



New Farmers: Challenges in Accessing Knowledge, Land, and Financing

Thursday, August 8, 2013

10 AM to 12 PM

Coffee and Tea available at 9 AM

Lunch served after meeting

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

The ACP Building - 8th Floor

190 N. Independence Mall West

Philadelphia, PA 19106-2582

Speakers' Biographies

Patty Elkis

Patty Elkis is Deputy Planning Director at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, where she has worked since 1992. She oversees long-range planning and the transportation improvement program; environmental and smart growth planning; economic, demographic and GIS analyses; as well as DVRPC's newer initiatives in energy, climate change and food system planning. Patty has partnered with a number of non-profits and other governments on regional projects, including the GreenSpace Alliance on the Economic Value of Open Space study, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on regionwide tree planting projects, and Natural Lands Trust and the Philadelphia Water Department for the Schuylkill Priority Lands Strategy. Her land prioritization modeling work, greenway work and New Regionalism project have received awards of recognition from the Schuylkill Action Network, Delaware River Greenway Partnership, the Rancocas Conservancy, and APA Pennsylvania Chapter. Patty received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Master of City Planning, with a Certificate in Appropriate Technology for Developing Countries, also from Penn.

Marilyn Anthony

Marilyn Anthony holds advanced degrees in literature and education from Cornell and Brown University, so naturally she became a professional chef. Before joining PASA in



2007, Ms. Anthony worked in various aspects of the hospitality industry, including starting a farm to table restaurant in upstate PA. Her work at PASA centers on new farm creation through a land leasing program, and on supporting economic viability for existing farms through educational programming, marketing support, and business training for farmers. In 2010 Ms. Anthony collaborated with Grid magazine to launch **Farmbook**, an annual consumer reaching over 30,000 readers and designed to change perceptions of farmers and sustainable farming in the Greater Philadelphia area. In 2012 Ms. Anthony co-founded the **Philly Farm & Food Fest**. Now in its third year, Philly Farm & Food Fest strives to expand market demand for growers and producers while celebrating the robust and delicious local food network across our region.

Amy Verbofsky

Amy joined DVRPC in September of 2012 as a Food System Planning Intern. Amy has developed a report on small and beginning farmer resources that aggregates information regarding existing financial and technical assistance for small and beginning farmers, highlights a few non-traditional farm financing resources, and provides recommendations for improving access to land and capital for beginning and small farmers that our partner organizations could implement. Amy has also supported Camden Food Economy Strategy efforts.

Amy is currently pursuing both a Masters in City Planning and a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also received her Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. Prior to returning to graduate school, Amy was the Recovery Planning Coordinator for the City of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management, where worked with numerous Federal, State, and City departments to develop disaster recovery plans and procedures including the assessment of structural damage and building habitability, the clearance and disposal of disaster debris, and requests for disaster assistance from various Federal agencies after a disaster.



Jake Beinecke

Jake Beinecke is a farm program analyst at the Open Space Institute, where his work focusses on the intersection of food systems reform and land conservation. Recent projects have included OSI's Lease to Own pilot initiative and the creation of a farm business incubator located in New Patlz, New York in partnership with the Glynwood Center. Jake is a graduate of Columbia University and New York University School of Law, and is member of the Massachusetts and New York State Bars. Prior to law school, Jake worked as a professional cook in San Francisco for four years.