

NCW Regional Food Coalition Meeting
December 14, 2011 WSU Tree Fruit Research Lab, Wenatchee

Host – Michel Wiman, Facilitator – Nancy Warner, Notes – Joan Qazi and Alison Detjens

Participants: (* = phone)

*Laura Clark – Precision Slaughter, Mobile Meat Slaughter, Okanogan

*Carey Hunter – Pine Stump Farms

*Amy Stork – Twisp Works, Public and Community Development Authority

*Marilynn Lynn – Rama Farm, IRIS, Bridgeport Mayor

*Autumn Carroll – HAH gleaning project Okanogan Community Action Council

*Kyle Jacobs - HAH gleaning project Okanogan Community Action Council

*Jerry Timm – WA Water Project, Trout Un-Limited

Vicki Matthews – Chelan Sustainability Committee, Solid Rock Farm, Chelan Farmer’s Market

Cheryl Dawes – IRIS

Nancy Warner – IRIS

Michel Wiman - WSU Small Farms Program

Alison Detjens – Gleaning Coordinator, Chelan, Douglas, Grant counties, Comm Farm Conn.

Joan Qazi – EAT, Fresh Food in Schools

Updates:

- A. Jerry Timm - Salmon Safe eco-label farm certification, Okanogan County in its 1st year.
 - a. NRCS grant for Chelan. Hard Row to Hoe Winery in Chelan this summer hosted small event for vineyards and wineries. The goal is to get more Chelan wineries to certify for Salmon Safe label. Trout Unlimited is the partner for NCW
 - b. 75% of all vine yards in Walla Walla have certification!
 - c. Practices include: curbing soil erosion, water efficiency, IPM
 - d. Website: salmonsafe.org (Vicki Matthews – risingsunbakery@yahoo.com)
- B. Amy Stork – Twisp Works
 - a. Establish a garden this year to tie in with Red Shed Produce (Kelly McMillan) program for food bank, etc
 - a.i. Timeline not set, but expect to break ground in spring and develop partnerships
 - b. Farmer stakeholders identified needs around farm labor
 - b.i. Exploring bunkhouse/housing interns for farmers
 - b.ii. Distribution network (OPMA model)
 - b.ii.1. Local distribution company wanting to fill niche
 - c. Applied to host 3 Vista volunteers, not sure if they got them
 - d. Marilynn suggested 21 Acres (has funding base) in Woodinville as a model for distribution network or a partner – has commercial kitchen, co-op and retail market plans

- d.i. Michel added that last spring meetings to find farmers to contract with them, established that distribution to Seattle area not cost effective
- e. Seattle University “Sustainability program” students will do some business planning
- f. Nancy emphasized network, connections of Twisp Works, board members listed including Lexi Koch of Classroom in Bloom
- g. Commercial scale composting in Twisp
- h. Amy agreed to host a meeting in 2012 in Twisp, possibly in June...

C. Michel Wiman

- a. WSU Small Farms, grant funded applying for 2 national grants (Beginning Farmers & Disadvantaged farmers grant) to weather budget cuts
- b. Beginning farmer educational series
 - b.i. Cultivating Success (Jan or Feb)
 - b.ii. Sustainable small farming/ranching will be taught by Curtis Beus in Okanogan County
- c. RMA grant on agri-tourism series will be assisted by Carey Hunter. Curtis wants to offer agri-tourism to Methow as well if Amy, etc thinks that is a good idea. Northern Douglas County is included as well, i.e., Bridgeport. Maybe an event in Pateros. Rama Farm offered stay in their AirStream Trailer followed by a day of picking and processing peaches in their kitchen.
 - c.i. Walk at Wade Troutman’s sustainable canola mill
- d. Need a farm in NCW for interesting farm walk perhaps
 - d.i. Leaping Sheep in Okanogan greenhouse and hoop house
 - d.ii. Ellisford, same road as Larkhaven, perhaps both as one farm walk
- e. Feb 3-5th Annual Farmers Market conference WSFMA conference
- f. Sat Feb 11th Women, farms and food women round table video conferencing

D. Carey Hunter

Slow Food Feast in Riverside Grange – 3rd annual (80 people) 2 short films were shown. One was done as an Okanogan High School culminating project on local food systems. *Other video??* Patty Baumgartmen retired, East Omak Elementary School garden and nutrition education. (Keely O’Connell moved, on Facebook)

- a. Slow Food, local food cooking demo’s at farmers market
- b. Not moved forward on mobile processing unit
 - b.i. Hoping to get old Food Depot but appraised price is lower than what owner is asking. Community assessment has decided that WalMart would outcompete Food Depot unless really diversified

E. Nancy Warner

- a. Feedback on IRIS success summit was positive; participants were inspired, biggest one yet!

- b. Another supplement “commemorative edition” soon available on the website
 - c. Just released Foodways & Byways DVD which includes excerpts of more than 60 interviews done during project. Video segments and discussion guide on-line.
 - d. 3 year *Gathering Our Voice* grant from Icicle Fund is completed. Now have been awarded 2 smaller grants with NCW Regional Library Rural Heritage Program (Okanogan, Grant, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry) to gather historical photos from 5 libraries to scan and make publicly available through the State Library website. The other project is Listening Post Network to deliver content through i-phones at various geographic locations throughout our region. Tie in with agri-tourism.
 - e. Carey asked Nancy to be a speaker at one of the ag-tourism classes
- F. Marilynn Lynn
- a. Bridgeport Helping Hands will pursue 501(c) 3 non-profit status; looking at new vocational agriculture teacher greenhouse, pig farm, etc. wants to revive these Corps of Engineers will help, try to incorporate these. Joan to send school garden...
- G. Autumn Caroll - Food nutrition manager Community Action Council - Okanogan, used to work at Filaree Farms, raised on 100-acre farm
- a. This is 3rd year of gleaning project, last year to host AmeriCorps Vista volunteer. Started in 2009, just missed too many cherries that year!
 - a.i. Gleaned 9,000 lbs 1st year 18,000 lbs 2nd year 35,000 lbs 3rd year
 - a.ii. Surveyed clients and found 2-2.5 extra servings of extra fruits and vegetables
 - a.iii. WalMart Foundation funding for raised beds, cooking and canning for ten low income families.
 - a.iv. Get a lot of soft fruit (past ripe) so canning is important. They have access to small home dehydrators people bring them to Community Action to use
 - a.v. Moving back to community oriented volunteer base, over 100 people
 - a.vi. Farm participation up to about 30 from about 7, IMPORTANT to keep up good reputation with farmers!
 - b. Demonstration garden for food banks was great initial project
 - b.i. 12 apple bins turned into raised beds able to get 1200 lbs of produce for food bank
 - b.ii. Back hauling to coast?
 - c. Nancy asked if Okanogan could host a meeting next year?
- H. Alison Detjens – 1st year gleaning coordinator at Community Farm Connection
- a. Preliminary basic surveys of food banks
 - a.i. Finding that storage capacity is lacking
 - a.ii. Wants to partner with YWCA to use food processing facilities
 - b. Community Farm Connection moving forward, according to Alison and Michel. Michel is happy about Alison coming on to work at Farm House Table (Alison is happy too!)

- c. Farm House Table open Thursday-Friday 10-6: dry goods, root crops. Talk to Ally or Kim if you have produce/goods to sell 888.3010
 - c.i. Fundraising at South in Leavenworth in January.

Nancy thought that one “master” calendar to have all events on would be helpful so we can all help each other’s events
- I. Fresh Food in schools –
 - a. Susan and Joan Murcille, Brock Sutton – potatoes (Nicole, his wife is in school system)
 - b. Kathy Darleeng – Omak Elementary – apple and carrot circles
- J. Vicki Mathews
 - a. City of Chelan steering committee on Sustainability, 2 year process
 - a.i. Identified 11 elements of sustainability now focusing on top 4:
 - a.i.1. Waste reduction
 - a.i.2. Ag & food security
 - a.i.3. Education & Awareness
 - a.i.4. Gov’t operations
 - a.ii. City of Chelan webmaster meeting to create website for sustainability
 - a.iii. Solid Rock Farm Community Garden is losing its leased land so looking for more visible location in city of Chelan
- K. Laura Clark
 - a. Precision Slaughter in Okanogan MPU, USDA slaughter custom exempt process customer direct.
 - a.i. Some progress but looks like it will need to be shut down, not \$ viable
 - a.ii. Hope to regroup and re-open in the spring
 - a.ii.1. Ranchers are growing more cattle, customer base is building
 - a.ii.2. Would like to see someone else take over project
 - a.iii. Have funding, need slaughterer
 - a.iii.1. Has to work full-time
 - a.iii.2. Needs to follow rules, procedures
 - a.iii.3. Advertise through Tilth?
 - a.iv. Curtis at Okanogan Extension should be able to help
- L. Joan Qazi, Fresh Food in Schools project through Sustainable Food and Farming Network. EAT is more involved in farm to school than anything else now as a result of Joan's new part-time job with the Fresh Food in Schools project. EAT will produce a school garden video for Wenatchee area schools soon in conjunction with Brian Abbey from Howell at the Moon Productions in Wenatchee. The Fresh Food in Schools project involves working with sister school districts in Central WA but can go beyond that to provide resources to others, including Bridgeport, as needed. She has letters of

commitment from Tonasket, Oroville, and Wauluke schools in NCW to work on incorporating more local food into their menus. It is a grant-funded project that focuses on finding ways for schools to be able to buy produce from farmers and for farmers to be able to sell to schools. They are also cultivating appreciation of fresh foods with parents and students through events such as The Taste of Washington.

- a. Chartwell is a company that is a subsidiary of national and international food providers to schools. Okanogan County schools contract with them as well as FSA and John Butler, with his own local fruit supply company that has been successful integrating into Okanogan schools as well as other parts of the state. Joan noted that independently managed schools are easier to deal with which includes the Wenatchee School District. There, the Fresh Foods in Schools project is also working with them to revise their wellness policy to reduce the percentage of sugars and fats used and to discourage the use of candy as a reward for behaviors and achievements.

- a.i. Obstacles in working with Chartwell include:

- a.i.1. Farms needing to get their GAP certification (which requires 5 million dollar insurance coverage)
- a.i.2. Large structure, not much flexibility
- a.i.3. Strict regulations, scared of being sued

Annual Meeting Cycle/Content

- b. Meetings have been March, June, Sept, Dec
 - b.i. Sept too difficult for people to meet
- c. Need policy updates before things go to legislature (**everyone should sign onto WSFFN.org , network listserv for regular action alerts)
 - c.i. Proposed October meeting the week of the 15th
 - c.i.1. Joan is going to ask Ellen Grey if/when she can come out and give an up-date that week
- d. Week of June 11th meeting in Twisp
- e. Second week of March meeting shared leadership meeting at Tree Fruit 14th or 15th – Carey will facilitate from WSU Extension office with Curtis