Food Policy Council  
Thursday March 14, 2013

Agenda

5:30 – 6:00  Dinner and networking by sector of interest  
5:30 – 5:50 Write down any announcements or things of interest on flipchart  
5:50 – 6:00 Introductions and one person from each table reads flipchart

6:00 – 7:05  Panel of Farmers and Producers  
6:00 – 6:05 Portia Bramble introduces speakers  
6:05 – 6:20 Kevin Cunningham, Shakefork Community Farms in Carlotta,  
6:20 – 6:35 Dave Feral, Feral Family Farms in Blue Lake  
6:35 – 6:50 Seth Rick, who operates "River Bees" in Shively and produces "Humboldt Gold Honey"  
6:50 – 7:05 – Questions and review of major policy issues

7:05 – 8:00  Food Policy Council Review (see attached handout)  
1. Should the Food Policy Council exist?  
2. What is the current Food Policy Council?  
3. Do the participants of the Food Policy Council have the time and energy to move (or to explore moving) the council to a policy-making or policy endorsing council?  
4. What options are there? What timeframe?  
Recommendations  
Needs  
Evaluation

8:00 PM  Adjourn
Food Policy Council Review Handout

The Humboldt Food Policy Council started in January 2010 and has worked on food assessments and food insecurity issues. Based on recent key stakeholder interviews, there was an interest in moving toward a structure that supports greater policy work. Even so, few felt informed about the important policy issues or the format/structure of an effective policy council.

**Question 1: Should the Food Policy Council exist?**

Since there are people here, we can assume that the answer is “yes”

**Questions 2: What is the current Food Policy Council?**

Food Policy Council is a network hosted by CCRP. There are strengths and weaknesses to this.

**Strengths:**
- Everyone with an interest is welcome (no membership is required)
- Everyone’s participation is equal
- Topics can be diverse
- Rich learning environment
- Good networking
- Easy for CCRP to manage with part-time position
- Participation is easy – just show up

**Weaknesses:**
- Work or outcomes are dependent on participants working outside the network
- Cannot readily make policy recommendations
  - Need definition who can vote (membership)
  - Need definition of how to make decisions
- “Food Policy Council” does not describe what we do

**Question 3: Do the participants of the Food Policy Council have the time and energy to move (or to explore moving) the council to a policy-making or policy endorsing council?**

**Question 4: What options are there? What timeframe?**

There are several options that can be explored. Recommend that we take the next few months to explore what policies are important to the members of the local food system and what council structure would best affect change to support these policies. Then, before the end of the year, re-evaluate.

**Recommendation for next 4 or 5 meetings:**

At each of the next meetings-
1. Networking
   - Networking by sector
2. Defining policies that are important to our local food system
   Panel of speakers
   Updates from the California Food Policy Council

3. Structure definition
   Updates about other Food Policy Council, their governance and work to find the
   best design for Humboldt

**Need volunteers to:**
   1. Team to help put together agenda and potentially new email system
   2. Find the next panel of speakers (manufacturers?)
   3. Liaison to the California Food Policy Council and report back at every meeting
   4. Investigate various policy council structures and report back

**Need commitment to the following goals:**
   1. Consistent attendance
   2. Participation