

DANE COUNTY BOARD

Kyle R. Richmond

SUPERVISOR FOR THE 27TH DISTRICT

ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (CHAIRMAN) ■ HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP ■ LONG-TERM SUPPORT COMMITTEE



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Local Food Recommendations to be Released Wednesday

Dane County Subcommittee's Report will be followed by Board resolution

Madison, WI - Dane County's Local Food Policy Advisory Subcommittee will release the results of its year-long work on food priorities at news conference at noon on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 at the downtown Madison farmer's market.

The subcommittee has been working since June 2004 to develop a comprehensive county agenda for food policy. Part of that work included a local "food summit" in February to gather information from county residents which drew over 100 participants. The report will be submitted to the Dane County Board and County Executive Kathleen Falk.

"This has been a wide-ranging, citizen-led effort that should result in a better regional food system in and around Dane County," said County Supervisor Kyle Richmond. "I congratulate these 15 county residents on their work. It's going to result in healthier people and a stronger local economy."

The subcommittee will hold its final meeting this evening at 5:30 p.m. in the City-County Building to ratify its final report.

Richmond - chairman of the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Board - will introduce a resolution at Thursday's County Board meeting to create a Dane County Food Council, which would prioritize and coordinate efforts to improve distribution and access to local food through a variety of strategies.

Food policy councils already exist in places such as Portland, Oregon, Vancouver, B.C., Connecticut and Iowa. A food council in Dane County could help to create and strengthen a variety of public policies pertaining to food by connecting the City of Madison, other municipalities, Dane County and surrounding counties in a coordinated manner.

"This is exciting work from an economic development perspective," Richmond said. "Public interest is high and the expertise is already here in our backyard."

More information on the LFPAS is posted at its webpage: www.co.dane.wi.us/committees/foodpolicy.