

Ottawa County Food Policy Council Local Food Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Chair: Garrett Ziegler	Meeting Date: February 2017
Priority: Increase sourcing of local food in Ottawa County.	
Present: Garrett Ziegler, Lisa Uganski, Char Ocasio-Siese, Tom Cary, Burch Partners	

Goal #1: Support the development of policies that increase the sourcing of local food.

Action Step	Strategies Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
aa. Keep up to date on policies/legislation related to farm to institution. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Garrett will create a google doc for housing local food procurement policies https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BlwFFYCQap-6bKs3mZJ0ggiSEKwDGdaPRxhE0cpryHc/edit#gid=0 -Engaging local businesses around this idea
ab. Select policy(s) to work toward implementing. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Focus on local food procurement for 2017 -Washtenaw County local food procurement policy
ac. Identify decision makers who need to be engaged. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	County commissioners/boards -Who do we need to involve?
ad. Advocate for policy change or development. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	

Goal #2: Increase supply of food from local farmers.

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Action Step	Strategies Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
aa. Collect data on supply of excess produce available at farms/produce being wasted. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Implement GH Market Survey and Holland Market in 2017. Include questions about HHFH (See below)
ab. Based on data, develop a U-pick donation program and/or a gleaning program. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Working to choose two pilot u-pick farms for 2017. -Possible farms include: Delange (Berries), Vissers (Strawberries), Blueberry Hill, Jaywar, Rousch, -Also investigating costs for short term refrigeration, signs and promotion, and plastic pails for collecting.
ba. Collect data and explore the feasibility/need/interest of implementing the Hoop House for Health (HHFH) program. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
bb. Educate farmers on the HFFH program. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
bc. Raise awareness of Head start agencies , Great Start, WIC, etc. regarding the HHFH program. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
bd. Implement trainings and educational workshops for farmers on how to start HHFH program. Target Completion Date:	Garrett working with MIFMA and CRFS to schedule Ottawa County meeting on HHFH (spring 2017) -Garrett will reach out to MIFMA again to follow up on this

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<input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
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Goal 3: Expand a Farm to Institution distribution system (School, Restaurant).	
Action Step	Strategies Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
aa. Identify the barriers to expanding a food hub into Ottawa County. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
ab. Raise Awareness of existing alternative local food distributors (Farmlink, Cherry Capital, Etc) Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Held meeting with local Chartwells Food Service and alternative (local) suppliers in January. Possibility of planning larger meet/greet event in Fall 2017
b. Encourage Ottawa County Institutions to use cultivate Michigan tracking system and purchasing materials. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Working on developing list of institutions in Ottawa County in order to conduct outreach about Cultivate Michigan and F2I initiatives
c. Increase usage of OCFPC Website forum for farmers and institutions to communicate with each other. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Website has been used by pantries in the past, but Lisa does not think much use currently

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Goal 4: Expand utilization of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's).	
Action Step	Strategies Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
a. Collaborate with MSU Extension to expand the CSA marketing model to Ottawa County. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	
a. Replicate Kent County CSA to Pantry project in Ottawa County through Comm. Foundation Grant. Target Completion Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Farmers/pantries have been identified and have met to discuss logistics for CSA drop-off. CSA curriculum is under development by MSUE HNI and CFS staff.

Meeting notes:

Healthy Food Expo:

- Idea proposed by Char to hold event around healthy/community food in 2018 (January/February)
- Grand Haven Community Center

OCFPC Mini-Grant Program

- Grand Haven Schools Greenhouse
 - Greenhouse in need of a heater to better provide educational growing environment year round
 - Could possibly hold a transplant sale out of the greenhouse
 - Do they have a garden at the school currently
- U-Pick Program
 - Funds to pay for specific U-pick donation containers
 - Marketing and promotion for the program
 - Potential short term storage for picked produce