**Cumberland County Food Security Council Meeting Notes**

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 9:30-11:30 am

U ME Cooperative Extension Office, 75 Clearwater Drive, Falmouth

**Attendance:** Lily Chaleff, Nancy Ross, Jim Hanna, Dawud Ummah, Monique Coombs, Kendra Jo Grindle, Richard Rudolf, Kayla Jones, Kristina Kalolo, Ali Mediate, Mary Turner, Jamie Piccardy

**CCFSC Updates:**

* 501C3 Status
  + Paper application is within the 180 day window (not 90 day) so we are still waiting to get confirmation on status from the IRS - we are currently at 150 days
  + Jim and Mary will open bank account in the next couple of weeks
* “Glean Hole Suppah”
  + Was a success! Gleaned local food that would remind the community of the local food available in winter
  + Many generous donations including from Mainely Poultry, Two Farmers Farm
  + Partnered with Southern Maine Community College - culinary students and Chef Instructor Maurice Levitt were hugely helpful
  + Leftovers were donated to Preble Street
  + We’re planning a summer meal with gleaned foods
* Closing the Hunger Gap with Local Food Report
  + Will be releasing the report next month
* Portland Public Schools Food Security Task Force
  + The Assessment Action Group is moving forward with the Needs Assessment
    - A team of 15+ interviewers will be going and conducting interviews in the schools with key food security organizer
  + Outreach and Organizing Action Group is conducting focus groups to target members of the school community that have not been attending the large group meetings
    - Focus with a sampling of high school students
    - Parent focus groups, survey, and tabling at Parent U
    - Cafeteria staff at Riverton
    - King middle student focus group
  + Community Food Resource Guide - that lists WIC, SNAP, and Portland pantries
    - In the process of translating that until 9 different languages
  + Planning to present to the Operations Committee and full School Board Committee
  + We’re still looking for volunteers, please look at ccfoodsecurity.org for more opportunities with how to get involved the PPS Food Security Task Force
* Featured Presentation and Discussion with Maine Coast Fisherman's Association by Monique Coombs and Kendra Jo Grindle
  + MCFA is an industry based nonprofit working to restore and maintain fisheries along the coast of Maine that was founded 10 years ago by ground fish fishermen
  + [Beyond the Bow](https://www.mainecoastfishermen.org) - Needs assessment of Harpswell’s fishing community conducted with over 200 hours of interviews
    - Found that access to water, communications, community fisheries knowledge, lifelong workforce, next generation, business development and innovation were important themes
  + Organization focuses on getting feedback and input from fishermen about solutions to problems that directly affect them
    - How is climate change affecting the working waterfront
      * Changes in numbers of fish populations, disease, ocean acidification (specifically a concern for clam fishermen), new species
      * Concerns that regulations and science are not keeping up with reality of what they are seeing and experiencing on the water
    - How are developments on waterfronts (such as Commercial Street) impacting harvesters
    - How are population changes in fishing communities accessing the way fishermen can access the intertidal
  + Works with all fishing industries except lobster (although everyone except for 2 of the fishermen also lobster to bolster their economic security)
  + Commercial Fish Exchange does tours - Monique can help organize a group excursion if we’re interested
  + MCFA is looking to see how they can pilot and partner with the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program
    - Gaging fishermen’s interest in participating
    - Processing will be big barrier (potentially getting SMCC students involved)
    - Educations and sampling with accessible foods (such as chowders)
    - Whether MCHPP can create space in its budget to purchase seafood
  + Jodie recommends reaching out to Maine Farmland Trust and USM Food Studies about succession
    - USM embarked on a two semester long study of student seafood knowledge and knowledge preference
  + One of the best things you can do for the environment is to consume more (local) fish and less red meat
    - “Fisheries should not be sustainable they should be adaptable” - Monique
    - Consumers have some of the most impact on what is happening in fisheries
  + Between 91-96% of seafood in the U.S. is imported
    - Most of the fish landed in Maine goes to Boston or New York
    - Education gap on consumer and seller side
    - Paul Greenberg’s book is a helpful resource
  + Kayla will research donation laws related to seafood (will MCHPP need a dealer’s permit?)
  + There are 2 Community Supported Fisheries here in Maine - [Localcatch.org](https://localcatch.org/)
    - [Port Clyde Fresh Catch](http://www.portclydefreshcatch.com/buy-a-csf/)
    - [Salt and Sea](https://www.yelp.com/biz/salt-and-sea-portland)
  + Potentially organizing a community seafood meal to promote and educate around local seafood

**Network Reports:**

* Policy updates
  + Jim will share a letter from Jan (Preble Street Hunger Initiative) about upcoming ruling around SNAP
* Maine Foodscapes - working on piloting a Free Garden Project
  + Garbage to Garden will be supporting compost and lumber needs
  + Submitted request to Johnny’s for seeds
  + Conversations with New England Environmental Grassroots Fund

**Upcoming Events**:

* + [Policy Symposium](https://usm.maine.edu/food-studies/march-30-2018-policy-symposium), March 30
  + [MNCFC Summit](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maine-community-food-council-summit-2018-building-powerful-food-networks-tickets-43352303908), April 13
  + [REI Training](https://www.racialequityinstitute.org), April 26&27
  + [21 Day Racial Equity Challenge](https://www.facebook.com/events/175319466429982/?notif_t=plan_user_invited&notif_id=1521552985221274)
  + [Community Voices for Change](https://www.wmpg.org/show/thu1930-2/) - this Thursday Richard is interviewing a criminal justice lawyer from Boston and talking about institutional racism, white rage, and the status of black American today
  + MCFA is doing a March Madness bracket for seafood

[**Next meetings**](https://www.facebook.com/events/212135699357665/):

* + **Full Council**: May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8
  + **Leadership Team/Board of Directors**: April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, December 13
  + **Annual Meeting**: October 16