

Food, Hunger, Water, Agriculture Policy Workgroup
Communication Action Team
11.9.20 ♦ 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Meeting Notes

Facilitator/Notetaker: Sharon Berman, New Mexico First

In Attendance:

- Jane Braithwaite
- Tsiporah Nephesh
- Sonya Warwick

I. Check in

- a. What's giving you hope?
- b. We got this far through the election! Reps Stansbury and Ferrary were re-elected
- c. Taking it a day at a time. Fall seems to generate a lot of interest and support for food bank, due to holidays. People wanting to be involved.
- d. Food bank had group of donors – architect/construction space normally, help them redo their lobby.
- e. “we’ve distributed 40 million pounds so far –well on track to do 50 pounds.” Previously 34+ lbs.
- f. Tsiporah noted that on Nov. 18, Congresswoman Haaland’s office would be hosting a grant writing webinar. Tsiporah and Terry Brunner of Pivotal NM will be speaking. Free of charge, 10 am.

II. Coordinating Communication to Legislators about Food/Hunger/Ag issues

- a. Direct Communication
 - i. Sonya said, thanks to Lilly, the food banks elected to have a series of meetings – same meeting with different legislators – late Sept/early October time frame. Discussion about potentially doing the same thing between now and the start of the session – newly elected or those who were in tight races before the election. The association not sure yet whether or not they want to pursue, but Sonya hopes they will do so. The first 3 meetings went well. Good questions – basic question such as the difference between hunger and food insecurity. It will be a one-time request to obtain more food during the crisis. Another reason to be advocating for increased dollars – every state has an allotment in each of the 33 counties. Cliff coming up. Push/pull on international level. Markets such as soybeans have fallen off. There won't be as much product for the government to purchase to stabilize the commodity prices. Supply chain issues – has impacted all kinds of different products. 6-18 months the cliff should be cut in half if not more. Sonya not sure when next meetings may take place in January
 - ii. Jane – call ahead of time. More groundwork you set is great.
- b. Group Communication
 - i. Group is welcome to put forth
 - ii. Sonya wanted to know about policy guidelines
 - iii. Sharon – send Jane email when policy priorities are in food/farm bill
 - iv. Sonya wondered about which aspects in the food/farm bill will be put forward first. Jane thought that it might be best to hang firm and trust the process
 - v. Tsiporah – who is good at creating social media posts? You want to get broad support, community support, and social media is a place to do that. You can tag legislators who have social media handles. If somebody had that time and skill.

1. Sonya said it's just her right now doing social media at Roadrunner.
 2. Jane said that Reps Stansbury and Ferrary may have people doing that for her. And then we can all share fast and furiously. **She'll check to see.**
 3. **Sharon check Xavi's availability**
 4. Statistics – before pandemic, after the pandemic. Why we need these bills passed.
 5. Giving Tuesday is December 1.
- vi. Op-Ed
1. Would it be for specific bill or ask, Sonya asked?
 - a. This could be on next general action team agenda.
 - b. Tsiporah wanted to do op-ed – increased need in our communities and how nonprofits have really stepped up, need help/donations/time/food.
 - i. She would like specifics – Sonya sending her – about the increase of need.
- c. Interim Committees
- i. Sherry is giving presentation on gleaning memorial, date not set yet.
 - ii. Dec. 18 LESC presentation.
 - iii. Tsiporah wanted to reach out to some members working on legalizing cannabis, to encourage them to put some language in about resilient agriculture, so it doesn't become a monocrop extractive industry. We need to diversify our economy. Jane mentioned "the fiasco in Farmington area." People brought in from China, illegal.

III. Coordinating Communication to Governor's Office

- a. Food and Ag Bill
 - i. Lilly has reached out to staff at the Governor's office, spoke with Mariana Padilla.
 - ii. Sonya noted that in the early days of pandemic, Roadrunner did communicate. She added that on the calls with state – mainly regarding emergency management needs – Roadrunner sends report to food bank representative who sits on the calls. The information is flowing better, especially tribal and food bank issues. The call was weekly and is now monthly.
- b. Food and Ag Policy Council
 - i. No update
- c. Gleaning
 - i. No update
- d. School Food Waste
 - i. There was memorial on this led by food bank association. Sonya not sure who is doing reporting about this.

IV. Updates – Volunteers, donations, advocacy

- a. Sonya: Yes! Volunteers, donations and advocacy all needed!
- b. Regarding places older people can comfortably volunteer at Roadrunner, Sonya said they had started a large virtual volunteer program. People can engage in such activities as Food assistance calls, SNAP benefits. Small training needed at first. Majority are distribution. It's on their website.
- c. Sonya said they take a lot of direction from feeding America – making sure as nonprofit and state entities that any time legislation has passed (such as extending school waivers), it requires the state to do something with the USDA. We should know more after this calendar year. "The state's been doing a good job with this." Keep on your radar!



- d. Sonya – a lot of food distributions coming up. Big one on November 22nd. Food assistance line. Also website, food depots.

V. Next Steps

- a. The group agreed to update each other via email after Thanksgiving

