



Sonoma County Food System Alliance

DRAFT Results

May 16th 2012, 2:30PM-5:00PM

Sonoma County Grange Credit Union

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|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| | Debora Hammond | √ | Jana Hill | | Lisa Preschel |
| | Craig Anderson | √ | Trathen Heckman | √ | Linda Peterson |
| | Doug Baretta | √ | Wendy Krupnick | | Jim Shelton |
| √ | Ellen Bauer | | Cathy Luellen-Aflague | | Susan Stover |
| √ | Phina Borgeson | | Lisa Correia | | Amy Chestnut |
| | Davin Cardenas | | Melissa Minton | | Rick Theis |
| √ | Cathryn Couch | √ | Tanya Narath | √ | Amanda Bornstein |
| √ | Paula Downing | | Jim Canterbury | | Marion Deeds |
| | Suzanne Doyle | | Paul Kaiser | | Lisa Andresen |
| | Talmadge Savage | | Joe Pozzi | | Nica Poznanovich |
| | Terry Garrett | √ | Lynn Silver Chaffin | √ | Misti Arias |

With Miriam Volat (Miriam@aginnovations.org), facilitator,

Helen McGrath (Helen@aginnovations.org) with Ag Innovations Network.

Guests: Paul Martin, member of the Board of Directors, Ag Innovations Network; Guy Connor from Senator Noreen Evans Office; Renata Brillinger, CalCAN renata@calclimateag.org; and Alex Dolginow, Climate Protection Campaign alex@climateprotection.org

Action Items/Decisions

Events

- June 26th: CAFF Climate Change and Ag event, third organized event on the topic at Front Porch Farm <http://caff.org/about/northcoast/>

Alliance Network

- F2S, Alliance Network, best-practices call is being scheduled, time will be announced
- SDFSFA kick-off meeting in July
- Reg Coordination Project in Ventura, Yolo and Fresno:
- Refer to Methane digesters regulations
- AIN will share farmbudsman outcomes with the group

Info Share

Trathen: Thanks to iGrow, Ceres, and other partners, over 2,280 households participated in action for 350 challenge!

Linda: CA Food Policy Council held the first meeting, Linda represented the Alliance. There were urban ag and some rural reps. Meeting was rather logistical, but there were introductions, discussion about guidelines, principles, etc. The main takeaway was to have a more positive framing. Meetings will be quarterly and Roots of Change is facilitating, they received a grant to do so. Survey results were presented on policy and priority areas for the state- 8 total and discussion about who else needs to be brought to the table for working groups. Healthy food access, regional food system infrastructure/land use, and school food environment were the priority areas. Need to determine formal rep for FPC- voting member. Williamson Act did come up, there will be regional caucus, and perhaps can have an "Alliance" caucus.

Wendy: Community Garden Network received funding proposal through Dept. of Health Services, still needs to fundraise for a staff support. Get from Wendy. Artesa vineyard conversion- EIR was approved for 154 acres, look Friends of Gualala River site.

<http://gualalariver.org/vineyards/artesa.html>

Phina: Interfaith Food System Collaborative with Steve Schwartz, needs to diversify the coalition, if people have contacts in Sonoma and Marin.

Jana: Program Planning- new position. USDA F2S grant is out there so there is potential for Harvest of the month.

Williamson Act Update

- Is the proposal to accept and fund: fee will be charged by land owner, annual fee that will fund program administration. All contracts will pay the fee, new and existing
- \$4 million a year hit on property taxes that have been lost, 11 pending applications
- Circulate the letter with Communications Committee
- Commend the county in the opening of the letter, and insert some FSA language around ag land protection benefits all other goals of the FSA

Communications Committee

- Got PR out for Food Service Training
- Crafting executive summary for FAP and an introduction that can help translate the document for a variety
- Strategy- early adaption and champions for FAP, etc.

Food Action Plan

- Still soliciting stakeholder input, please contact the individuals you are assigned to

- Synthesis of the data has been difficult
- Suzanne Doyle- created the indicators for the assessment, but has since pulled out of committee and would like to replace her: indicators of outcomes
- Some can be pulled out of the assessment, but the holes have been identified

Renata Brillenger- California Climate & Agricultural Network (CalCAN)

- Why is it on the agenda? As a group, conscious of the issue and that there are ag and food system implications as far as climate change is concerned. The scale of what is occurring is something the FSA wants to be aware of, and being aware the agricultural side of Climate Change.
- CCOF, CAFF, EcoFarm are members of CalCAN- be the voice of sustainable ag in climate policy- 2006, AB32 bill in CA
http://calclimateag.org/pdf/AB_32_factsheet.pdf
- Carbon dioxide CO₂, Methane CH₄ and Nitrous Oxide N₂O (last two are much more potent, but do not last as long) are Green House Gases (GHGs)- ag is biggest contributors to Methane and Nitrous Oxide
- 6% of statewide emission total comes from ag
- Significant loss of snow pack. Ag is one of the only competing consumers of water: urban demands, etc. issue will be highly charged
- Other impacts: yield reductions- shifting crop patterns, increase in pest disease, reduced winter chill hours- models and historical maps show warmer winters (not the summer), weather conditions “weather weirding”, erratic, etc., heat stress- livestock, farm workers, etc. and economic vulnerability.
- Stanford Study: Napa and Santa Barbara, 50% of the wine grape yield hit by 2040 with a 2 degree increase in temperature- on course for this shift
- Adapting: i.e. trellising for grape vines, increasing soil fertility, potential for sequestration, water holding capability, etc. (water pumping is the highest on-farm energy output), increasing bio-diversity- the more diverse the production, the less impacted in the loss of single crop, on-farm water storage, minimize inputs of fossil-fuel based inputs
- Solutions: some trends increasing soil organic matter can reduce/sequester GHG
- Cover cropping in combination with low-tillage, minimal inputs- less disturbed soil releases less GHG gas, but can be a problem for sustainable/organic growers who depend on tillage instead of herbicides
- Perennial crops, forests, hedgerows, riparian plantings all have benefits, and the production of renewable energy

- Need more CA specific research for adaption, mitigation, need more technical assistance: UCCE, NRCS, RCD etc. and their strong
- CA AB32: 70+ programs, doesn't have an impact in ag CARR
- Remove barriers to on-farm renewable energy
- Farmland protection: developed land v. 1 acre of farmland produces 70% more GHGs
- Develop a statewide program
- Public stream of money: allowances that capped entities have to buy and arguing that ag gets some of that money- research, tech assistance
- CalCAN passed SB 489 & SB 594

Alex Dolginow- Climate Protection Campaign

- Alex implementation Manager for Ag, Forestry, Open Space and Adaptation
- Reduced Emissions in ag sector
- Sonoma County GHG report card from 2010- ag has not been included- target was set by all nine cities by 2015, not on course to meet these goals
- CCA: Community Choice Aggregation
- Goal is to reduce GHGs in Sonoma County- try to quantify emissions
- Missing from report card: off-farm transport, energy use, soil tillage, crop residue burning, propane use, wastewater emissions
- Need for mechanisms that incentivize low-cost, high quality programs
- Focus on major emissions categories: manure, through enteric fermentation (difficult to mitigate/adjust), but manure methane NH₄: lagoon covers, mechanical aerators, solid separators, feed management, anaerobic digesters (take bio-gas coming off of lagoons to create power)
- High capital needed to install these technologies: \$200K, a large, regular supply of manure, increasing number of dairies in So Co. have pasture feed, hard to capture the manure, take a lot of care, and permitting can be a barrier.
- Working with NRCS, RCDs, looking at digesters pilots/examples, etc.
- Adaptation strategies: climate models agree in increase in temps
 - Drier environment: rainfall is not certain, soil drying (soil moisture deficit), loss of fog, increase in fire risk
 - Coastal flooding and inland flooding, specifically Russian River watershed, major flood generators
 - Water changes: flooding, lower water table, salt water intrusion, etc.

- Variables in food prices

Next steps for FSA

- How can FSA engage in GHG reduction?
- Potential partnerships?

Questions/Comments

- *If organic dairy has existing benefits, why not support organic and not digesters that are expensive?* Consumers vote with their dollars, the question should be how can all these different systems work to reduce GHG emission, large scale, commercial, organic, etc.
- *What is the minimum manure needed for a digester be worthwhile, can they be shared or made smaller?* 500 head minimum is an effective level, regional digesters have been considered and there is a conversation happening in Two Rock, could transport to a central facility. Would need to be very small, or very big. Low tech- covering the pond, is a small investment and is understudied. Co-digesting, bringing other materials- i.e. food waste.
- *GHG reduction as far as moving to a local food system- are there more studies being conducted to look into these?* Not aware, one in WA conducting one. Iowa studies: production methods have more of an impact than distance traveled, especially as far as transportation is concerned. Transportation data is hard to collect, a lot of cooperation is needed.
- *Is the percentage of emission form the food system percentage known?* Some say 18%

Next Steps

- Massive issue
- This information is not common knowledge, even for the FSA was very informative
- Communication and framing the big issues and look for opportunities to make a small or large impact
- Continued involvement/perspective of these issues in FSA meetings is important and has been missing
- If there a tangible project the FSA can take on
- Integration into existing circles- i.e. new/beginning farmers and rancher program

- The lack of engagement with farmers- engage with farm bureau, local producers, etc. need to be shared and engaged with
- Reference to small v. large debate, the FSA needs to considered some of these points and look at efficiencies
- Cost of addressing some of these issues whether its mitigation, etc. is stark
- Advocacy or relevant policies that FSA can contribute to?
 - Project with United Western Dairymen, carbon footprint: carbon, transportation and off-farm. Farm smart- a way for producers to track their usage. National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool, (NAQSAT). Shows that GHG reduction can have an adverse affect on other aspects of the production.
 - There is an opportunity with CalCAN- Cap-and-Trade Revenue for Ag <http://calclimateag.org/cap-and-trade-revenue-for-ag/>
 - Locally: avoided conversion of forestry and farmland to urban
 - Renewable energy on farm
 - Regulatory barriers for pond development
 - What can be included in the action plan? Creation of a short list of items

Next Meeting/Steps

- Facts and context is helpful- within the state, bay area, etc.
- In addition to climate change – what are other environmental issues that the Alliance can explore
- Social Equity education?