



INFORMATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

To: Members of City Council

From: Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Karen Rahn, Director of Human Services
Jeff Dillon, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mike Patton, Director of Open Space and Mountain Parks
Brett KenCairn, Senior Environmental Planner
Paul Leef, Civic Area Project Manager
Jody Tableporter, Civic Area Project Manager
Russ Sands, Watershed Sustainability and Outreach Supervisor
Kim Hutton, Water Resource Specialist
Lauren Kolb, Agricultural Resource Specialist
Carl Castillo, Policy Advisor

Date: August 5, 2014

Subject: Information Item - City Efforts to Promote Local Food

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the priorities identified at City Council's January 2014 retreat was promotion of local food. Action items proposed by council to fulfill this priority in 2014 and 2015 included development of a local food policy, incorporating elements of the new food policy into revisions of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, establishment of a cross-departmental team and appointment of staff leads to address certain issues. The purpose of this memo is to update council on how the city is moving forward to address this priority, including how staff proposes to measure the community benefit of projects added to its work plan.

BACKGROUND

In 2010 a [“Local Food and Sustainable Agriculture” policy briefing paper](#) was prepared by city and county staff to inform upcoming revisions to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP). The BVCP was later revised that same year to incorporate the city's commitment to promoting agriculture and local food ([BVCP Section 9, Agriculture and Food](#)). The relevant section begins with the premise that a *“strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and surrounding region”* and then makes the following relevant commitments:

Section 9.02 – Local Food Production – The city and county will encourage and support local food production to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy foods and to provide other educational, economic and social benefits. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food for everyone and long term availability of food.

Section 9.04 Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System – The city and county will participate in regional agricultural efforts and implement recommendations at a local level to the extent appropriate and possible.

9.05 Urban Gardening and Food Production –The city will encourage community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. This may include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production in shared open spaces and public areas, encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.

9.06 Access to Locally Produced Food - The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow a year round farmers market and support sales of produce from small community gardens.

Additionally, the following was described in the [2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#) as examples of how to promote the following goals:

Community Health and Wellness - Efforts to promote community and neighborhood gardening and eating healthy foods encourages healthy behavior linked to this goal.

Building Community - Expansion of neighborhood/school and community garden sites as well as providing enhanced community spaces for growing, preparing and eating foods as a community effort meets this goal.

Youth Engagement Goal - Expanding youth programs around nature and growing foods at schools and local parks links to this master plan goal.

With this as a backdrop, at its January 2014 retreat, City Council identified promoting local food as a priority and suggested these action items to fulfill the priority in 2014-2015 (described as staff has since come to understand them):

- Development of a local food policy that adds specificity to the current BVCP language and increased uniformity in how city departments seek to further the goal.
- Incorporate elements of a new local food policy into the next revisions of the BVCP.
- Establishment of a cross-departmental team to increase communications and awareness among departments on local food issues.

- *Appointment of staff leads to address the following issues:*
 - *Which city lands can be used to increase local food production?*
 - *Should the city’s charter concerning open space (Article XII) be amended to support agricultural needs, such as extending the growing season, be that by allowing greenhouses, electricity for such facilities or for other reasons?*
 - *How can the city encourage and incentivize buying locally when city funds are used for food purchases, and should the city establish a local food procurement policy?*
 - *How and when to expand the current Farmers Market location, including the possibility of adding a smaller farm market satellite in one or more neighborhoods?*
 - *Can we house farmers on city-owned lands?*
 - *With consideration given toward the city’s goals of increasing resilience, how do we measure:*
 - *the current percentage of local food consumption,*
 - *assess what that percentage should be,*
 - *progress toward that goal?*
 - *How and on what topics should we continue to engage with regional partners?*
 - *Which infrastructure improvements are necessary (e.g., facility for fulltime farmers market, central kitchen, etc.)?*
 - *How do we promote food justice/access needs?*

EXISTING EFFORTS

In furtherance of the BVCP, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and of council’s recent prioritization of the matter, the city has engaged in a variety of efforts to promote local food, as described below:

Ag-in-a-Bag – The city’s Water Conservation Program developed a “Garden-in-a-Box” program through the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) which has successfully promoted low-water xeriscape plants that reduce outdoor water needs. To support local agriculture efforts, reinforce the plastic bag ordinance and also support water conservation goals, the city started a tandem “Ag-in-a-Bag” program in 2014. This program offers a low-cost, edible xeriscape garden with a reusable *Ag-in-a-Bag* grocery bag. As part of *the Ag-in-a-Bag* kit, there is also a home grown spaghetti sauce recipe from *The Kitchen* which also helps support local business. About 200 *Garden-in-a-Box* gardens were sold in 2014 with about 50 *Ag-in-a-Bag* gardens. Additionally, CRC promoted *Ag-in-a-Bag* at the Farmer’s Market where they did a spaghetti sauce demo using the *Ag-in-a-Bag* vegetables and herbs.

Cooking Matters Classes – The Human Services Department offers *Cooking Matters* classes to lower income families at five elementary schools in the Family Resource Schools Program. Cooking Matters are six-week courses covering nutrition, healthy eating, food preparation, shopping and budgeting.

Farmers' Market – The city has engaged the Boulder County Farmers' Market as a partner at the Civic Area to deliver both farmers market objectives and to collaborate on events. To date, the Farmers' Market has assisted in marketing and supporting events that extend the Civic Area offer during market times, e.g., fitness and recreation classes. Discussion are underway for a potential 2015 program which would bring local foods and chef collaborations (restaurant and local) to neighborhoods, with a culminating community long-table event occurring in the Civic Area.

Food Security – The city awards funding through the Human Services Fund to multiple non-profit agencies to help insure accessibility to nutritious food or address food insecurity for vulnerable populations: *Community Food Share, Attention Homes, Bridge House, Boulder County Aids Project, CareConnect, Center for People with Disabilities, Shelter for the Homeless, BVSD Teen Parent Program, Emergency Family Assistance Association, Family Learning Center, Mental Health Partners, Safehouse, and Veterans Helping Veterans.*

The city also provides annual support of \$75,000 to Boulder Meals on Wheels to provide home delivered nutritious meals to homebound vulnerable populations and support for congregate meals at the West Boulder Senior Center, at below market rates.

Goats and Gardens Summer Camp – The city offers a summer camp program for children ages 6 to 11, conducted in partnership with *Mountain Flower Goat Dairy* and *Growing Gardens*. Hands-on, place-based activities at *Growing Gardens* reconnect children with the earth, teach children about the source of the food they eat, organic gardening practices, and the importance of biodiversity and community. Children also spend time at the goat dairy learning about goat husbandry, livestock management, nutrient cycling and goat milk and cheese production. Offered for the first time this summer, three sessions of the camp have served over 60 children.

Growing/Urban Gardens – The city's Water Conservation Program and its Department of Parks and Recreation contribute to efforts to grow gardens at Boulder Valley School District schools and to create local urban gardens by supporting them with free and/or reduced cost, low-water drip irrigation, providing a community garden site (i.e., Foothills Park) and school/park sites (i.e., Burke Park/Horizon School). These programs educate students on the importance of local food while reinforcing water-wise gardening. Where feasible, the city promotes the use of raw water (water diverted from ditches without being treated) irrigation at these facilities as a means to reduce facility operational costs by leasing raw water rights or providing guidance on acquisition of irrigation ditch water rights.

The city awarded \$43,700 in funding to *Growing Gardens*, a community non-profit, through the Community Development Block grant (CDBG) for the connection of the irrigation system for the orchard and garden to the Farmers Ditch. CDBG funds are targeted to benefit very-low, low and moderate income households.

The city awarded funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund to: *Growing Gardens'* Cultiva Youth Project for \$11,000 to involve youth in learning about organic gardening as a means to teach sustainable agriculture, leadership, entrepreneurial and life skills and youth projects at the gardens; *Mountain Flower Goat Dairy* Youth Entrepreneur Program for \$10,000 to provide training and employment development for youth; Fairview Organic Garden for \$1,495 to create an organic vegetable garden at Fairview High School.

Growing Gardens' goals are to create healthy lifestyles, through gardening activities, nutrition education and food preparation. Diverse youth participants will demonstrate an increase in community leadership skills, job skills, and participate in more community service activities.

Outcomes include:

- Directly served a total of 9,311 diverse people in 2012, of those 53% were low-income.
- Served over 214 youth, 3,840 children, 140 seniors and people with disabilities, and 4,925 low-income individuals.
- Volunteers donated over 2,000 hours of service.
- 24% of our participants were of diverse racial and cultural heritage.
- Donated a total of 12,037 lbs. of produce and 400 seed packets
- Partnered with over 128 agencies to better serve our community.

Irrigation Ditch Company Representation – Staff from the city’s Water Utilities division sits on the board of directors for two ditch companies. Staff from the city’s Open Space and Mountain Parks department are on the boards for an additional ten ditch companies. The ditches provide irrigation water to residential and agricultural properties. Through their role as board members, staff also has a fiduciary duty to represent the interests of the ditch companies and the other shareholders. Staff’s participation on ditch boards has increased staff’s awareness of the reliance of the agricultural sector on cooperative efforts with the city on water and land use.

Leasing Open Space Land – The city’s Open Space and Mountain Parks Department currently has 508 acres of agricultural land dedicated to the production of local food products. Two of our tenants, the Sawhills and the Biellas, direct-market their natural beef locally within Boulder County, approximately 35-40 head a year. They grow forages and graze their herd on the 416 acres that they lease from the City of Boulder. Open Space and Mountain Parks also leases property to three different diversified vegetable farmers; two certified organic, one in transition to organic certification. Together, these three farms account for 18 acres of diversified vegetable production on land owned and managed solely by OSMP. These tenants also lease an additional 74 acres of haying and grazing used in the support of raising livestock for local consumption. The number of acres in diversified organic vegetable production will increase, as fourteen acres of the Manchester property was recently put up for bid for this purpose. This property will include a residence for the tenant. Agricultural staff is currently in the process of reading through applications and selecting a new tenant. This property will add 14 acres of diversified vegetable production on OSMP land.

- OSMP growers market their vegetables through many different venues: CSAs, farmers’ markets, farms stands, restaurants, grocery stores, wholesale, and even into Boulder Valley School District
- OSMP growers regularly donate extra produce to local food banks

- One tenant, *Cure Organic Farm*, raised over 26,000 pounds of vegetables on the Eccher property during the 2012 growing season

OSMP is currently negotiating for the acquisition of an additional 230 acres of land currently in agricultural production including some organic vegetables.

Regional Partnerships – With leadership from Council Members Plass and Jones, the city regularly convenes a group of regional leaders to discuss local food matters. *Making Local Food Work*, as the group has come to be called, is a coalition made up of: Boulder County; Boulder County Farmers Market; Boulder Valley School District; City of Boulder; Farmers; Local Food Shift Group; Naturally Boulder; University of Colorado, and; 350 Boulder County. The group focuses on high-leverage projects where there is a distinct benefit of working between several organizations. It also inspires and supports educational events and serves as a central repository/clearinghouse for ongoing local food efforts in the region.

Standard Agriculture Leases – The city’s Water Utilities division typically leases surplus water to local agriculture in most years. These are not currently prioritized or formalized in terms of irrigation method, type of agriculture, or use location, but preference is given to those in the Boulder Creek basin. Over a dozen local farmers, ranchers and ditch companies utilize leased water to enhance late season crop production.

Zoning Allowances - The city’s zoning code was revised to allow for the following uses related to local agriculture in various areas of the city. Residents are allowed to have personal gardens in most residential zones. Residents can also have small greenhouses that are permitted under the same provisions as allowed ancillary structures. Additional provisions were adopted in the land use codes in 2011 to allow for additional community gardens. Commercial crop production is allowed in agricultural zones and greenhouses and plant nurseries are allowed in industrial, public or agricultural zones. Section 6 of the Boulder Revised Code also addresses food issues related to allowable property uses for livestock. Residents are allowed to keep small domesticated livestock other than pigs (e.g., chickens or rabbits). Larger livestock – horses, cows, sheep, llama, burro – can be kept if there is a minimum of ½ acre per animal.

ANALYSIS

As the city moves forward in promoting local food with increased uniformity, it will need to develop common measures of the value that such efforts provide to the community. These metrics cannot be created without first reaching common understanding of the benefits such efforts provide and of the meaning of “local food.” At this time, the city is operating under the assumption that promoting a strong local food system can result in one or more of the following five benefits:

1. Growing the local and regional economy by recirculating or injecting money into the community;
2. Building community linkages by decreasing the distance and anonymity inherent in a globalized food system;
3. Increasing resilience by providing options to survive the inevitable shocks and stresses expected from a changing climate;
4. Increasing stewardship and protection of agricultural lands, and;

5. Increasing community access to healthier food options.

Which benefits are realized depends partly on what types of “local food” the city encourages. On one side of the spectrum we encourage private or neighborhood gardens, edible landscapes and participation in community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. It is generally assumed that in these situations food is conscientiously grown and consumed in close proximity and with minimal or no transportation or processing needs--all within the confines of the Boulder Valley. Such efforts likely promote most if not all of the above listed benefits. On the other side of the spectrum, the city supports its agricultural and natural foods industries, even if they source or process from outside the region, or even if the process relies on practices that are neither sustainable nor relatively efficient uses of resources. These efforts are likely to promote some, but not all of the above listed benefits.

As with any project there are also situations where there is a potential for unintended consequences with local agricultural initiatives. For example, allowing gardening to occur in right-of-ways could negatively impact water quality as it could lead to excess nutrients (fertilizer) and sediment being directly discharged to city storm drains which lead directly to public waterways without being treated. Discharges to city storm drains are also regulated under the State of Colorado issued municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, which the city needs to comply with. Any increase of pollutants can cause negative impacts to streams and aquatic life and directly conflicts with the city’s state-issued MS4 Permit. Nutrient loading is of specific concern to the city as it is an area of increased regulatory oversight from the state water quality regulations (Regulation 31; Regulation 85). Moreover, promoting edible landscapes in right of ways adjacent to the MS4 may have other unintended consequences such as human/wildlife confrontations and increased wildlife (i.e. Raccoons) living in the MS4 which is a known cause of E. Coli loading; another regulated pollutant and area of ongoing city water quality improvement efforts.

Obtaining a comprehensive understanding of which programs provide which benefits, and how to measure those benefits and any tradeoffs, will be an ongoing effort and will eventually require the creation of a formal local food policy for the city. In the mean time, the city will nonetheless move forward on projects it believes are most likely to further the above listed goals.

Toward that end, since council’s 2014 retreat, the city convened a cross-departmental city team to focus on promoting local food. The group is made up of staff from Open Space and Mountain Parks, Parks and Recreation, Human Services, Community Planning and Sustainability and the City Manager’s Office. To build capacity, earlier this year many of these members were sent to a training and peer-learning opportunity provided by the Western Adaptation Alliance’s Regional Climate Leadership Academy, entitled “*Enhancing the Resilience of Sustainable Food Systems through Adaptive Urban Management in the American West.*”

2014 – 2015 WORKPLAN TO PROMOTE LOCAL FOOD

Based on council’s direction and staff’s evolving understanding of local food issues, the cross-departmental team has committed to focusing on the following topics in 2014 and 2015:

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Revisions – The Comprehensive Plan update process will incorporate the work of the interdepartmental local food staff team, the *Making Local Food*

Work working group, and other input gathered from the community during outreach and comment activities. This information will be used to determine whether new provisions should be developed or existing provisions modified to more effectively represent the city's current goals and objectives around local food.

Cross-departmental Coordination - The city has established a cross-departmental team to increase communications and awareness among departments on local food issues. This team has been convened and will continue to meet on an ad hoc basis. Policy Advisor Carl Castillo is coordinating the team's work at this time.

Central and Satellite Farmers Markets and Related Infrastructure – Staff will explore the possibility of adding a smaller farmer market satellite in one or more neighborhoods. Moreover, the Civic Area implementation managers will convene a working group, comprised of existing city partners, city staff and local experts who are operating in the food sector, for monthly meetings (from now until November 2014) to take forward the community's vision to have a year-round local foods hub in the Civic Area. The group will explore issues related to a new public market hall, a year-round venue for local food and goods that would supplement the existing outdoor Farmers' Market. The group will also explore that facility's sustainability: operating partnerships, management and financing. Moreover, OSMP will revamp its tent at the farmers' market to include information about the agriculture taking place on City OSMP land. Finally, the city will evaluate any other necessary infrastructure improvements to promote local food, such as creating a central kitchen.

Edible Landscapes – The city's Department of Open Space and Mountain Parks will consider establishing edible landscapes at the Ranger Cottage. Parks and Recreation will be coordinating with local community groups to develop design guidelines and standards for plantings in local parks using edible, low water and other appropriate landscapes compatible with wildlife considerations.

Evaluating Water Savings from Residential Vegetable Gardens – While agriculture uses the most water across the state some evidence suggests that smaller municipal or residential backyard gardens could potentially use less water than irrigated turf would. Staff will continue to research this topic to ensure that promoting backyard gardening can be done with water conservation in mind (such as the Ag-in-a-Bag program mentioned earlier).

Food Justice and Access Needs - The team has identified promoting food justice/access projects as a priority and is pursuing the following:

- **Double SNAP Program** - The Department of Human Services in partnership with Boulder Farmers' Market and Boulder County will pilot the Double-SNAP program for city of Boulder residents. The city has contributed \$10,000 to provide additional assistance for residents who rely on federal nutrition assistance from the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) program or WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program to purchase locally grown, healthy foods from farmer's markets. Participants will receive an incentive that matches the amount spent in federal benefits on fresh fruits and vegetables at the market. Implementing the Double SNAP program has the potential to increase accessibility and affordability of healthy, local produce.

- Parks and Recreation will work with Boulder Housing Partners and Youth Services Initiative (YSI) to look at opportunities to expand local food growing on neighborhood parks adjacent to housing projects.

Goal and Metric Development - A newly hired Chief Resiliency Officer will be asked to evaluate and measure the role of local food in the overall resilience of the community. This effort will likely be a part of the workplan for the new staff person in 2015. Potential metrics for consideration include: the current percentage of overall food consumed that is produced locally; the potential for increased production and consumption of local food; the role of local food storage and processing as part of emergency food reserve programs, etc.

Identification of City Lands For Local Food Production - The Open Space and Mountain Parks department will be assessing their portfolio of properties to determine their appropriateness for diversified vegetable production as part of a larger agricultural plan that is expected to be submitted for review by the Open Space Board of Trustees and City Council in the first quarter of 2015. Factors to be considered in the analysis include soil type and slope, water availability and number of run days, availability of outbuildings and relevant infrastructure, and compatibility with other management targets.

Increasing Processing Options – Open Space and Mountain Parks will work with Boulder County Parks and Open Space and local processors (e.g., Innovative Foods & Bay State Milling) to find local processing and markets for other agricultural items already being produced on OSMP property, primarily beef and wheat.

Infrastructure to Increase Growing Season – As directed by council, staff will be exploring whether the city charter provisions related to Open Space and Mountain Parks Charter should be amended to allow for agricultural needs including hoop houses, greenhouse or electricity for such facilities. As currently written, the city charter allows for structures and other improvements necessary for permitted uses, as long as they are necessary for open agricultural use. If the city were to approve the construction of a greenhouse, construction would need to meet this test set forth in the charter. It is fairly clear that a greenhouse used to grow plants that would be sold for retail at a store would not qualify as an improvement for open agricultural use. A greenhouse used to grow plants that were later transplanted to open space land might be permitted pursuant to the charter and code. These sections seem to anticipate that there may be permanent improvements that are essentially accessory to the primary use of open agriculture.

Staff is currently working through this issue as part of the agricultural plan. Agricultural staff is not supportive of a charter amendment to permit the construction of greenhouses in any form on OSMP land. This reasoning stems from the fact that hoophouses (an unheated, unlit structure covered by polyethylene, also referred to as a high tunnel or poly tunnel) used for the purpose of starting plants that would then be transplanted to an adjacent field are already permitted by the city charter. Staff prefers this option for extending the growing season due to the fact that these structures do not require additional heating or lighting, they are temporary and easily removed, and the tenant would be financially responsible for the installation and upkeep of the structure. Such a structure, if proposed, would still need final approval from Boulder County's Land Use Department, which would determine whether the structure and size is necessary and appropriate to support the agriculture on site.

Traditional greenhouses are notorious energy hogs¹, both for heating and supplemental lighting, while passive solar and net zero greenhouses lack the production capacity of traditional greenhouses and cost 13 times more per square foot to construct². Furthermore, greenhouses are considered an intensive agricultural use, especially when cultivation of vegetable takes place inside of them, either directly in the soil or through the use of hydroponics. As greenhouses are a use by right in zoned industrial areas, many crops can be grown off-season with the use of hydroponic technology in these zoned areas and prime agricultural soils in zoned agricultural areas would not have to be built upon. To construct a permanent structure on Open Space land is contrary to the establishment of the Open Space program and the spirit of the charter provisions that govern it.

Additionally, there are questions related to water availability during the off-season. As there is no reliable irrigation water between November 1 and March 30th, water would either need to be trucked in or a well would need to be dug to provide sufficient water for these operations.

There are also concerns relating to who would pay for the greenhouse and associated infrastructure. Many of the vegetable growers in Boulder County are making poverty-level wages and could not afford to install such a building, especially when they do not have title to the land or long-term leases. Greenhouses are considered a high risk investment by lending institutions, making the possibility of getting a loan uncertain. If the Open Space program were to fund such a project in full with the caveat that the grower provides low-cost produce to low-income Boulder County residents, this would likely put such a grower in an economically untenable position. As our growers already donate surplus produce to area food banks, this seems like an unnecessary requirement. Moreover, none of our growers have asked for permission to construct a greenhouse and view the off-season as a time to slow down, reconnect with family and friends, and prepare for the next growing season.

Housing on City Owned Lands – The city will be exploring situations where it is appropriate to house farmers on city-owned lands. Currently, three OSMP tenants live in OSMP-owned houses. A fourth home, as part of the Manchester property bid, will be available for use by the lessee selected to manage this 14-acre property. In addition, the department will be using information from contracted historic structure assessments on two farmhouses to prioritize rehabilitation and restoration so that they can be leased with the surrounding property in the future.

Growing/Urban Gardens – The Parks and Recreation Department will consider opportunities to expand community gardening in parks as well as community amenities to support local food (e.g., pavilions, picnic areas, and gathering areas).

Leasing New Open Space – Open Space and Mountain Parks will explore leasing new property with farm houses and outbuildings this fall for diversified vegetable production.

Local Food Policy – The city will consider developing a local food policy that, among other things, answers the questions identified in the analysis section above. The suggestion has been made that development of a local food policy would require hiring in 2015 of an outside

¹ Kinney, L., Hutson, J., Stiles, M., and Glute, G. Energy Efficient Greenhouse Breakthrough: 2012 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, and Ladd, C. “Giant Greenhouses Mean Flavorful Tomatoes All Year.” *New York Times*. 30 March 2010. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/31/dining/31tomato.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

² Pena, JG. Greenhouse Vegetable Production Economic Considerations, Marketing, and Financing. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/hydroponics/economics.html>

consultant with expertise on the matter. This was not included in the proposed 2015 budget. However, with direction from council on the desired scope of work and intended goals to be achieved through such contract, it may be possible to fund a consultant through the City Manager's 2015 Contingency Fund.

Procurement Policy – Staff will explore how the city can encourage and incentivize buying local food when city funds are involved, possibly moving toward a city procurement requirement in the future. The city recently provided staff with guidelines to encourage the purchase of healthy foods and beverages, especially when city funds or resources are involved in the purchase. We will be considering the benefit of revising these guidelines to encourage purchasing locally-produced foods and beverages.

Regional Partnerships – The city will continue to engage with regional partners to promote local foods. The *Making Local Foods Working Group* has already agreed to work on the following for the remainder of 2014:

- Create a branding & marketing campaign to increase the production and consumption of local food
- Create a website to advertise local food events & opportunities
- Improve access to local food for our underserved population by supporting “Double SNAP” at farmers markets
- Build support for year-round farmers market in Boulder and for a food hub
- Develop model contracts for local food procurement
- Promote edible landscapes in parks and home and school yards

The city will also seek to expand regional participation by making a presentation at the August 5th meeting of the Boulder County Consortium of Cities.

Tensiometer Agricultural Pilot – The city's Water Utilities division and Department of Open Space and Mountain Parks will work with the Colorado State University Extension to pilot soil moisture/water monitoring for up to five local farmers to help monitor water use and explore opportunities to help local farmers conserve.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will be checking in with council on occasion over the 18 months to receive direction on one or more of the workplan items described above.