

Solano Local Food System Alliance Minutes

February 3, 2022

4-6 pm

Alliance members in attendance:

Elena Karoulina, Sustainable Solano
Mike Ioakimedes, Solano County Fair Association
Jahniah McGill, Solano County Environmental Health
Priscilla Yeane, Solano County Dept. of Ag
Lisa Núñez-Hancock, Culinary Arts Instructor
Ben Lyons, farmer, Lockwood Acres farm
Heather Pierini, Food is Free Solano
Maggie Kolk, Sustainable Solano
Whitney Galindo, Catholic Charities Yolo Solano

Speakers:

Derek Crutchfield, Acting Environmental Services Manager, City of Vallejo
Heather Pierini, Director, Food Is Free Solano

Staff:

Stephanie Oelsligle Jordan, Sustainable Solano
Lauren Gucik, Sustainable Solano
Allison Nagel, Sustainable Solano

Minutes:

Survey

Survey about the public benefit of the Alliance and its members – please complete by end of February. The survey results will be shared in the spring Local Food Bites and discussed at the May 5 meeting.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8KSTKHV>

Educational Presentation: Food Waste & Food Rescue Initiatives

Derek Crutchfield spoke about how the City of Vallejo is working to meet the requirements of SB1383, and Heather Pierini spoke about the work of Food is Free Solano and the EPA EJ grant that FIFS and SuSol are collaborating on with FIFS operating as a food rescue organization with a hub in Vallejo, plans for an app to ensure excess food is distributed locally to organizations and individuals who can use it, and a toolkit of best practices for scaling up these efforts in the county.

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery/donors>

Watch the video of the discussion here:

<https://youtu.be/6S0zpg7QUKo>

Executive Committee presentation & discussion:

The Executive Committee of the Alliance meets monthly to keep the work moving forward between the four public meetings of the full Alliance each year.

The EC meets on the third Thursday of each month and anyone from the full Alliance interested in being part of those meetings is welcome to attend. (The next meeting is Feb. 17)

At the most recent meeting, the EC discussed goals for 2022 (see list at the end of these Minutes). Aligned with those goals:

Meetings -

Each of the four public quarterly meetings of the full Alliance will have an educational component:

- Feb 3 = Food rescue/food waste
- May 5 = Regenerative agriculture (possibly meet in person in Pleasants Valley)
- Aug 4 = TBD
- Nov 3 = TBD

Send any ideas for topics for the two later meetings.

Awareness -

Remains a crucial focus for this year

Planning to do one major presentation to City-County Coordinating Council (4Cs). They need to understand where their topics intersect with the local food system and what the Alliance is working on.

https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bos/city_county_coordinating_council/default.asp

Sustainable Solano will present to the Board of Supervisors in the late spring, and will mention the Alliance during that presentation.

There's also a need to support city General Plan updates, starting with providing some talking points for the Fairfield General Plan committee that will move the food system discussion into the process.

Suggestion: Pull from the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative to create a list of priorities for the talking points to guide the community conversations around the general plan updates.

https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/resources_healthy_planning_policies_compendium_final_web_090925_0.pdf?1441322939

Healthy Food Access priorities from that report:

- Agricultural Preservation
- Local Food
- Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens
- Farmers Markets
- Healthy Food Retail
- Emergency Food and Food Assistance

Charter - The EC will work on a draft charter and bring it to the full Alliance for input and feedback

Announcements/Updates

Stephanie Oelsligle Jordan reached out to the California Food Policy Council with some questions about its focus and membership. Food Agriculture and Nutrition Network of Solano County (FANNS) has been representing Solano County on the council for many years, but there may be a role for the Alliance, particularly when it comes to supporting policy advocacy or the council's limited legislative action around food systems. Alliance and FANNS will work together in 2022 to better understand their roles in representing the county at the state level.

Next meeting

Executive Committee: 4 pm Thursday, Feb. 17, on Zoom

Link to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89670121154>

Full Alliance: 3 pm Thursday, May 5, hopefully outdoors in-person in Pleasants Valley with a speaker on Regenerative Agriculture

(Note that the start time has been moved to **3 pm** in anticipation of an outdoor meeting)

Goals for 2022

1. **Building awareness of the Alliance itself & food system among key stakeholders.**
 - Arrange individual meetings with county supervisors and other key stakeholders, as opportunities arise
 - Do one major presentation to City-County Coordinating Committee (4Cs), comprised of mayors, BOS, County Administrator, Solano Transportation Authority, etc. They need to understand where their topics intersect with the local food system and what the Alliance is working on.
 - Regarding City General Plans: instead of a "white paper," draft a list of questions and things to consider for Fairfield general plan. (Robin is on that committee.)
2. **Education for the Alliance.** Arrange special guest speakers for each general Alliance meeting with topics relevant to local food system. These meetings are open to the public, but they are in "listen only" mode. 2022 educational ideas are:
 - a. Feb 3 = Food rescue/food waste
 - b. May 5 = Regenerative agriculture (possibly meet in person, on a farm)
 - c. Aug 4 = TBD
 - d. Nov 3 = TBD
3. **Development of a Charter for the Alliance.** The Executive Committee will draft/summarize and present to the larger Alliance. Benefits, responsibilities and commitments of being on the Alliance will be included.