Q2 2022 MEETING NOTES *DRAFT*

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Chair:** Julie Moore Vice-Chair: Laurian Unnevehr

May 19th, 2022

ATTENDEES

- Members present:
  - Julie Moore
  - Derrick Hoffman
  - Krista Garand
  - Laurian Unnevehr
  - Tessa Hale
  - Karla Maraccini
  - Greg Thomason
  - Marc Jacobson
  - Ann Cooper
  - Wendy Peters Moschetti
  - Caroline Bushnell
  - Dawn Thilmany
  - Marci Cochran
  - Liza Marron
  - Joan Brucha
  - Michele Meyer
- Staff Present
  - Lilan Brislen
  - Alex DeJoy
- Guests Present
  - Brett Lear
- Members Not in Attendance (emailed in advance)
  - Hollis Glenn
  - Gabe Disbrow
  - Effie Rorke (attempted to call in)
- Members Not in Attendance (did not email in advance)

Roll call: What new area of work or learning are you excited to embark on in the coming year?

APPROVAL OF Q1 MINUTES

- Motion to approve: Julie

- Vote: Unanimous (17 yay)

AGENDA

1. Council Admin-Old business
2. Issue based Working Group Updates
3. Internal Working Group updates
4. State Agency Updates

NOTES

<u>Old Business</u>

- Consultant progress
    - Lilian and Alex have been in the process of finding and hiring a communications consultant to help disseminate work done by COFSAC, bring awareness to resources on our website, etc.
    - Need to have in person conversation with chosen consultant to break down/finalize budget, timeline, etc.
    - Will then go through hiring process with CSU

- Received applications for open seats
    - Recommendation to review applications from the Internal Assessment Working Group
    - Laurian, Julie, Greg, Lilian, Alex met to look over applications and make recommendations to the Governor
    - Did not receive application for Specialty Crop Farmer seat
        - Specialty crop: produce, fruits, vegetables, tree nuts
    - Boards & Commissions told us the Governor prefers to only make one declaration a year
        - Now is a particularly hard time to reach farmers
    - Marci, Ann, and Wendy have individuals in mind we can reach out to
        - Josh and Nick, NOLA Naturals - they bought Dan and Nanna's land
            - They do poultry but also specialty crops
        - Mark Gutheridge
        - Sarah with Jones Farms Organics
    - Lilian has written back to Boards & Commissions and we will continue to push to get them seated ASAP
    - We will send a revised one pager for Specialty Crop producers with the revised timeline for everyone to send out to their networks

- Once we have seats appointed, we will reach out to everyone who filled out applications and invite them to join in Working Groups

- Travel Reimbursement
  - Complete the Pre-trip Authorization form PreTripAuthorizationForm.pdf
    - Can be used for post-trip expenses
  - Complete the Traveler Information Form TRAVELER INFORMATION FORM.docx
  - Both forms are located in the "Reimbursement" folder on Sharepoint
  - Send all receipts to Alex
    - Do not need gas receipts
  - Try to send forms before travel and as early as possible, it takes quite a while to get paperwork through the CSU reimbursement process

- Website
  - Have all council seats and info about terms on website
  - Link to application on website as well
  - Updated resource section
  - Working group page now with more information on each
  - Can do updates as needed, let us know of suggestions
  - Spotlight section

- Budget update

COFSAC FY22 BUDGET		2/23/2022
Staff		$ 55,359
Expended		$ 17,171
Encumbered		$ 38,187
Support		$ 6,740
Expended		$ 6,740
Encumbered		$ 1,500
Consultants		$ 11,331
Expended		$ 11,331
Encumbered		$ -
TOTAL		$ 73,430
Annual Budget		$ 100,000
Unencumbered		$ 26,570
Carry Over		$ 65,797
Total Balance		**$ 90,867**

- Draft-Fiscal office in the middle of year end processes
- Funds will roll over into the next fiscal year

- Sunset review-now in process
  - Will need to receive recommendation to continue past 9/1/23
  - Commission at state level has asked for all information by July 1
    - Current members
    - Financial expenses
    - Dates of meetings and number of attendees
    - A list of all advisory proposals made by the Advisory Committee together with an indication as to whether or not each proposal has been acted on, implemented, or enacted into statute; and
    - The reasons why the Advisory Committee should be continued.
  - Going through past annual reports
  - Exec committee will meet next month
    - If anyone wants to contribute to why we should continue, needs to be submitted by July 1
  - Dawn and Wendy have gone through sunset before, we have usually received positive feedback
    - Make sure voices at table represent mission we are trying to uphold
  - Hopeful that we can say in July 1 statement that we are working on Strategic Plan and Internal Assessment process-let them know it won't be complete till December
  - Think about a strategy to be more inclusive
    - Be thoughtful about how we can do this effectively to make sure new members feel comfortable
    - Make sure the onboarding process makes new members feel included and able to share their perspectives without feeling overwhelmed
  - If you want to be in on the Executive committee meeting let Alex know

- Colorado Food Summit
  - We have been supporting preparations for the CO Food Summit in December
  - Julie is our representative on the organizing committee
  - Have finished our regional convenings: Yuma, Lamar, Boulder, and Ft Collins
  - Purpose: The purpose of the 2022 food summit is to inspire diverse food systems stakeholders to build shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our food system.

  If we are successful, participants in our summit will:

    - Understand-Integrate diverse ways of learning and knowing to develop new understanding and perspectives of food systems issues

        - Connect-Identify common ground and draw connections between different ideas, perspectives, and 'the big picture'
        - Learn-Learn from examples of opportunities and success from stakeholders across Colorado
        - Build-Build bridges across differences to increase the resilience and equity of the Colorado food system
        - Inspire-Leave inspired and motivated to take next steps beyond the conference
    - Water, land, food security across the state
    - Trying to bring folks from all aspects of the food supply chain
    - In the beginning there was a lot of talk about healing trauma
        - Food system in general, COVID experience, inequities in our state, generational traumas
    - Want to have component in statewide summit that addresses that and provides healing space without prolonging these feelings

Issue based working group updates

- Executive summaries for Univeral School Meals, Institutional Procurement, and Ag Lands & Water are formatted and available on website

Universal School Meals-Marc

- Finished Executive summary, helpful to have short version to share out
- Put together video! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tuDUioCexY

Conserving Ag Lands & Water-Greg

- Ag land water initiative taken through issue brief last year: How does Colorado preserve its agricultural lands
- Issue brief highlighted need around ag land water retention, a lot of municipalities have acquired water and are leasing it back to farmers
- Have also looked at succession rate confronting a lot of growers- the average age of grower is over 60, many don't have someone in line to continue farm
- Also looking at how to help new farmers be able to afford land
    - Land for Good-market driven program in New England
        - Takes new farmers from lease to new ownership arrangement
- CSU will have a grad student looking into case studies on new farmer programs for further enrichment of issue brief
- Another grad student is looking into county level policies around land ownership and retention
- Will also be exploring working land mini summits to expand our voice on this issue
- Want to get issue brief out to wider market
- Have Ag Ed program at CSU
    - Almost certainly could find masters of extension student willing to do overview of all programs/ideas/innovations available to think about

- Intern working with Larimer County looking at how ag advisory boards are working across counties
    - Could ask for counties to share land zoning and so forth
- Developing connections with Keep it Colorado

Federal and state funds-Dawn

- More money on the ground for local and regional food systems projects than Dawn has ever seen
- It was a busy year for funding:

  1) There were more state and federal level monies flowing in local and regional food systems than we have seen in history

  2) Although a lot of one on one technical assistance was provided across COFSAC partners (CSU supported at least 15 grants and our partners helped on others), we did not have the time or plan to provide coordinated support

  3) At the state level, we are benefitting greatly from having Brian Coppom, a past COFSAC member and manager of Boulder farmers markets, as the lead in disbursing state monies from the CO Dept of Ag....several of us served on the selection committee and a diverse set of projects were funded across the state with criteria ranging from a) number of producers benefitting, b) geography, c) member of underserved community, d) potential to create jobs.

Institutional Procurement-Wendy

- Made attempt to bridge with fed and state dollars group to see if there was gap we could fill there
- Krista can answer questions about where funding for food for local schools is at
- Anticipate more funding to continue at federal level
- Hoping we can meet soon as a working group to
    - Be proactive in terms of recommendations in issue briefs
        - We don't have good collective data
        - Makes it hard to make a case/ story and do policy work without data
    - Be clear about where we are going moving forward
    - Ongoing conversations with Good food purchasing program and where that will go
- How do we want to position ourselves to be in a good place for future opportunities
- We have seen that recommendations put forward in the issue briefs directly inform grant apps, work plans that organizations across the state do

Internal working group updates

Strategic Planning-Lilian

- Put together RFP for Consultant
- Working group was given authority to review proposals as a committee
- Confirmed as of this morning we will be working with Greg Bellomo with Government Performance Solutions Inc.
- Moving forward, will likely not meet for 6/17 retreat
- Had very thoughtful and engaged Joint discussions with Internal Assessment to make sure we are capturing issues brought up last year

Internal Assessment-Liza

- Not much of an update since we have combined with Strategic Planning working group
- Excited to continue with the Strategic Plan and weave the recommendations we've had as an Internal assessment group into the planning process with Greg

Equity Coaching Consultant-Leanne Allman

- Had consultation with Equity Coach to determine when DEI informed process should come into the strategic planning process
- Decided we should do strategic planning first and then come back through to look for specific areas of care and attention in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion

State Agency Updates

CDHS-Karla

Food distribution programs

- CO approved for grant for Local Food Purchasing Assistance Award-will help both food distribution partners (especially socially disadvantaged farmers and producers) and food s and food banks/pantries
    - Current app round will close 5/25
        - Will have multiple rounds
    - Providing outreach, technical assistance, and support through application process
    - Will announce additional RFPs in the future
- Emergency Food Assistance Program received Resiliency grant
    - Targeted within a handful of communities

Rebranded Commodity supplemental food program into Every Day Eats

- Packed food boxes made Available to older adults in our communities

    - Shelf stable except cheese, can be picked up every month
    - One of the only programs in the state declining in caseload, trying to get more participants

SNAP/Food stamps

- Continuing with max allotment
    - Able to request additional funding every month from federal government-part of public health emergency
    - This should be continuing indefinitely
    - Cases are relatively high across the state
    - Still about 23% above pre-pandemic case levels
    - On average it takes about 5 years after disaster to recover to pre-crisis levels
- Approved for 21-22 school year for Pandemic EBT
    - Will provide support for families who have continued to experience outbreaks or have chose to opt into virtual learning
    - Summer school-Every student would receive EBT
- EBT
    - Some current work around fraud prevention
    - Preventing card cloning and card skimming
- Developing a toolkit for end of SNAP max allotment period
    - Want to educate people on how to handle when this happens
    - If they end max allotment at a federal level, could CO sustain it?
        - Short answer is no

CDE-Krista

- USDA no longer has authority to extend nationwide waivers that were granted during pandemic
    - Have identified options to support sponsors this summer and next school year during transition back to traditional operations
    - USDA announced in April the waivers that states can apply for for the summer food program and next school year
- CO submitted waivers in April to allow districts the most flexibility possible
    - Expect to hear on these decisions in the next week
- Community Eligibility Program
    - Uses info about student direct certification to qualify groups of schools or whole districts to provide universal free meals
    - Deadline is extended, hoping more apply
- Local food programs
    - Awarding 500k to be disbursed in Oct for purchase of local food for 22-23 school year
    - For purchase of fresh, minimally processed local foods. Up to 25% can be used for value added products
    - 11 new districts on program
- Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement

- CDE going after full amount of money-allowing districts to opt in
- Funds will be sub awarded to districts to do their own procurement
- Anyone on national school lunch program
- Creating opt in system for proposals for all districts across the state
    - Equitably distributing funds
- Hoping to provide list of farmers willing to participate
    - Looking to identify socially disadvantaged farmers (listed as preferred)
- Not due until July but CO hoping to apply next week
- Hoping to identify socially disadvantaged farmers to be highlighted to purchase from first (working on listing them as "preferred" as to not identify as socially disadvantaged)

CDPHE-Joan

- No updates from WIC or Child Adult Food are programs
- Manage and do grants based on tobacco tax dollars through Amendment 35 Cancer Cardiovascular and Pulmonary disease grants program
    - Working on next RFA to be released in July
    - At this time considering including 2 fundable strategies
        - One specific to land use policies
        - Local and municipal policies that restrict access to unhealthy food& beverages or looking at systems level changes around distribution and procurement systems to increase access to healthy local foods
- Unsure of funding levels or how many grantees would be accepted
- COFSAC can help push out RFA
- Farm to Child Collaborative-Early childhood education
    - Awarded 5 mini grants to Arapaho, Ft Morgan, La Plata, Montrose, and Weld Counties
    - Looking to implement innovative procurement systems to increase procurement of Colorado produce and four of the five groups are doing Community Gardens
    - ECE gardens at their facilities to expose younger children and provide education
    - Using produce grown as part of their meals

OEDIT-Greg

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Places CO at forefront of states that have regional CEDS and will have statewide CEDS in place
    - Benefit: when grants are being submitted to the Economic Development Administration, HUD, or USDA, they usually come back and request CEDS to accompany grant application
        - Anyone applying for grants could use CEDS
- Won't put RFP out until August

- Grants of regional focus will still rely on regional CEDS

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 18 11:00am-1:00pm **This will be changed based on availability poll for late August/early September to combine with our Strategic Planning retreat**

Thursday, Nov 17 11:00am-1:00pm

Commitment to meet in person

- Want to look at August
- Can cover any travel and lodging costs through reimbursement process
- Could make a full day to also encompass strategic planning retreat

Mark your Calendars for the Colorado Food Summit December 8th

COFSAC Newsletter

- Quarterly
- Would create slightly more work from some members
- Have mailing list people can sign up for
- Could put COFSAC section in CSU newsletter as well
    - Could take up too much space
- Could have section for update from each state agency
- Could have standard newsletter on our website with link to be shared in other agency's/organization's newsletters
- Communications consultant could help us

NEXT STEPS

- We will move forward with hiring Strategic Planning consultant through CSU
    - Will determine retreat timeline
- Everyone will receive and complete an availability poll for late August/early September for our in person quarterly Council meeting combined with our Strategic Planning Retreat
- Everyone complete the form giving your input on the continuation of COFSAC for our Sunset Review https://forms.office.com/r/Fgx3gfiKFT