

**Minutes of Food Policy Council Meeting**  
**3/11/09**

Members in attendance: Teri Dandeneau, John Frassinelli, Gloria McAdam,  
Lucy Nolan, Mary Parizo

Others in attendance: Jana Engle, Jean King, Ellen Sloan, Jaime Smith

The minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2009 were approved.

**Legislation:**

Continuation of the Food Policy Council: Jean King testified before the Legislature to recommend that the Council be allowed to continue in light of the facts that Connecticut was the first state to establish a statewide food policy council and that the new Secretary of Agriculture is recommending that states establish such councils. The future of the Council has not been decided.

Community Investment Act: The Legislature is trying very hard to keep money in the budget for the CIA.

Healthy Foods - School Nutrition Reimbursement: Continued funding for this program is in jeopardy. Reduced reimbursement may make it impossible for schools to participate in the program which will mean less healthy food and more “junk” foods made available to school children.

Other: See attached list.

**Meat Processing Issues in Connecticut:**

The Connecticut group is frustrated because they want a facility and that is not happening quickly enough.

New York is in the process of establishing a group of protein producers similar to the group here.

Massachusetts has built a mobile processing unit but is encountering a number of barriers (local rules, ordinances, etc.).

In short, there is a lack of adequate local protein production facilities everywhere. While everyone recognizes the need for such facilities, there are many obstacles to building these facilities, such as cost, regulations, etc., that impede progress in establishing these facilities anywhere.

**Other Business:**

**“Ag Day”**            The annual Agriculture Day, fondly referred to as “Ag Day”, will take place on March 18, 2009 from 10 to 1. They are expecting about 50 vendors. The Council will have a table there and all members and participants are invited to help “man” the table.

**Next meeting:**        April 9 at the State Dept of Agriculture, (State Office Building)