DATE: Monday, November 27, 2006

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Conference room AB, Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture & Conservation Center 1 Fen Oak Court – Madison, WI 53718


Others present: Dawn Burgardt, Kathy Sandefur, Rachel Armstrong

Members excused: Jerry Bradley, Ken Ruegsegger, Judy Hageman

Call to Order
Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

Announcements:
Simpson distributed copies of the registration form for the Wisconsin Local Food Summit on January 4th, 2007.

Campbell heard an interview on National Public Radio with Jennifer Wilkins and Brian Halweil, author of the book Eat Here and the keynote speaker for the 1/4/07 event.

Bailkey made a presentation about the Food Council on October 24th to the City Community Gardens Committee. Chair Nan Fey mentioned that permanent space allocation is currently an important issue for community gardens in Madison, and wondered if the County and/or this Council might support them in some way. Bailkey will maintain contact with Joe Mathers, Community Action Coalition for South Central WI, about potential linkages.

Bailkey visited the Toronto Food Policy Council on October 8th and talked about the Dane County Food Council’s work. This group is truly policy oriented, meets bi-monthly, and operates with one staff person within the Board of Health.

Approval of minutes from 10/23/06
Motion to approve minutes of 10/23/06 by Voichick, second by Secher. Motion passed 9-0.

Public Comment
None.

Hunger Prevention Council of Dane County, Inc.
Presentation/discussion with invited guest: Kathy Sandefur, President

Sandefur is Director of Outreach Ministries at First United Methodist Church and runs the River Food Pantry, and is also the President of the Hunger prevention Council of Dane County, Inc. (HPC). The River Food Pantry has
recently moved to a new location, and their first mobile pantry was piloted over teachers break. The River Food Pantry is an as needed referral pantry, meaning that clients do need a referral, but then are able to pick up food as often as needed. It is also a choice pantry, meaning that clients shop the shelves as others would in a grocery store. This is a matter of respect for clients and also lowers costs due to reduced waste.

Sandefur defined food security as having enough nutritious food at all times through non-emergency food channels. Food Pantries are no longer considered emergency food sources; they are a regular part of how many people feed themselves and their families. The HPC audience is largely service providers such as nutritionists, pantry operators, and social workers. Over the past 3 years the HPC has done quite a bit of food stamp outreach at pantries using a wireless system that allows online application for food stamps and a check for other benefits eligibility. This year HPC outreach efforts are focused on the Farm Bill. Their first meeting on the subject included an overview of the Farm Bill and the process for reauthorization. HPC is a 501c3 and cannot advocate for a particular position. A second session will happen sometime in early 2007.

Sandefur mentioned that HPC meetings are bi-monthly and alternate with meetings of the Dane County Food Pantry Network, as there is a fair bit of overlap between the two groups. There are currently 43 food pantries in Dane County, which are seeing an increase in use and a change in who is accessing them (i.e. 40% are working). Housing is a big factor, as many people have trouble paying rent, heat, phone, and electric bills, and have little money leftover for food. Pantry volunteers are interested in getting food into a hungry kitchen, and don’t always think about the big picture of where it comes from. Pantries are highly dependant on commodities distributed from the federal government through WISCAP in Wisconsin. Up to 55% of the lbs of food distributed at pantries is typically from this source (TEFAP), and the items vary each month. Fresh produce is an option at pantries when it is available, largely during the summer and fall seasons (i.e. CAC gleans produce from farmers markets, Vermont Valley CSA donates boxes that were not picked up by members, Food Pantry Gardens project).

Campbell asked how the Food Council can support the work of the HPC. Sandefur acknowledged that the HPC and Food Council do have shared interests, and appreciates the opportunity to dialogue about ways that the groups can work together in the future. Sandefur mentioned that a map or inventory of other related activities going on in the Dane County Region would be helpful in seeing opportunities and overlaps. Also the HPC wants to support urban food growing at community gardens and containers at home for those without land. Sandefur will forward the results of the HPC annual survey when they are available in January 2007.

Update on the Buy Fresh Buy Local Initiative
Armstrong introduced herself as the new Program Coordinator for the “Buy Fresh Buy Local Southern Wisconsin” initiative being developed by the REAP Food Group. This campaign is aimed at helping consumers identify places to purchase a variety of locally grown food products, and to increase capacity of restaurants and institutional food services to serve and promote more local foods. REAP is developing a logo for this region that will be made available to participating businesses. The campaign will be piloted with several restaurants in the spring of 2007. Armstrong has compiled a list of about 40 restaurants in the area that are currently doing some local food purchasing.

Discussion and vote on draft resolution to increase Dane County local food purchasing
The Institutional Food Purchasing Subcommittee (Simpson and Campbell) presented a draft resolution to increase local food purchasing by the County. The resolution is part of a sequenced process that gives County purchasing staff permission to move forward and investigate (year 1) how to increase local food purchases. The initial focus is on working with Consolidated Food Service and includes a tiered definition of local that allows for flexibility. Kaufman motioned to approve the draft resolution as written, second by Voichick, all in favor. The Subcommittee will move forward with looking at sponsors for the resolution and will write a press release about this initiative. Slone is part of the City of Madison’s Buy Local Committee and will share the draft resolution with this group.
Winter Food Summit proposal
The Education Subcommittee (Simpson, Voichick, Kaufman, Campbell) distributed a proposal for a winter food summit event to be held in February or March at the Alliant Energy Center. The group agreed that Ken Meter would be an appropriate speaker for the event, and Simpson will talk with him about available dates. Campbell mentioned that he is not a fan of being lectured to at conferences, and that this event should be engaging and energizing for participants. Campbell offered the World Café as a process that presumes people in the room have the knowledge and energy for future action. World Café is an active process that mixes people up and allows everyone the opportunity to have their input included in a variety of ways. The group agreed that the process would be interesting to use for a segment of the event (not the entire day) if the appropriate questions can be identified. The group also suggested using a different word than *award*, such as recognition, acknowledgements, guru, devotee, or other choice. Wiese offered the *Big Cheese* as a possible name. The Education Subcommittee will meet before the 12/18 Food Council meeting and flesh out the plan a bit further.

Compiling a list of Dane County producers (i.e. what information will be useful)
The group agreed that more discussion is necessary before moving forward with this project. A large list of this type will become out of date quickly and require a good deal of time to maintain. Also, it is important to be clear about how the list will be used before collecting information.

Open Meetings Law
Simpson reviewed the guidelines for Council and Subcommittee meetings. Location should be open to the public and reasonably accessible. There is a preference for public buildings when possible, and meetings that occur during the evening or early mornings hours.

Next meeting date, time, agenda
The next meeting of the Dane County Food Council is scheduled for Monday, December 18th, 2006 at 6:30pm in conference room A-B of the Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture & Conservation Center (Fen Oak Center). Meeting agenda and materials will be sent via email to members prior to the 12/18 meeting.

Such other business as allowed by law
None.

Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

#### Minutes submitted by Dawn Burgardt.