

Staff report for December 14th, 2020 meeting of the Food Policy Council
Prepared by Abra Brynne, Executive Director

2020 Core Goals

1. Increase visibility and understanding of the local food economy
2. Support those facing food/ag-related policy challenges
3. Manage and contribute to Evidence-based Policy Project
4. Secure increased core and project funding
5. Increase profile and capacity of Council

This report covers activities undertaken since early October 2020. Items 1 & 2 cover activities being undertaken through the Food Security Action Plan Project funded by the RDCK. A 7th category has been added to cover the Cannabis Project.

1. Increase visibility and understanding of the local food economy

- Working with Engagement Coordinator on the redesign of educational materials and development of new ones.
- Presentation on food hubs to the Columbia Basin Economic Development Practitioners Network monthly meeting
- Produced three new blogs on food systems, one in honour of world food day, which Amy placed on our new blog section of the website and amplified through social media: <http://ckfoodpolicy.ca/2020/10/16/world-food-day-2020/>
- Was interviewed by George Chandler for a Kootenay Coop Radio show hosted by Nelson at Its Best.
- Created a municipal food systems graph to assist municipal leaders and community advocates in understanding measures that municipalities can take.

2. Support those facing food / ag-related policy challenges

- Continue to host monthly zoom calls on food and the pandemic for those residing in the Columbia Basin involved in food systems.
- Convened meeting of area leaders at Selkirk College, jobs training and economic development to discuss strategies for identifying those that need additional employment as a result of the pandemic, and training / transition supports that they may need. To be reconvened in January.
- Agreed to sit on the Leadership Team of the Kootenay Boundary Economic Recovery initiative, was interviewed for data collection, and participated in the first 2 meetings.
- Participated in meeting of the Columbia Valley Farmers Markets / Ec Devt group
- Met with our Member of Parliament, Rob Morrison, to explore opportunities for support; received endorsement of our Columbia Basin alliance idea.

3. Manage and contribute to Evidence-based Policy Project

- Through the end of November, met regularly with a team of 6 students in the UBC Land & Food Systems program to assist in the creation of the educational curriculum and delivery.
- Devised an alternate program for the educational component; re-initiated the Working Group
- Undertook outreach to area teachers who may be interested in using the results of the educational materials development

- Hired an illustrator, Mercedes Minck to work with the Educational Working Group and FPC staff to develop two of infographics for developing “food citizens”
- Meeting weekly with the Educational Working Group, plus Amy and Mercedes, our Illustrator.
- In response to high level of interest in our food work from french teachers, have secured commitments from native french speakers to assist in the translation of our Infographics and educational materials.

4. Secure increased core & project funding

- Upon request, provided additional information to Community Gaming Grant Environment stream.
- Made verbal proposal to the Columbia Basin Trust that the Council administer and convene a Basin-wide Food Systems Alliance, modelled after other such initiatives funded by the CBT and that support specific sectors or community programming.
- Submitted a proposal to CBT on a Basin food inventory and Directory, modelled after our regional Farm & Food Directory.
- Ongoing monitoring of funding opportunities and refining project concepts related to water security, systemic racism and food.
- Ongoing conversations with possible partners for future projects, including Selkirk College’s new Rural Innovation Chair, Sarah Breen, the RDCK, and others.

5. Increase profile and capacity of Council

- Meeting weekly with Amy, our Engagement Coordinator, to revise, develop and circulate different communications pieces.
- Supporting Amy with the revision of the website, regular postings to social media.
- Developed content for December newsletter.
- Have responded to multiple journalists requests for interviews on various food systems related topics.
- Met with faculty at Kwantlen’s Institute for Sustainable Food Systems about collaborating on municipal food policy work.

6. Ongoing Administration

- Work with our Treasurer and Bookkeeper, providing monthly reports, annotated bank statements. Review bookkeeper reports with Elizabeth.
- Created contract, job description and work plan for the Illustrator on the Evidence-based project.
- Created interim report for the Food Security Action Plan, RDCK.
- Drafted an Endorsement Policy for review & approval by Exec Committee.

7. Cannabis Policy Project with Community Futures

- Ongoing research into the municipal, provincial and federal policy landscape
- Launched invitation to sit on the Cannabis Ec Devt Task Force, managed applications and inquiries.
- Supported a Selection Committee process to identify suitable candidates for Task Force.
- Notified all candidates of the status of their application and chaired inaugural meeting on December 3rd.
- Drafted invitation to four First Nations that have a connection to the Central Kootenay.
- Met with Cannabis policy lead with the BC Association of First Nations to explore collaboration on mutual needs and opportunities.
- Participate in weekly Cannabis Team meetings.