



**AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP**

**Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2014**

**Attendees:**

Jenny Biché	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Ramona Chapman	Department of Housing & Community Development
Deirdre Clark	John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
Ben Cooper	Fauquier Farm Bureau
Michelle Edwards	Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
Kit Johnston	Rural Madison
Kenner Love	VA Cooperative Extension – Rappahannock County
Ray Pickering	Fauquier County
Carl Sachs	Culpeper County
Carl Stafford	VA Cooperative Extension – Culpeper County

**Food System Economic Analysis RFP – Michelle Edwards, RRRC**

Culpeper County issued the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Food System Economic Analysis on August 14, 2014. It was posted on the County and Virginia procurement systems, the Star Exponent, and the County website (<http://web.culpepercounty.gov/CountyGovernment/Purchasing.aspx>). There is also a link on the Commission’s website. Michelle emailed the RFP to Ken Meter at Crossroads Resource Center and Terrance Rephann at the Weldon Cooper Center. The deadline to submit proposals is September 11.

Following the closing date, Michelle will forward the proposals and evaluation forms to the selection panel. The selection panel will include Michelle, Jenny Biché, Carl Stafford and Kenner Love. The top 2-3 candidates will be called in for an interview, with a decision anticipated in October.

**Food System Asset Assessment Group Discussion – Attendees**

Michelle led a group brainstorming session to develop the categories for the Food System Asset Assessment, which will be used in establishing a baseline along with the Economic Analysis and Agricultural Surveys. An excerpt from the “Community-Based Food System Assessment and

Planning – Facilitator’s Guidebook” on categories of community capital was distributed as an example (see attached). Ms. Edwards also shared a list of categories she developed and the group decided to use her list as the starting point.

Workgroup members agreed on the following categories of food system assets and the member responsible for developing the initial list of assets within the category. The group qualified that facilities must be open for use by multiple customers, besides the owner’s use, and be located within the region. Draft lists for several of the smaller categories were completed during the meeting as a group.

<b>Food System Asset Categories</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Support Organizations	Complete (see below)
Educational Programs	Kenner will develop a list of VATech’s programs and Michelle will contact Don Loocke for a list of PEC’s programs.
Food Assistance Programs	Kenner and Carl Stafford
Financial Incentive/Loan Programs	Ben- Farm Credit programs; Ray- FSA and Fauquier Co. programs; Carl Sachs-Culpeper Co. programs; Dierdre- SWCD programs
Aggregation & Distribution Facilities	Complete (see below)
Processing Facilities	Complete (see below)
Refrigeration & Storage Facilities	No assets known to exist in this category
Production Services & Supplies	TBD
Institutional Markets (potential markets)	Jenny
Farmers Markets	Michelle will compile based on Buy Fresh Bay Local lists
Small Retail Stores, CSAs & Co-ops (not including restaurants)	Michelle will compile based on Buy Fresh Bay Local lists
Policies & Regulatory Programs	TBD
Collective Marketing Efforts	Complete (see below)
Food Culture Efforts	TBD
Labor Force	TBD
Natural Resources (e.g. land, soil, and water)	RRRC will provide maps of the region’s prime ag soils and water resources. Carl Stafford will develop a brief narrative overview of the region’s natural resource assets as it relates to agriculture.

## **Draft Lists of Food System Assets with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Region**

### **Support Organizations**

- VA Cooperative Extension
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District
- John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
- Rural Madison
- Farm Credit
- Farm Bureau
- Farm Service Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Fauquier County Department of Agriculture Development
- Other local government agencies (to be expanded)
- Blue Ridge Cattlemen's Association
- Other producer organizations (to be expanded)

### **Aggregation & Distribution Facilities**

- Culpeper Agriculture Enterprises (Culpeper County)
- CFC Farm and Home (Culpeper County)
- Blue Ridge Produce (Culpeper County)
- County Farm Services (Culpeper County)
- Fauquier Livestock Exchange (Fauquier County)
- CFC Farm and Home Morrisville (Fauquier County)
- CFC Farm and Home Marshall (Fauquier County)
- CFC Farm and Home Warrenton (Fauquier County)
- Southern States Prince William-Fauquier (Fauquier County)
- Tri-County Feed (Fauquier County)
- Southern States Orange-Madison Cooperative (Madison County)
- Southern States Orange-Madison Cooperative (Orange County)
- CFC Farm and Home Rappahannock (Rappahannock County)

### **Processing Facilities**

- Fauquier's Finest Meat Processing (Fauquier County)
- Lebanese Butcher (Fauquier County)
- Rollins Meat Processing (Orange County)
- Hidden Pines Meat Processing (Madison County)
- Adams Custom Slaughter & Processing (Rappahannock County)
- Muskrat Haven (Rappahannock County)

### **Collective Marketing Efforts**

- Buy Fresh Buy Local
- Virginia Grown

- VA Finest
- Tween the Rivers Trail (regional agri-artisan trail in development)
- Farm Tours (to be expanded)
- County Fairs (to be expanded)

**Next Meeting**

The next Steering Committee will be held on September 24th, 2014, at 1:30-3:30pm in the RRRC Conference Room.

The workgroup's Day-to-Serve Event at the Fauquier Education Farm will be held on Friday, September 26, 9:00am-12:00noon. Food harvested will be donated to the Fauquier Food Bank.