source identification requirements in RFPs
- Last meeting we talked about Good Food Purchasing Program

Communications and Strategic Relations

- Have been working on outreach to farmers market directors
    - Brief interviews
    - Collate info to include article in our next newsletter
    - Further discussing what we can do with what we're learning

        - One theme coming out of interviews is how embedded farmers markets are in their communities, community engagement opportunities
    - Will send out in our newsletter early next week
- Have also discussed how to push out farm to loading dock report
- Have also discussed pushing out Regional Convening info far and wide
- Videos - we haven't talked about that in comms yet, but we will discuss at upcoming working group meetings
- What is this group doing to connect with legislators during the session?
    - Last year tried to do meeting up or tagging onto a group that was doing a day at the Capital, in person presence
        - For various reasons nothing like this actually happened
    - We need to start this discussion again and make plans prior to next session starting
    - At some point there was discussion about an intern to do legislative tracking and track ag bills
        - Internships run during the summer
    - Liza thinks RMFU has tracking spreadsheet of all ag bills
    - We've encouraged the state agencies to include bills of interest to their written state agency updates
        - Since these are quarterly, we recognize a lot happens and changes in between updates
    - We invited Sen. Roberts today-couldn't make it
    - Megan Lukens coming to our tour later today
    - Michele will follow up with Jordan Beezley at CDA
- We're always looking for more working group members

Membership and Engagement

- Selected Geonna King and Kaydee Lucero
    - Had some outstanding applications, it was difficult to choose
    - Membership program-if you're interested in becoming a mentor let us know
- Continuing to reach out to GA appointers and staff
    - Making them aware of upcoming appointments as well
- Thank you to Libby and everything she did to plan for today

- Continuing education-like what we did for first hour today for Ag Landscape and Policy 101
    - We only meet 4 times a year
    - Is there a way to do something each month?
    - Consolidate information we should all be aware of and sharing out to our networks
        - Monthly list of links
        - Articles each other would be interested in
        - Keeping up on current events

        - List of email addresses directory
    - Interviews with farmers markets was also a great idea-grassroots approach to letting people know who COFSAC is
        - Wonder if we asked people in interviews to give 3 minute statement about what they are passionate about, we can share out
        - For elected officials: what around food and agriculture is affecting your community that you wish there was more attention being drawn to
        - Can also talk to other universities with this approach

State Agency updates
State Agency Updates Q3 2024 (2).pdf

- Only thing to add-Governor will be announcing event Friday 9/20 at Ghana International market in Aurora, will be announcing tax credit

Return to working group next steps conversation/sticky note graphic

- If we're looking to make market channels and access for producers, then food safety should be a priority
    - Would it fit under Institutional procurement?
        - Guess it depends on what producer's needs are
- Have heard circling rumors that when we helped CDA frame the Regional Food Systems Infrastructure grant, a portion kept back for coordination
    - Now realizing they're going to have to do meat audits
    - Plants doing upscaling/upsizing may need those funds
        - Funds may need to be reallocated to help with food safety compliance

- Rotating market channel features
    - Farmers market feature in Q3 newsletter
    - could feature a different market channel in future newsletters

- Curious where growing access to healthy foods for low-income populations fits into working groups
    - Missing piece of our identity
    - Young Leader applications showed interest in food access space
    - Short term since LFPA was the big thrust, institutional procurement would take on
    - Good time to revisit since funding buckets are ending
    - We have strong food access programs in the state, but the collaboration and duplication of efforts is a problem
    - If there is someone willing to chair a food access working group, we can start a new one
        - Institutional procurement working group shouldn't take on food access also

        - Mandy would be willing to chair new group

- How can the council reach stakeholders and perspectives we aren't currently working with?
    - Our council meetings are open
    - We could share an invite
    - LinkedIn and other social media would help
    - Put next quarterly meeting in the newsletter
    - Make sure if in person we make sure room is big enough

- Working group membership
    - Make one pager, objective outcome, leadership, list of members

NEXT Council meeting: Q4 Thurs. Dec. 5th 11am-1pm