

FARM TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE

MARCH 14TH MEETING MINUTES

TASK FORCE MEMBER ATTENDEES

Andy Nowak, Jane Brand, Susan Motika, Wendy White, Julie Moore, Jeremy West, Krista Garand, Theresa Hafner

TASK FORCE STAFF

Lyn Kathlene, Jewlya Lynn, Rebecca Kahn

GUESTS

Julia Erlbaum, Barb Marty

NEXT STEPS / ACTION ITEMS

For Jeremy West

- Come up with a “Colorado Proud Thank You Basket” and a card signed by Chair, for Leo, Mark, and Bernie. Budget will be capped at \$50 per basket.
- Bring barriers learned from consulting work with food service directors back to the TF.
- Put together examples of how cost-savings work when you go from processed to scratch.

For Wendy White

- Follow up with the Info Hub card sort focus group volunteers: Julie Moore, Julia Erlbaum, and Barb Marty. Also the TF recommends that a food service director, a parent, and a producer should be in the focus group.
 - Recommend reviewing features on a new website, www.ProjectHealthColorado.org
- Take distributor nomination priority list and one pager describing the appointment responsibilities to Jim Miller.

For Susan Motika

- Work with the Policy WG clerks to develop a one pager that would frame the problem of the different expectations between schools and producers, and the assistance the TF can provide in a simple, clear way. Contact Krista Garand and Julia Erlbaum for help.
- Get information on the southwest pre-bid conference from Julia Erlbaum to put on www.CoPrevent.org.

For Jane Brand

- Work with Krista, Jeremy, and Theresa to come up with a recommendation for a Food Service Director to appoint to the TF in Mark Lara’s place. Recommendation should meet

the TF's desired criteria: a district from the east or southeast of the state, early in its FTS effort, willing to commit, compliant with regulations. Please email recommendations to the TF; goal is to have new member seated by June TF Meeting.

- Find out who at CDE Lyn could coordinate with re curricular standards (for FTS Initiative).

For Krista Garand

- Send the newspaper article on the pre-bid conference to the Task Force.

For Spark

- Create tracking sheet for TF member presentations. Include space for the event name, event date, TF member name, # participants, and space for audience to sign up for further information from the TF (name, org, email, phone).
- Create survey for stakeholders we've engaged to send out quarterly.
- Revise Colorado FTS-TF Executive Summary.
- Create a one-pager about our choices for distributor replacement to TF, with information about the expectations and travel requirements, and provide to Wendy White. Include priority nomination list with FreshPack as our first choice. If FreshPack says no, then approach Shamrock, then Andrews. Include serving on the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council Economic Development Subcommittee as part of the commitment for the TF distributor representative.
- Create an internal webpage for TF members to park the materials for presentations.
- Lyn follow up with Jeremy re opportunity to present at the SNA meeting this summer.
- Lyn follow up with Julie Moore re conferences coming up where the FTS Initiative could recruit teachers and announce the 7 Generations Ahead opportunity. Next Feb there is a literacy conference to which about 4,500 teachers come – they love stand-alone curricula because they can teach literacy through them.
- Lyn follow up with Julia Erlbaum to get the details of a webinar on food safety development.
- Get a description of the Yuma CD's grant to develop a National Protocol Change.

For the Core Team

- Discuss a protocol for replacing members whose attendance is poor.

RECAP ROADMAP

- Our ultimate goal is collaborative and sustainable implementation of farm to school state wide.
- During our Roadmap planning session, we determined that not only is there no single successful model for farm to school, but that there are many different types of efforts already underway across the state. In order to respect the work already happening, we identified six areas where the Task Force can make unique contributions to the ultimate goal. These six areas form the basis for our work:

1. Create/expand FTS Pilot Programs focused on multiple models (FTS, Co-ops School Food Hubs and Producer-based Food Hubs)
2. Expand and develop sustainability for an Information Hub for FTS in Colorado with information for school districts and producers. Include facilities info/training.
3. Establish a peer networking component for the Information Hub.
4. Assess and develop responses to barriers within state policy
5. Identify one-time capital improvement grant dollars. To this end, we are creating a grant template to allow schools to pull on when writing grants for equipment and other capital improvements.
6. Provide outreach and TA.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Distributor Replacement

- Bernie Orsini has left the task force, and US Foods has said they would not replace him, so we need to identify a distributor replacement.
- Qualities desired in our new members:
 1. Knowledge of FTS and schools,
 2. Commitment,
 3. Ability to agitate/ask hard questions,
 4. Statewide view (the ability not to represent your agency always).
- Suggestions (numbers represent which of our desired qualities we think the nominee has):
 - Federal Fruit and Produce: 1, 4
 - Elizabeth Mozer: 1, 2
 - Andrew's: 1, 3?, 4
 - Fresh Pack: 1, 4, 2?, 3
 - Shamrock Chef Chris: 1?, 2, 3, 4?
- FreshPack. Dave Maynard. FreshPack is the DOD's #1 vendor, a Colorado company, and Colorado based. They are beginning to understand the value of local purchasing, and in fact have doubled their local purchasing. FreshPack is not 100% on board with the FTS process, but coming to it. They will be vocal when it comes to establishing a program – they could help producers reach that level of standard. They sent 4 people to the distributor's forum.
- Shamrock. Chris Kassan from Shamrock is a chef, and he is very focused on food safety issues. Jane Brand has worked with him before.
- Andrew's (Pueblo). Andrew's is currently working to go back to their local produce roots. We haven't been able to get them to participate in Colorado Proud, but they did go to a local day. Andrew's might be hard pressed to step aside from its own business interests.

- Elizabeth Mozer (Ft. Collins). She is new to the business, but very dedicated to local foods. She might be hard pressed to step aside from her own business interests. Elizabeth might be better on a subcommittee of the Task Force.
- Other considerations. The Department of Agriculture will make this appointment. Since the head of the department is retiring as of May 1st, we should try to have our new member appointed before then. Jim (Department of Agriculture) might want to be the one to reach out to our choices, so we need to give him options with recommendations.
- **Decision:** Create a one-pager about our choices with information about the expectations and travel requirements, and nominate FreshPack as our first choice. If FreshPack says no, then approach Shamrock, then Andrews.

Food Service Directors Replacement

- Mark Lara has left the task force, so we need a food service director to replace him. This appointment will be made by the Department of Education.
- Currently on the TF we have a small, medium, and a large school district represented. Krista's district has 4,400 students; Jeremy's has 19,400; and Theresa's has 80,000.
- Criteria we want:
 - Location: East, Southeast
 - Early in FTS effort
 - Commitment
 - Compliance with regulations
- There is a great opportunity at a conference next week to talk to directors.
- **Decision:** The TF has full trust in Jeremy, Krista, Jane, and Theresa to recommend the right person. They will email the TF a recommendation with the goal of having someone seated by the next June meeting. Jane is taking the lead.

Economic Development Subcommittee Representative

- We also need a volunteer to join the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council's Economic Development subcommittee. The commitment includes attending a quarterly meeting and a monthly call.
- Julia Erlbaum is planning to join the subcommittee and can connect the TF with the subcommittee until we have an official appointee.
- **Decision:** Include serving on the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council Economic Development Subcommittee as part of the commitment for the TF distributor representative (include this on the one page description).

Thank You to Former Task Force Members

- The Task Force would like to make a gesture of appreciation for the work that Leo, Mark, and Bernie did when they served with us.

- **Decision:** Jeremy will take the lead on coming up with a “Colorado Proud Thank You Basket” and a card signed by Chair. Budget will be capped at \$50 per basket.

YEAR 1 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Senator Boyd urged us to make an interim report to a few appropriate Legislative Committees, to build and maintain our relationships. We have developed a draft Executive Summary for this purpose.
- Proposed revisions:
 - Expand the box on Page 1 to include all the text.
 - Some people are only going to look at a page or two, so we need to have the deliverables and accomplishments right up front. Create a paragraph that lists accomplishments for the first page, and make the first page a stand-alone one-pager.
 - Move the roles represented to the end.
 - What is Farm to School section: add “individual” between 10 and Colorado.
 - Missing nutrition education, missing chef participation
 - Why does FTS Matter? – Third bullet third word is produce.
 - The Task Force Section – change key to major. Emphasize with a phrase – we are not reinventing the wheel but looking carefully to identify gaps to address. Add to title of section: The TF Roadmap: Bridging the gaps
 - Attach the roadmap.
 - The Work of the TF: make the titles match what’s in the box at top. Move school facility improvement grants lower down. Move policy and regulatory analysis higher up, and pilots.
 - Durango Conference - crop the webpage and make print bigger.
 - Remove image of mixer. Images are a good idea, choose better ones. Ones you can read. More images of kids and farms!
- **Decision & Action Item:** Spark will revise the Executive Summary and send it out for further review.

NORTHEAST COLORADO PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

- Bethleen McCall, District Manager for Yuma Conservation District, is here to present on what’s happening in northeast Colorado re agricultural & economic development.
- Conservation Districts are special government districts formed by local landowners. They were first created around dust bowl time, when the USDA started National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), because there was concern about federal folks telling locals what to do. In fact Conservation Districts were originally formed as watchdog groups to make sure that NRCS recommendations meet local needs.
- The Yuma Conservation District (Yuma CD) has existed for 54 years. Its work today is expanded greatly from what it was – they now work with all the major natural resource

issues: water, soil, plant community, wildlife. The mission of the Yuma CD is to protect natural resources through conservation research, education and incentives that encourage sustainable agricultural practices to create a vibrant rural economic community.

- There are 76 Conservation Districts in Colorado, with budgets ranging from \$3 million a year to \$9,000 a year.
- The Yuma Conservation District has 40 acres of federal lands, 760 acres of county lands, 14,800 acres of state land, and 460,000 acres of private land. Yuma CD has 102,780 acres of Irrigated Crop Land; 138,460 acres of Non-irrigated crop land; 182,175 acres of Rangeland; 1,700 acres of Urban/Non ag. Land; 25,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and 2,000 acres of Mining/Reclamation land.
- The Conservation Reserve Program was created in the 1980s with the intention to take highly erodible lands and plant a grass mix to keep the land from blowing away. In recent years it has pulled away a little from the original mandate and is now focused more on wildlife, pollinators, and grazing. There is very little grazing allowed in Colorado. The typical contract is 15 years, and you can graze twice in that time, which hasn't been enough for the health of the grassland.
- There are not very many in Conservation Easements in northeast Colorado. The Nature Conservancy has one, and has been working with local cattle producers and managing it like a working farm. Most conservation easements are in places where the land is at risk of over development, which is not a big risk in northeast Colorado.
- The Ogallala Aquifer is the only source of water in northeast Colorado. It is fed by the north fork of the Republican, the south fork of the Republican, and the Arickaree River, all of which are hydrologically connected. There are not very many water rights on them, and those rights are currently so threatened that Yuma county residents recently passed a tax to acquire the rights.
- Yuma County is a little unique for the northeastern plains in that it is considered a thriving agricultural community. Nearly everyone in Yuma is employed in some kind of agricultural enterprise. Large operation crops grown here include corn, wheat, sugar beets, beans, sunflowers. A small fraction of producers are looking at small scale grassfed beef.
- A major issue with expanding to specialty crops in Yuma is that there is no infrastructure to package and process smaller scale crops.
- Yuma CD has just applied for a small grant to develop a National Protocol Change.
- Specialty Crop Test Plots.
 - Yuma does have Colorado Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Test Plots where lower water, high value, large or small scale specialty crops are being explored. We grow test crops on our own plots and on some producer's land as well. One crop being explored is Amaranth – a gluten free grain very high in vitamin D, with very good potential for growing here.
 - **Comment:** It would be great if we could incorporate some amaranth flour into school food to address the Vitamin D deficiency.

- So far we have tested 28 crops, 95 varieties. We have been growing varieties of heirloom tomatoes, which we had heard were not great producers, but they turned out to be prolific. We are also trying hops for beer and as a formalin substitute, which can be used as an antibiotic for chickens. Another crop being tested is Kenaf, which is related to industrial hemp but legal to grow. It has all the same properties as hemp and can be used for rope and fiberboard, but it has an important advantage over hemp in that it has a very high relative feed value. It makes dairy quality feed.
- The big issues here for specialty crops are the labor for weeding (they are organic) and finding markets. Producers want to grow the new crops but don't know how to get them to market. We approached the schools 4 years ago with the tomatoes, but it was a little too soon (they didn't want tomatoes that were green when ripe). It may be time to approach them again. The Otis School District (15 miles west) has started a salad bar, so they might be ready to consider unusual tomato varieties.
- Yuma Community Garden. Yuma is designated as a food desert, which means that we have generally lower incomes and higher incidence of diabetes and diet related diseases. In an effort to combat this problem, we started the Yuma Community Garden. It has 18 plots, including 2 raised beds. It is getting a really good response from the community. We got some money recently from the Anschutz Family Foundation to put up a shed.
- The Yuma Farmer's Market was started in 2009, partly because we thought it would be a shame if the produce from the specialty crop test plots went to waste. Currently selling tomatoes, garlic (the test plots produced 1000 pounds of garlic in three varieties), peppers, and shallots. Other vendors sell at the Farmer's Market as well.
- Advanced Irrigation Panel Incentive Program. Yuma CD has a matching grant through the Colorado Conservation Board. Two years ago Reinke came out with advanced irrigation panels, which you can program with an algorithm to change the spray patterns as appropriate. It is a much more efficient system, and it can be controlled with a cell phone. Yuma has about 2,000 pivot fields, and about 200 currently have the advanced panels. Also, EarthTech Solutions has a probe that tracks the ions in the soil to measure water and nitrates. The probes can be programmed to talk to the advanced irrigation panel. In fact you can get your probes run your entire irrigation program for you.
- Yuma CD is hoping to have a comprehensive water balance study done: water in minus water out equals recharge. Everyone is trying to cut back on water use, but since we don't know how much water is truly available, or what the impact of the rangelands is, we are working without some of the data that would be helpful.

COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

- Our first annual report has been released! It is 14 pages, and it's on the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council website. It outlines all the meetings and events, and the accomplishments of each subcommittee: the Economic Development subcommittee, the Health Food Access subcommittee, and the Communications Subcommittees. It was presented on time (by Jan 31st, 2012) to the various committees of the legislature including

the House & Senate Health and Human Services Committees, the House & Senate Agriculture Committees, and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees.

- We also did a breakout session at Agriculture Forum. The Q&A was really successful, with a great deal of engagement from people in room. We discussed how to market the markets, what local meant, what organic meant.
- The Health Food Access Subcommittee has been very busy developing vision, objectives, and definitions. Working to define “healthy”. Definitions will be posted on the website.
- The Communications Subcommittee has decided on a logo!
- Kathay Reynolds from the Colorado State University Office of Engagement will be attending the next FSAC meeting, next Thursday 3/22, to collaborate with the Ag Cluster, the Governor’s Office. We will provide feedback on their efforts. The meeting will be held at the Colorado Farm Bureau office, 1-5pm.

LiveWell FTS TA

- Jeremy West is starting a small consulting group and will be working with 8 districts that have been through the school meal assessment process. Jeremy, Rick Hughes, and Greeley’s dietitians will provide director to director TA to help directors over obstacles in the movement from processed to scratch cooking. He will help them find out what’s local for them. His work will help the Task Force understand the state’s resources, and he will bring barriers he learns about back to the TF.

Farm to School Initiative Year 3

- We are now in the final year (year 3) of this specialty crop grant. The goal is to recruit 5 new districts and 5 new producers to sell to schools. In fact we have already exceeded the entire grant’s goal, but we are pushing forward with more recruits regardless.
- The Initiative has a webinar series, with 4 in 2011 and 2 in 2012 so far. The most recent was wildly successful and great feedback was given on the bid process. Upcoming topics:
 - Developing and Sustaining Youth Farmers Markets (April)
 - Student-Grown Food: Students who Grow it Through Gardens and Greenhouses and Eat and Compost it Too (May)
 - Using the Farm to School Equipment Grant Template (June)
- We are tracking who is signing up for the webinar so we can do targeted follow up with producers, schools, and health departments. For example, we learned that 9 of the school districts that attended the webinar on Colorado Market Maker then put their profiles up.
- We are in the process of putting in another specialty crop grant bid to develop some FTS curriculum options. We are looking at using an existing curriculum from Illinois called 7 Generations Ahead. It is a true curriculum for Kindergarten through Grade 8, not just lesson plans. The modules are very straightforward. The designer even mapped how the curriculum meets our Colorado standards. The model is to train a dozen faculty to teach new teachers. We will also be trained so we can do the training ourselves, which 7 Generations Ahead supports.

- The Initiative is working on a series of case studies – 10 in 2010. We have identified another 6 topics on Colorado happenings.
- We have been disseminating the FTS Champions survey at conferences and online, and getting quite a few people nominated. We will do a series of interviews and put them on the Information Hub as a rolling item, where you can click to see the latest interview.
- FTS Initiative Work that directly interfaces with the Farm to School Task Force:
 - FTS advocacy in rural communities (n=3). Jim Dyer will do a presentation in three places where FTS is not happening but there is interest, and work on next steps plans. We will share what communities see as their next steps, and see if there is help the TF can provide.
 - Evaluation of FTS efforts.
 - FTS-TF legislative recommendations – the FTS Initiative would like to be involved.
 - Information Hub coordination: Wendy and Jim are on the subcommittee.
 - Institutionalize statewide FTS data collection.

YEAR 2 TASK FORCE PLANNING

Scope of Work for the Grant

- Our thanks to The Colorado Health Foundation for funding the grant. We are so pleased that TCHF has seen connection between health and local food!
- Pilots & Evaluation. Completion of evaluation design with CDPHE (June 2012). Implement evaluation with selected sites (July – Dec 2012). Preliminary evaluation results (Feb 2013).
- Information Hub. Completion of marketing and sustainability plan (April 2012). Outreach & collection of resources from state and national partners (May 2012). Identification and recruitment of 2 producers, 2 school leaders, 2 state leaders for the “Ask an Expert” forum (May 2012). Development of producer/school market (June 2012). Full implementation (August 2012). Brandon Williams from CDPHE is ready to work on the hub.
- Policy & Regulatory Reform. Completion of at least 3 policy analyses with accompanying school and producer-accessible materials (August 2012). Completion of at least 3 additional policy analyses and materials, identified as barriers during the evaluation (January 2013).
- Facilities template. Completion of template and list of funding opportunities (April 2012). Additional revising, webinar in June, another update in January of 2013. Update template and funding opportunities (January 2013).
- Outreach (ongoing). Conference and meeting presentations, community listening sessions. Keep a log of all stakeholder outreach activities, in-kind commitments by Task Force members & their organizations.
- Quarterly meetings
 - Yuma, March 2012; Steamboat?, June 2012; Montrose, October 2012; Las Animas?, January 2013.

- Las Animas might be better as the June meeting. It would provide some support to the Rocky Ford community during growing season.
- Should we consider a joint meeting with FSAC? We would need to move one of our Quarterly Meetings to the Denver metro area. April – Pueblo western slope area like Montrose. Julie could let producers know we're coming.
- Core Team meetings as needed between quarterly meetings. The Core Team will meet in person soon.
- Working group meetings as needed between quarterly meetings. Each WG now has money to move their work forward.
- Internal: Database tracking all stakeholders involved with the TF, attending meetings, requesting TA, posting on the peer networking site, downloading the facilities grant template or policy guidance docs, etc.
 - Map this information to the Roadmap activities
 - Disseminate to stakeholders a quarterly online feedback survey to track materials used & how used, involvement/role with FTS, organization/representation (producer, school, etc.), barriers to FTS they are experiencing, opportunities to improve or expand FTS, and additional resources need to more fully implement FTS.
- We will try to track people and what happens on the website and disseminate a quarterly survey to find out a little about them, what they need to know. This will serve both as evaluative and to assess needs so we can support FTS.

Update & Deliverables: Grant Template

- We have identified a few more funding sources.

Update & Deliverables: Information Hub

- Brandon has developed a draft site. Next Steps:
 - Split page into static and one or two modules that are bringing in news and information dynamically. (Brandon)
 - Conduct a card sort with the task force now that there is a larger work plan. Volunteers to help with this? We are so closely tied to the information that it helps to have new people come in and lay out the concepts and information in the way that seems best to them. We will convene a focus group of TF members and web people from Wendy's department. We need a food service director, parent, and a producer in the focus group.
 - A new website on advocacy design, www.ProjectHealthColorado.org, is very well designed and could provide a helpful example.
 - Volunteers: Julie Moore, Julia Erlbaum, Barb Marty
 - The Working Group needs to discuss with Brandon what outline each subpage for families/producers/schools should have on it.
 - Create an internal page for TF members to park the materials for presentations.

- Do we want to trademark the logo? It's \$50, you do it online through the Secretary of State's website, and it protects your logo so someone else can't use it. Because we are in the position of wanting people to use our logo, we are not in the position to prosecute inappropriate uses.
 - **Decision:** We will not trademark the logo.

Update & Deliverables: Outreach

- Recent presentations: Valley Food Forum, Montrose, Dec. 8, 2011; Montrose/Olathe school district, Dec. 8, 2011; Mountain Roots Food Project & Gunnison School District, Dec. 9, 2011; Communities Putting Prevention to Work School Coordinators Meeting, Tri-County Health Dept., Jan. 24, 2012; COPAN Coalition Open House, Jan. 25, 2012; Connecting Local Farms & Schools conference, Jan. 27, 2012; Governor's AG Forum, Feb. 23, 2012; School, Producer, & Community Listening Session, Yuma, March 14th (2012).
- **Action Item:** Develop a sign-up sheet to bring to presentations with the name of forum and the number of attendees, and let people sign up with email addresses to know more.

Update, Deliverables, Discussion: Policy and Regulation

- The Policy WG met, identified gaps, and recruited four law clerks. CDPHE is now in the final stage of offering a half time job to someone well qualified with legal and policy work. Andy was kind enough to serve on the hiring committee.
- Megan Scully is a law clerk from CU. She is doing a national research on financial incentives for locally sourced food – looking carefully at those schemes to see how they are financed and arranged. Another of the law clerks is looking at Food Safety regulations and how can they be modified for small producers.
- The law clerks will be reaching out to TF members for interviews – please be available! Clerk names: Megan Scully, Jeffrey, Abby Kirkbride.
- The WG will meet again in late April to critique the law clerk assignments.
- The WG has created a matrix on the statutory and regulatory framework for FTS at the state and federal level. The goal is an active lay of the land for the legal framework for FTS.
- Discussion: different expectations between schools and producers (issue raised by matrix).
 - Distributors are the middle men – they understand both HAACP, which the schools use, and the farmer's regulations; but without a distributor there is a disconnect between farmers and school food service directors. We need to focus on getting everyone speaking the same language. We don't need to achieve the gold standard, just *some* standard. Krista took GAP and GHP and reduced it to 4 pages, and now they use it in the Durango.
 - FTS for Food Service Directors is not easy! First you must ensure the vendor is an approved one. Many small vendors are practicing safely but don't have an evidence of that. Getting producers GAP and GHP certified opens new possibilities, certainly.
 - We may need to create intermediate food safety standards. If we made GAP and GHP mandatory nationally and then tried to help small producers comply, the large

amount of paperwork involved would probably make small farms unable to comply. There has to be in-between step before you go to a GAP and GHP mandate.

- Wendy Peters Moschetti has a pilot launching this year to help small producers develop food safety plans.
- The USDA and the FDA has recently funded Cornell with \$1 million to work on small- to mid-size grower safety plans. They will be doing a workshop series to educate the producers, and bringing in the CSU extension office.
- At the producer's conference in November there was a lot of information provided on food safety plans, and the conference taught producers to use the self-assessment as an outline for food safety plan. Many small farmers who at first didn't know what a food safety plan is turned in a bid with a food safety plan. Education efforts like that that could take producers to the same place as GAP and GHP. We need to find a solution that doesn't require unreasonable things!
- Julia Erlbaum has been working with D11 – they can't cross that GAP and GHP threshold. We are developing not a certification process but a third party verification process. This could become a working platform for how food is regulated, but still be friendly to the producers. All this may lead us to a Colorado Certification or Verification System, but if we move toward this we need to involve the producers from the start.
- Liability with third party verification is difficult to deal with. What stands behind the certification? Product liability, crop insurance, and general liability insurance still leave the individual producers are completely vulnerable.
- Some states have GAP as a requirement. Other states have a course you can take in GAP, and the course is recognized as a state approved process. GAP and GHP is all state sanctioned, so there is no bottom line policy. Some of the policy is driven by the small marketplace, like FTS and farmer's markets – driving how states are looking at produce safety awareness.
- Other issues raised by the matrix:
 - Statewide education standards do not explicitly support FTS efforts or cafeteria based learning.
 - Temperature requirements for potentially hazardous food do not account for produce taken directly from a farm at earth temperature.
 - Schools are worried that some might be charging too much for overhead expenses.
- The Policy WG is not supposed to take positions on laws, but we can take a position on a policy that we might be able to join with. The WG can help by framing this issue with support, providing a lay of the land analysis.

Update, Deliverables, Discussion: Pilots and Evaluation

- Pre-Bid Conference in the southwest. Following the FTS conference Julia Erlbaum was invited to be advisory partner at the pre-bid conference. There were 20 farms there. The pre-bid conference was strictly the administrative part of the bid. They provided help on

how to submit the bid, did a question and answer session, and provided a place for schools to talk about what it means to become a vendor. Krista Garand received 13 bids from the 20 farmers who attended! One thing they learned was that they need to create a standard form for the bid. Items were awarded to every farm that submitted a bid. Krista plans to contact the local newspaper about the entire process, announcing what farms are providing what produce to which schools. Last year they had 1 school district and 3 farms. This year they have 4 school districts and 13 farms. This is not including beef or fruit. There might be an opportunity to release just a tree fruit bid. The fruit bid needs to be released later to coincide with the season so that growers can predict their crop (after the last frost).

- Greeley is engaged in summer processing and plans to pre-bid on Monday. Last year they had 10 districts and 6 farms. They are in the budget process now, determining what money might be available to buy equipment. Thinking about staff putting up product this summer. Jeremy has just had to ask for another \$100,000 for vegetables. It takes until year 2-3 before kids like the food. Compared to year before they are ahead in lunches and breakfasts, but compared to last year not doing as well. But they had a phenomenal year last year, and there's always a dip when you switch from all processed to scratch.
 - **Question:** Are there cost savings when you go from processed to scratch?
 - **Response:** There is cost shifting. We had savings in labor and in menu when we went from a 6 week cycle to 4 week cycle. We offer less choice at all levels. Jeremy will put together some examples of how those cost-savings work.
- D11 has a man power shortage. They still have active produce center at Mitchel HS. The goal is to develop a produce center. Food Service Directors are operating at 99%, and when you add FTS it can tip the balance into the unrealistic. The main goal is to make FTS not an optional program but part of the institutional framework.
- Theresa Hafner at DPS is potentially going for a bond process this fall, with a feasibility grant through The Colorado Health Foundation. They are looking at 2 mobile food processing semi-trailers: one with processing equipment and one with refrigeration. The units would park near a farm to process the crop quickly, and then deliver right to schools or warehouse. They are also looking to put some infrastructure into existing schools. Engaged in a lot of GIS mapping on the ground we have available. They are talking about all organic produce, which would transform the school grounds into organic grounds! DPS will be giving two farm tours this summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wendy Peters Moschetti has a small grant to study barriers local producers have to accessing federal and other funding. The grant will fund a template of the barriers and solutions, and resources. A lot of money is left on the table by Colorado producers.
- April 4th is the deadline for specialty crop grant applications! There is information on the Department of Agriculture website.
- Julia Erlbaum would like to present to the next Quarterly TF Meeting on her plans for next year's Connecting Local Farms to School Conference.