Purpose and Next Steps of the Food Policy Council

Food Policy Councils serve as a resource for information on local and state food systems, and work to identify and propose policy changes to improve food systems to spur local economic development, improve nutrition and health, and increase food security. Food policy includes legislative initiatives, as well as other government regulatory, budgeting, programmatic and administrative functions that influence the production, processing, distribution, health, security and safety of food.

The immediate purpose of the Alaska Food Policy Council (AK FPC) is to develop a set of recommendations to policy makers on how to strengthen Alaska’s food system. Five Committees were formed at the end of the May 18th & 19th AK FPC meeting to develop recommendations that address the various aspects of Alaska’s food systems:

- Education & Regulation Committee
- Production Committee
- Food Security, Hunger, Social Justice and Health Committee
- Supply Chain: Processing, Distribution/Transportation, Infrastructure, Development, and Planning Committee
- Indigenous Traditional & Cultural Foods for Health and Food Security Committee

A sixth committee, the Governance Committee, was also established to identify the organizational structure of the AK FPC.

Over the next six months, each committee will be charged with identifying barriers to the Alaska food system within their area of expertise, drafting possible solutions, prioritizing these issues based on imminent need and/or how simple they are to overcome, and then compiling this information into a final report of recommended next steps.

Timeline

- **By July 31, 2010**, each committee will meet at least once to continue the charge laid out at the May 18th & 19th meeting: select a facilitator; identify how the group will make decisions, review the issues and notes from the first meeting - discuss and prioritize; what else do we need to know?; and is there a major stakeholder group missing from the committee?

  Someone from the Administrative Committee (formerly the Steering Committee) will assist each committee with the initial organization of their meetings. The Admin Committee is available to provide the resources each Committee needs to perform their tasks.

- **By September 30, 2010**, each committee will submit their top 5 recommendations to the Governance Committee.
- **By October 31, 2010**, the Governance Committee will submit a draft report to all committees for review and comment.
- **By December 31, 2010**, the Governance Committee will submit a final draft report to all committees for review and comment.
- **By January 31, 2010**, the Governance Committee will distribute a final electronic-version of the recommendations report to AK FPC members, media and policy makers.