

**North Central Washington Food Coalition Meeting Notes**  
**December 16, 2010 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Douglas County Fire Station**

Participants: Marilynn Lynn, Sherri Schneider, Maureen Sheimo, Kim Lohse, Chris Rader, Joan Qazi, Nancy Warner, Jennifer Korfiatis, Marcy Ostrom, Laurie Riegert, Kristi Roberts, Cheryl Dawes

**Welcome, introductions & desired outcome – Joan**

Joan opened the meeting with introductions, a recap of the last meeting, and an overview of the previously discussed near term goals for the group: developing a one page description group's mission, vision and strategies; developing a survey about food distribution methods; and determining how the group can best work together. The group has agreed to work to distill five key messages related to the notion of increasing local consumption of locally produced food.

**Community Success Summit Goals - Nancy**

Nancy presented the goals that arose from the 2010 Success Summit. Summit participants prioritized three major areas of collaboration for the coming year.

- 1) Healthy natural systems—work toward convening a shrub steppe and coniferous forest restoration workshop, work toward a 2012 conservation success summit
- 2) Meeting basic human needs – continuing food coalition
- 3) Building a resilient economy and finding ways to bridge political barriers with a web portal networking tool

**“Foodways & Byways” Update and Audio Slide Show Presentation – Nancy**

Nancy spoke of the links between the Food Coalition and the IRIS *Gathering Our Voice* Foodways & Byways. IRIS has *Gathering Our Voice* grant funds allocated for education/communications. The Foodways & Byways DVD is one part of the communications plan. We see the DVD being linked to Food Coalition partner endeavors such as calendars, directories and maps. We hope to get some help with data research from WSU.

Nancy presented the *Foodways & Byways* audio slide show draft and explained that she and Kristi will be doing outreach around the region to show the DVD and use discussion questions to learn what the additions needed to round out the story of food production and distribution in North Central Washington, including ideas about the types of music to use.

The group discussed adding these aspects to the story:

- The flow of dollars. Where does the money go? Sending dollars to Mexico.
- Mexicans and others who have come to the region as farm labor and stayed.
- Local food system compared with warehouse development
- Big ag (orchards) and row crop (smaller family farms)
- History of the small packing houses
- Independent farmers compared with those who are contractually obligated to a particular source of seeds, and when and how to plant them
- Dealing with the limited amount of information that can be conveyed in the DVD by including a list of informative books and resources with the DVD and on the website along with accessible photos for educators

## **NCW Food Coalition Brief Overview (mission, vision, strategies) - Joan**

Joan opened the discussion with the draft document containing the mission of increasing the amount of food grown and consumed in NCW so that we are more resilient and able to adapt to change. Discussion ensued about what constitutes “locally grown”; making the mission inclusive of all farmers and ag workers; small farmers who are growing only for export. What the group actually can do compared with what we want it to do. Ideas included: sharing resources and ideas about strategies across the region, the coalition is a way to connect counties in the larger regional food shed. Concern was expressed about lack of representation from all groups involved if the coalition is supporting farmers and ag in general. Growers want to diversify marketing strategies. The mission statement as it exists is too general to strengthen the infrastructure of the system. We want to keep farmers farming.

When asked whether the food coalition is the food system part of IRIS, Nancy noted that IRIS only functions as a convenor with a focus on sustainability. IRIS wants to find an appropriate niche that is supportive.

Maureen noted that meeting at different sites around the region is not working for her. Chelan doesn't have a food group. If she were going to start one, it would be a group that keeps in mind orchards and wine producers. A network is important to her and she sees a web portal as a critical piece of that network.

**The group agreed** on the mission of being a network of local groups that share ideas to strengthen connections within the regional food system and connect areas within the regional foodshed.

**The group agreed** on having a general topic/speaker for each meeting and using a round table model that will facilitate exploration of the topic from diverse perspectives. It was noted that such meetings may result in actions simply by the synergy created when bringing people together.

Suggested speakers include:

- Tim Crosby, Puget Sound Food Network
- Chris Ostrander, Peach
- Ellen Gray, WSFFN
- Diane Dempster, Rural Roots – Inland NW Regional Food Network
- Montana Mission Market – Alternative Energy Resources Organization
- Food Hubs
- Eco-trust

**The group agreed** on having an annual planning meeting as one of the quarterly meetings and that some meetings may be field trips.

Homework assignment: provide information for additions to the Regional Food Systems Directory.

**Next meeting: March 24, 2011 – hosted by Marcy Ostrom, WSU Small Farms.**