

Goal 5 : Alaskans are engaged in our food system.

Objective 5a : Improve the body of research that will inform and support Alaska food policy efforts.

Priority Strategy 4 : Develop AFPC's role as research aggregator and resource.

Action Item What is the concrete task or action need to carry us closer to achieving the strategy?	Who Who (person, organization, group) is responsible for this action? Who will lead the effort?	When When will it happen? Is there a deadline? Is this action item immediate, mid-range, long term?	Cost + Resources What resources will help you complete the action item: funding, staff? Is there a specific cost?	Progress What is success? How do we measure it? How are we doing? Are we succeeding?
1 Recruit and convene group members to determine details of workplan	Group co-chairs All members	Summer 2012	Volunteer time Meeting space	Group members identified Group meeting (tentative) schedule determined Workplan task list determined
2 Review ISER food assessment report for suitability to share via AFPC	ISER DHSS AFPC Governing Board	Apr - May 2012 <i>(Report released April 16)</i>	Possible printing, distribution costs depending on format	Actual document
3 Distribute ISER report and information to user groups	AFPC Governing Board	June 2012	\$ for printing (DHSS) Distribute via listserv, blog	Distribution requests # of distribution lists and members Website hits
4 Create working definition for Alaska's food system, including general concept, quantifiable indicators, major components	UAS (Darren) ISER All AFPC members	2012	AFPC white paper Volunteer time	Food system defined and identified (Document) explaining definition created Food system definition communicated to all stakeholders

5	Identify research questions related to AFPC priority action items	AFPC Governing Board Researchers	Year I (2012-2013)	Individuals w/ expertise and interest ISER assessment tools	Research questions identified
6	Identify currently available information and gaps in research data	Stakeholders in food system ISER Rasmuson (Food Security project)	Oct - Nov 2012	Listserv, blog, social media	Responses from stakeholders Depth and breadth of responses Diversity in groups responding
7	Determine criteria and method for evaluation of all AFPC activities through workgroups and other efforts	All group members	Fall 2012 Ongoing	Coordination with other workgroups	Evaluation criteria identified Ongoing assessment method determined Groups' progress updates collected and included in evaluation system
8	Address and find ways to answer food system questions: <i>How much food does Alaska produce?</i> <i>How much is consumed locally?</i>	UAF and ISER	2012 Ongoing		Data indicators on production and consumption collected, maintained
9	Gather historical research of early farming by Native Alaskans and early settlers	VISTA Craig Gerlach Dierdre has already gathered some of this info	Year I (2012-2013)	People with expertise (history, farming) Volunteer time to locate and collect existing information	Stories and reports available on AFPC website
10	Gather local food success stories in Alaska	AFPC, via listserv Nancy Tarnai (writes successful farm stories)	2012 Ongoing	People with expertise Volunteer time to locate and collect existing information	

11	Gather information on policies in place and their impact on the Alaska food system	VISTA position	2-3 years (2012-2015)	Industry supported	Database and setting actions
12	Review food strategies, food security solutions and projects of other regions: <i>Northern climate countries, Hawaii, Canada, elsewhere in U.S.</i>	AFPC members Legislative members Researchers UAF, ISER For food security: Homeland Security USDA, NASS	2-3 years (2012-2015)	Cost sharing Travel costs	Reports from delegation
13	Populate the “Research for Alaska” page on AFPC website to house Alaska research	Communications Workgroup Dierdre, Diane	2012 Ongoing	Volunteer time to post and update blog page	Website hits Number of resources listed
14					

Implementation

Notes for Final Revision of the Action Plan

These action plans are still in draft form, and require refinement from the group during their initial meeting(s). The Governing Board offers the following suggestions for finalizing this action plan to make it a feasible guideline for the next three years.

1. This action plan is designed around a specific strategy to accomplish one of the five goals in the AFPC Strategic Plan. The general timeline for this action plan is the next three years: 2012 – 2015. The scope and deadlines of specific action items should also follow this timeline.
2. Some of these action items are very large in scope and, as written now, not necessarily appropriate projects for the AFPC itself to take on. For each action item, consider carefully what role the AFPC and its workgroups can play to accomplish a goal: for example, the AFPC is not likely to establish a school garden or a food distribution hub, but can be influential in encouraging these activities or policy change to support them.
 - a. Highlighted action items in the text indicate specific tasks that the Governing Board had concerns about. Please re-consider these items by changing their scope or identifying the appropriate role for the AFPC to achieve the intended outcome.
 - b. The highlighted items in this action plan refer specifically to how the AFPC should use the data and final report produced for the Council by ISER in spring 2012, and how additional gaps in information should be filled from other sources.
3. The “WHO” column is a way to keep individuals accountable to their assigned tasks. Where possible, include individual names in this column, not just organization names, once a contact person is identified.
4. AFPC intends to collaborate with the Governor’s Working Group on food issues, when its agency representatives are called together. Where applicable, the workgroup should consider how the new Working Group of state agency representatives may be good partners to accomplish some of your identified actions, or what priorities the Working Group should take into account related to your goal area.
5. When considering action items, the workgroup should coordinate with the Governing Board and the Research workgroup to identify ways to measure their progress toward accomplishing the goal and objectives they are pursuing.
 - a. This group should reach out to the other four workgroups to discuss ways to evaluate and measure progress, especially if there are existing data indicators which are easy to track and align well with AFPC goals.

Current or Potential Members

1. Co-Chair(s): Craig Gerlach
2. GB Liaison: Diane Peck
3. Darren Snyder
4. Hans Geier
5. Deirdre Helfferich
6. Carol Kanuse (MPH student at UAA, working in Sitka on the Rasmuson food security study)
7. Possible connections in UAA, UAF, Universities of Washington and Hawaii

Guidelines for Workgroups

1. Workgroups will be organized around each Action Plan, named according to their focus (e.g. School Programs Group, Production Group)
2. Workgroups will need to prioritize their action items, immediate need and/or greatest chance of early success
3. Workgroups should be facilitated by one or more group co-chairs
4. At least one Governing Board member will sit on every workgroup

- a. This will make liaison between workgroup and AFPC as a whole easier
 - b. Board members can sit on more than one group, but required to be on at least one
 - c. Board members report back on workgroups' progress at monthly Board meetings
5. Workgroups should set a regular meeting schedule, monthly or as needed depending on the strategy and timing
 - a. Example, the Schools (Strategy 1) group may meet heavily during the school year, but be on hiatus during summer months
 6. Workgroups will coordinate as needed to share information, resources and collaborate on tasks affecting multiple strategies
 7. Workgroups will update the Action Plans accordingly as tasks are completed, objectives are met and the group determines new strategies to pursue