

Whatcom Food Network Planning Committee Meeting

Planning Committee purpose/function: Working to build common understanding and facilitate collaborative efforts toward an equitable, sustainable and healthy food system for all.

Agenda

Date: 1/18/17

Time: 1-3pm

Location: Community to Community Development

Present

Facilitator: Holly O’Neill

Note taker: Diana Meeks

Adrienne Renz Cheryl Thornton Chris Elder Lisa Sohni Holly O’Neill Karin Beringer	Kent Kok Mardi Solomon Rosalinda Guillen Sara Southerland Pete Granger Karlee Deatherage
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Red = DECISIONS

Yellow = ACTION ITEMS

MEETING SUMMARY:	
Item	Summary
Steering Committee Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane is no longer the WSU representative, we are working on filling her spot • Melissa is no longer the Health Department representative, we are working on filling her spot
Updates to WFN Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New updates were made with minor changes from the Steering Committee, including a new position and job description for a Chair and Vice Chair • Steering Committee moved to elect Adrienne for another year as the WFN Chair
CFA Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee will be reviewing their sector write ups and providing feedback to CFA Subcommittee
Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be held sometime in last two weeks of May

NOTES

2) Welcome & Introductions:

- a) Two new faces at the table today including Lisa Sohni from Opportunity Council and Pete Granger from Sea Grant

3) Updates Binder:

- a) Diana edited two sections of the Whatcom Food Network binder based on edits that were proposed in the July 2016 Steering Committee Retreat including changing:
 - i) For the WFN Introduction PDF “Goals of the Whatcom Food Network” to “Food System Goals: The Whatcom Food Network is a group of organizations that is working together to attain these goals.
 - ii) Holly w/ support of steering committee: change to “The WFN is a group of organizations in support of attaining these goals:”
 - iii) “What are the values of the WFN” to “All WFN partner organizations embrace these core goals
 - iv) For the Organization overview: adding a one sentence overview of the Chair and Vice Chair, adding language on the function of WFN subcommittees and action groups
 - v) Holly w/ support of steering committee: change one sentence in subcommittee, saying instead of subcommittees are closed, say subcommittees are appointed by the steering committee.
 - vi) Diana will make edits and update binder materials
- b) Chair & Vice Chair
 - i) Language as it is right now is very much a draft and we would appreciate any feedback
 - ii) No steering committee changes to draft, language accepted
 - iii) For the next year Adrienne will stay in Chair positions, then in one year the steering committee would work on voting in a new chair and vice chair
 - iv) Intention with position is to have vice chair move into chair role, every January revisiting/ checking in and to also evaluate who is interested in moving from CT from SC.
 - v) Formal vote of Steering Committee approving Adrienne’s position as chair
- c) Move calendar conversation to March SC Meeting

4) Steering committee changes:

- a) Diane stepping down as WSU representative. She recommended LeeAnne.
 - i) Diana to follow up with Diane about Betsy, LeeAnne is more representation of consumption and we have a lot of this sector representation.
- b) Melissa is stepping into a new role at the Health Dept: Adrienne and Melissa to talk more about who her WFN successor should be.
- c) Sara: It would be good to check in with Cloud Mountain, see if Addie would be a good fit if they would still like to be involved. Adrienne to speak with Cheryl, if they can’t fill a position Adrienne could reach out to food hub.
- d) Don’t have distribution representation: possible Foodhub outreach position when hired
- e) Chris to follow up with Corinna (conservation district farm planner) and see if she would be interested in joining Steering Committee

5) CFA:

- a) Matia is nearly done with key informant interviews and summaries are being written up from interviews right now.
- b) Steering committee members will review the sector write ups (give additions and corrections)
- c) Then the CFA Subcommittee will take the edited summary to a group working in that sector to do a mini focus group with them.
- d) Heads up to Steering Committee members to be ready to do a quick review of sector write ups and to try and get them back to CFA team by deadline.
- e) Are shooting for 7/1 to be totally done with CFA update.

6) Forum:

- a) Date: Pete gone first two weeks of May, week of 15th or 22nd, Diana to pick a few dates in that time period and send out email
- b) Topics: last waste & good food purchasing
- c) Maybe an update from Lummi & farmer collaboration (Possible speakers: Drayton Harbor getting very active. Mark and Steve Seymore, Rich Appel and producer improvements... 10 Mile Clean Water Project) Lisa and Karlee to help put together a contact list for this Forum topic, will turn list over to Steering Committee to double check.
- d) Multiple SC members: like the idea of bridging the two (land/water then farming). Have a water discussion, then farming discussion and then a possible panel at the end...
- e) Great learning opportunity to learn more about a sector outside our purview but then to also learn about the collaborative piece of this agreement, and regardless of the outcome, see where the barriers to collaboration were and where there were opportunities
- f) Sara: Sustainable Connections bringing someone over from Peninsula in March/Taylor Shellfish to do an ocean acidification talk, will have some possible contacts(think about opening it up to public, promote on WFN listserv & comms channel)
- g) The Food Policy Planning Subcommittee would also like 10 minutes for an update

7) Food System Planning Subcommittee:

- a) The Food System Planning Subcommittee gave the steering committee an update on their engagement plan and how they are moving forward with outreach
- b) They have drafted a list of stakeholders to engage, talking points, and an outline for stakeholder meetings
- c) In each meeting they would talk about who the WFN is, the history of working with food policy: last year we got language included into updated county comprehensive plan, the emergence of statewide food planning, and then ask them a series of questions
- d) Adrienne: Important to stress we want to steward the process not necessarily create plan or council
- e) Subcommittee would like feedback on outreach list from Steering Committee
- f) Before each meeting will send an email to stakeholders, show up with food system proposal and WFN 2 pager and give them our list of food system organization list
- g) Holly facilitated a mock stakeholder meeting:
WFN introduction
Mentioning county comprehensive plan

4 questions: 1) Did you get a chance to look at document (go through outline)
2) What was your general impression? (how will this pertain to me? Will it enact new regulations or restrictions on my business?) Need some education about what a food system plan is and does. Plan to work outside of regulation/collaboration. Have some examples of positive outcomes to give immediate examples.)
3) What do you think are the biggest issues facing our local food system? As we go around collecting these issues to make sure they fit in categories and we have a good shape
4) Is anyone interested in coming together to craft document (How much work would this be, whats the time commitment?) Ask people for a definite yes and then ask who might consider it.

No further questions – then thank you’s, how we would be following up, and how you can get in touch with us. Reiterate collective process and how you are an important part of it.

Holly – asking what you thought the issues were was a very good part, and have at least two people there to scribe and talk

Adrienne – when you described food network as holding container and intention of responding to county comprehensive plan language. We just want to move forward and make sure it’s inclusive.

Looking at doc and seeing top messaging pieces, look at prioritizing messages you want to pass out. Put draft over outline to further clarify that this

Lisa – this is a lot of information to take in and give feedback on, one question would be to ask where do you see yourself within these four areas? Help ground person first in how their work relates to this. Ask for buy in, show exactly what it entails and what the benefits are in being involved, weaving in sales pitch.

Hunger is eliminated under the healthy people – access to food is not the only thing creating hunger in community, access to housing is a huge issue causing hunger.

Holly – can we further simplify key messages, maybe proposal to continue to make clear. Holly to send principals of engagement.

h) More edits to 2 pager for the Food System Plan:

Changing the word from plan to framework

Need edits to (Incorporate feedback *and form a group*) then present to councils THEN add another bubble afterwards that shows another opportunity to engage in the process

Get more explicit on next steps

And how will we be communicating with you further on about what the process is

Clarifying piece WFN subcommittee is just the vehicle to drive it, really whatever group ends up forming because of this initial work is the one to do the work.

l) Send any additions to the stakeholder engagement list to Karlee

J) Once subcommittee gets coordinating team approval at next meeting to start moving forward!

7) Updates:

Mardi – County gave funding TZW to Resources, WSU, and SC are coming together to collaborate and synergize work. Schools are a clear targets, and for coming projects under CFA waste is another to be tracking and in Farm to School involved in forming a state Farm to School Network.

Karlee - Resources following state legislative session for anything related to water and toxic clean up funding, primary work.

Karin – Whatcom County enacted comprehensive plan in August this year county is working on workplan to address some of new text in comprehensive plan, Karin will be working on Aquatic resource land section workplan. Working with marine resource committee and shellfish advisory commission.

Lisa – Nothing to share at this moment.

Sara – Lots going on, tonight is a farmer chef event at Cloud Mountain Farm Center. The Trade Meeting is on Feb 21ST 180 out for a one day conference at BTC. Possible new funding and projects like business food atlas.

Pete - New info on this years SeaFeast and there is a really cool [new 5 minute film about local seafood](#), SeaFeast educational component was amazing. [Wild Seafood exchange](#) is coming up in March – always looking for speakers and registrants.

Holly – Farm to School will try and form action group in February. Food system and watershed planning has taking priority has been interesting. Having farm workers union come and talk, highlight this at next forum.

Diana – All is well in both the Sustainable Connections and WFN world.

Adrienne – Presentation on FUJ at Coop, getting into second year of farm grant next steps (great on helping businesses actually grow and expand their capacity. Also have a strategic plan put together with lots of stakeholder feedback, about to check in with plan and make sure current work is aligned with plan – seeking feedback right now. Citrus fest on 28th of February.

Chris – Farm fund committee just award 30,000 to 7/8 different farms and another regular farm fund grant opp. Coming up shortly. Closing on another few conservation easments before you see me again. Staffing a new climate advisory committee in county in late year, creating a new mechanism to conserve land.

Kent – Getting all administration for FUJ set up, federal requirements to establish this new indigenous union. Having a peoples movement assembly Friday 20th 5-8 Bellingham Unitarian part of this will talk about State SANCUTARY ordinance. Watching what legislation is doing in regards to farm workers and people of color. Fossil fuel legislation (oil spill & carbon pricing) will be presented shortly.