



# Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Communication and Coordination Subcommittee  
July 11, 2022 1:00am-2:00pm

## 1. Welcome

## 2. Discussion with invited speakers:

A. Nikko Brady (Deputy Secretary of the Delaware Department of Agriculture)

- i. In August 2018, Delaware Council Farm and Food Policy (a statewide group, consisting of three counties) was established.
- ii. Initially originated in 2016 from a collaboration between University of Delaware Cooperative Extension and Department of Agriculture, to draft a report regarding farming and food within Delaware. This report includes qualitative data from the food system, with developed recommendations (i.e. determined a designated group or body needed related to food policy)
- iii. Mission/Objective of the advisory group is to advise the Delaware Secretary of Agriculture on matters that shape food policy and sustain food security within the state.
- iv. Structured/embedded within the Department of Agriculture as an advisory group to the secretary (council is not from the general assembly or an executive order). The current structure allows flexibility regardless of administration changes, and is not connected to administration when making determinations for the advisory group.



- v. Financial support/Funding – initially the group was not funded, however with added responsibilities a line item was assigned via the Department of Agriculture for food policy purposes.
  - vi. Operations: Quarterly meetings, and one annual meeting (used for networking opportunities with organization, officials, planning , information sharing, status checks with projects)
  - vii. Challenges: Raising awareness with their intended audience about the advisory group’s existence, ongoing work and projects, etc.
  - viii. 13 members – noted productive/actionable number of members without becoming a large group that is less productive. Members and the chair (the Chair is a State Planner, from the State Planning Office) are appointed by the Secretary. Members serve a two year term. 13 member separated into 5 sectors:
    - a) Health and Nutrition
    - b) Food service and Assistance (include Food Banks and Retail)
    - c) Production and Markets (producers, farmers, farmers markets)
    - d) Cooperative Extension
    - e) Community and Planning
  - ix. In 2018, the 2016 report was reviewed, with original members/participants, to determine organizational structure for the advisory group.
- B. Lilian Brislen (Staff for Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council)
- i. The advisory council was established during the 2010 legislative session. Prior to 2010 the Farm to School task force worked in relation to the State which led to forming the advisory council.



- ii. 13 members appointed by the governor, statewide with a board mandate. (Noted challenge: determining a clear channel for the council's work) Originally there are 4 State agency reps included in the 13 members:
  - a) Public Health and Environment
  - b) Agriculture
  - c) Department of Human Services
  - d) Department of Education
- iii. 9 Remaining governor appointed members include: (2) members from nutrition and health, (3) agriculture and production, (2) food wholesale or retail, (1) anti-hunger work, and (1) members with knowledge of State/local agencies, rural community and regional development programs. Varied membership selected to allow expertise and a wide breadth of knowledge regarding the food system.
- iv. Operations: Quarterly meetings completed virtually since COVID-19, but will be moving to in-person meetings in the near future.
- v. In 2011 the council was determined as an advisory committee, responsible for making recommendations to the general assembly. Legislatively created advisory council does not create policy or include policy in the council's work (no policy development, no endorsement of bills, etc.)
- vi. 2018 – Continuation, with one sunset review completed, and currently under a second sunset review
- vii. 2019 – Sen. Bill 1202 established staffing via Colorado State University with 107,000 per year, directed for staffing and council expenses.
- viii. Current membership is a three year term, members have increased to 22 members including:
  - a) 6 State Agencies: Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Public Health and Environment, Human Services, Rep from Cooperative



## Extension, Economic Development and International Trade

### b) 15 Stakeholder enrolled seats include:

- Current participant in federal food assistance program
  - Rep of agricultural production who sale to public schools or school districts
  - Food wholesaler or retailer
  - Member with knowledge on federal food assistance and nutrition programs and rural community and regional development program
  - Rep for institutional procurement from healthcare setting
  - Nutrition expert, Licensed physician, Registered Dietitian
  - Rep of Statewide anti-hunger organization
  - Food distributor or Food Hub
  - Member from an academic institutional specialized in economic systems, agriculture, or healthcare
  - Rep for institutional procurement from education setting
  - Rep for local nonprofit community organization engaged in Farm to school programs or local food systems
  - Rep of statewide healthy food system organization
- ix. Chair and Co-Chair are selected within council
- x. Prior to COVID there were 4 formal committees, currently the council elected to work on issued based working groups, for timely research, and to support COVID adaptation (examining available federal funds, how to



- leverage funding, coordinating with the Department of Agriculture, statewide coordination).
- xi. Membership turnover: 1-4 seats open at any given time, some seats are challenging to fill due to the prescriptive nature of membership.
  - xii. No direct compensation, however costs incurred for council activities are covered for members.
- C. Nessa Richman (Network Director for Rhode Island FPC)
- i. Mission statement: We work towards an equitable, accessible, economically vibrant environmentally sustainable food system by addressing the pressing food system needs.
  - ii. Key elements of focus/priorities include project, partnership, and policy
  - iii. 2012 council formed by a group of high level food system professionals, established as a fiscally sponsored project of nonprofit Third Sector New English (TSNE Mission Works, Inc.), created concurrently with the establishment of the state-level Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council (IFNPAC), and the position of Director of Food Strategy in the Governor's office. These two groups work together.
  - iv. Structure: being a fiscally sponsored project allowed RIFPC to accept funding, essential to:
    - a) Hiring of part-time coordinator
    - b) Hiring of state Director of Food Strategy, responsible for creation of RI food plan
    - c) Establishing and funding state Local Agriculture & Seafood Act Grant Program (council over matched state funding with foundation funding to ensure uptake of this program)
  - v. Noted advantages: as a non-governmental entity, RIFPC is allowed to work uninterrupted by changes in state



government policy and politics. Additionally, RIFPC has developed an independent voice, centering on the voices of stakeholders not usually centered by state government, which enables the development of mutually beneficial collaborative partnerships

- vi. Identified challenges: Fundraising limitations and administrative limitations (council transition to a separate 501c3 in Oct 2021).
- vii. The transition led to the creation of board of directors, bylaws, and evolution of council nomination/selection processes once per year (term length is 1-4years, with an average of 2 years term served). Selected members of the council serve on behalf of themselves, not on behalf of an organization or outside group.
- viii. the 25 Member Council (responsible for policy work) separated into 3 work groups, and 3 committees. The council and board of directors work with a network director and supporting staff.

#### D. Open Q&A

- i. Are there any conflicts of interest within the council? How is this handled?
  - o Rhode Island FPC - Council has developed standard operation procedures provided to members. Ideas are presented to the council on a shared platform for voting purposes. Items which cannot be agreed upon can be supported independently as individuals, however to be considered a position of the council, members must agree, or no position is taken.
  - o Delaware Council Farm and Food Policy - Items should be connected to the council's objectives, goals, level of work currently underway, then



- presented to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- o Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council – Members are appointed by the governor, which can present as partisan or present specific points of view.
  - ii. What role are farmers playing within the council?
    - o Delaware Council Farm and Food Policy – currently there is one farmer bureau member participating, however there is no formal bureau farmer member seat included on the council. The council maintains relationships with farmer organizations.
    - o Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council – There is no farm bureau or particular commodity agriculture group. There are two agriculture seats that are specific to Farm to school, or farm to food bank (mid-tier fruit and vegetable producers).
    - o Rhode Island FPC – Farmer representation is usually on the council. The council maintains partnerships or relationships with farmers. Working groups are also open to anyone to participate.

### **3. Next steps and adjourn**

- i. Temperature Check – Vote
- ii. Schedule another meeting to discuss panel information