

1320 Research Park Drive
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900 SW Jackson, Room 456
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Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

Local Food and Farm Task Force Meeting Minutes December 13, 2016

Task Force Members in attendance: Annarose White, Senator Dan Kerschen, Loren Swenson, Chairman Ron Brown, Senator Tom Hawk and David Coltrain.

KDA staff in attendance: Taylor Harms and Kerry Wefald.

Others in attendance: Scott Kohl, Missty Lechner, Natalie Fullerton, Mark Skoglund, Kyle Hamilton, Heather O'Hara and Nancy Brown.

Welcome: Meeting called to order by Chair Ron Brown at 9:06 a.m.

Task Force members and guests introduced themselves.

November meeting minutes were approved- White moved, Coltrain seconded.

Chairman Brown stated that things are starting to come together for Local Food efforts in his area. Programs and initiatives are starting to pop up. He stated that the farmers' market has potential to help with these efforts. The local farmers' markets have struggled with marketing and getting the word out. Brown discussed Project 17. This is made up of 17 counties that are focused on economic development in their area. They are trying to start a regional farmers' market system that can foster a working relationship among the markets.

Brown also discussed RC&Ds. He stated that they have been around for years.

Senator Hawk brought up the recommendation of continuing the Task Force. He reminded the group that the KRC recommended this in their report and wanted to know if that should be included.

The Task Force entered their work session and started working through the proposed legislation that Kyle Hamilton provided on the wine tax piece. They worked on wording and asked questions pertinent to the proposed bill.

The Task Force discussed with Wefald, of KDA, what a group within KDA might look like. Wefald stated that KDA could possibly have a state board or advisory board that is housed under the KDA structure.

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Wefald talked about the produce safety rule and the work KDA is doing with Londa. There is a great deal of outreach going on. Wefald stated that Secretary McClaskey is not in favor of the word "council", as it implies someone is telling someone how they should do something. She stated that 'advisory board' or 'network' would be fine. Wording is critical.

Senator Hawk asked the Task Force members if they should add a recommendation to have another 3rd and final year of the Task Force to discuss what this group may look like and what making a permanent structure for this effort would look like.

Wefald reminded the Task Force that the group goes until July, so they have some time in the spring to work on this and discuss what succession planning might look like.

Senator Hawk asked if the group could meet 1 or 2 times in the spring to discuss succession planning or the makeup of the next group.

Coltrain stated that he believes the Task Force has fulfilled its purpose and completed the tasks that they were set out to do. He stated that the group should move on, but continue to meet until July. Coltrain also stated that a Local Food Commission would be good, however there is not a checkoff for local food, so it is not self-sustaining. He stated that he would like to look at the Wine Council and recommends to look at a small tax on food to create local food money, such as a 1/100th of a cent tax.

Hawk reminded the group that because of streamlined tax, you cannot tax some types of food and not others.

Swenson stated that if the group is truly going to pursue this, the group is going to have to do something to get some money to promote the effort. Swenson stated that he believes the Task Force really has a good opportunity right now. (there are a great deal of young people and this is the time to be pushing these efforts)

Senator Hawk stated that whether it is something the group thinks the legislature will pass on or not, it is great to get the thought out there. He also stated that maybe the group gets too cautious.

Coltrain stated that they need more people in extension, specializing in specialty crops.

White stated that the group has yet to speak with banking groups and there is education to be implemented here.

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Coltrain and Senator Hawk recommended to add “Kansas as a specialty crop leader. Form a Specialty Crop Council and commit .01 of a cent of the current tax on food sales to fund the Specialty Crop Council. This would operate in a similar way as the Kansas Wine Council” to the recommendations in the Local Food and Farm Task Force Report.

Coltrain moved and Swenson seconded.

Break was taken at 10:40 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:55 p.m.

White and Senator Hawk recommended that the following be added to the recommendation list on the Local Food and Farm Task Force Report:

Form a Local Food and Farm Advisory Board

To establish a Local Food and Farm Advisory Board to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to function and focus on growing the industry of local food (animal protein, cereal grain, and vegetables and fruit) in Kansas with an emphasis on specialty crops. There is significant demand for a state-wide advisory board after interest from the agricultural industry from the 2016 Kansas Ag Growth Summit and the findings of this Task Force. Also, continue dialog on important topics including, but not limited to:

- Drift/Pollination
- Cold Storage/Food Aggregation
- Meat Processing and Dairy
- Beginning Farmer

Coltrain stated that he would like last year’s recommendations included in this year’s report as an appendix.

Wefald spoke about what the Kansas Department of Agriculture is doing with specialty crops and the Kansas Ag Summit. She showed the group the definition of a specialty crop and identified what items qualify as specialty crops.

Task Force broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Task Force reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and started discussion on the report.

Harms put the recommendations on the screen and the Task Force worked through wording.

Task Force stated that they would like to meet the morning that the report is presented.

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Harms will make suggested changes and send out to the Task Force for a final review. Following their approval, the report will be sent to Legislative Research.

Harms will make copies of the final report and bring them to the Task Force for distribution the day of the presentation.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.