

Urban Farmer Collab Planning Breakout

Food Track Participating Groups

Appetite for Change

Community Table Cooperative

Let's Go Chicago

Hmong American Farmer Association

Project Main Street

Robbinsdale Food Coop/ Natural Family Buying Club

Urban Oasis, St. Paul

Women's Environmental Institute

Questions/discussion

Soil testing resources?

- U of M has resources – how to collect and send it to them
- Also build your soil! Check out how Growing Power does it with vermiculture.

Is anyone mapping all this stuff going on? How can someone go to one place and find all of this? (Karlie Cole)

- I (Karlie) would be interested in doing this. I live in south Minneapolis.
- It would also be great to take all the community food assessments and look at patterns. A lot of research has been done, and we need to start doing!

How do we get land access when there isn't a lot of land. Something we're doing is a Yard Sharing Network (Molly Costello from Chicago). We have a toolkit if you're interested.

I live in West Virginia (Joe Gorman). We have a lot of vacant land so there are \$1 100-year leases. We also have places that are owned by out-of-state companies that lease land to coal companies. Could people farm this land?

Jim Connors: There has been a push to get local food in schools, why don't public facilities (places that have tax money coming in) have leverage to get local food coming in?

We need scale and leverage

One challenge is that people have the mindset that food is cheap. We need to give preferences to local vendors. It is the aggregation and also price (Paku)

Youth Outreach - Recently started working at the Waite House. We're working on a food justice unit. If you see places youth from Weight House could be plugged into the work you all are doing, let me know.

Bishar Issak: Working on youth gardening, what they grow, they eat.

Minnesota Food Council at the state level – if you're interested talk to Karlie Cole.

Business Planning Farm Plans	Financing	Land Access	Farmer Development	Aggregation Distribution	Access to Markets/ Processing/	Systems Level Thinking
Business planning	No interest micro loans	HAFAs Farm	Entrepreneur Outreach	Corner store distribution 9 stores with Briteside	Product processing	Using economic viability to drive organizing
Research Studies	IDAs	Long term land access to plant fruit	Blue Corn Coop	Aggregation table at the Broadway farmers market	Catering business	System wide feasibility addressed
With energy in focus	Incubator on ownership and control	Learning to work and grow for yourself	Equity built in	Better aggregation and distribution	Buying Clubs	
Research on Poultry		155 acres 9 acres	Permaculture			
		Yard sharing	North Circle Project organic			
			HAFAs works with experienced farmers			

Next Steps

1. **Continue meeting with local food initiatives in the Twin Cities, quarterly** – to share our stories and look for possible ways we can work together. We plan to meet again in November – with Sam’s Food Lab event tied in with the Alliance for Sustainability’s food hub convening project. Potential to work with the Home Grown Mpls Commission, Urban Farmer Coalition and St. Paul Food and Nutrition Council
2. **Explore how to create an on line portal, and food system asset map on line.** Karlie Cole, to help link assets, help folks learn from one another, sell more produce, access crowd source funding, etc.
3. **Do Economic Feasibility Studies** together to ID market opportunities and create business plans to scale up to meet the needs of these markets. Require entities receiving public dollars to buy some local food.
4. **Farmer training** – seek scholarships for growers to attend the Growing Power workshop in September with WEI Sept 27 and 28
<http://w-e-i.org/event/5th-annual-weigrowing-power-regional-training-weekend/>
5. **Facilitate better access to business planning and technical** assistance with NDC, LEDC, Ridge Water College, Ag Star, MDA, ensure future grants follow through to reach the small growers
6. **Cooperate more between cooperatives** – ask established food coops to commit to purchasing a part of their produce from the smaller growers, establish partnerships with the newly forming coops – Wirth Coop, Robbinsdale Coop, etc.
7. **Public Policy change** – Karen Clark, Sam Grant
8. **Land Access** – Twin Cities Ag Land Trust – MN Project, Yard Sharing, Farm Transitions Program
9. **Building urban soil** - WEI