# 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: 2/5/2019

Time: 3:30-5pm

Location: SeaFeast Office

## Present

Facilitator: Various  
Note taker: Diana Meeks

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| ~~Adrienne Renz~~  ~~Cheryl Thornton~~  ~~Chris Elder~~  Holly O’Neill  ~~Lisa Sohni~~  Karlee Deatherage  Diana Meeks  ~~Ali Jensen~~ | ~~Kent Kok~~  Mardi Solomon  ~~Rosalinda Guillen~~  ~~Sara Southerland~~  Pete Granger  ~~Jen Hey, WSU~~  Amy Esary |

Red = DECISIONS

Yellow = ACTION ITEMS

Blue = Opportunities for Collaboration

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| **MEETING SUMMARY:** | |
| **Item** | **Summary** |
| 1) Agenda Review | Agreed upon  Diana let Steering Committee know she’ll be leaving at the end of April. |
| 2) Go Round | See notes. |
| 3)Re-envisioning the WFN, continuing the conversation | Mardi and Diana will work making and present a few proposals to Steering Committee that came out of the conversation. |
| 4) Forum | Spring Forum: May 19th / Topic: Consumption  Speakers/topics: Bham Public Schools/Good Food Promise/Schools as a place for health equity (work with Mardi and Holly on speakers). Local and Institutional Purchasing (Sara). Food System Committee: be a part of framing within these topics, introduce new committee during intro. |

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| **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:** | | |
| **By when** | **Action Item** | **Person(s) responsible:** |
| 2/8 | Ask Ali about people who applied for Committee / seeing if anyone would be a good fit for WFN Steering Committee | Diana |
| 2/8 | See if March Steering Committee Meeting could be at Central Kitchen | Mardi |
| 2/15 | Draft some proposals the Steering Committee can review based on the conversation we had today | Diana and Mardi |
| March SC meeting | Draft Forum Ageda | Diana |

## PROPOSED NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

March Location: Central Food Kitchen (Mardi will check)

## NOTES

1. **Agree on agenda for meeting**
   1. Agreed
2. **Go Round**
   1. Mardi: For Whatcom Farm to School. March 6th there will be an event about healthy eating and the Good Food Promise at the new Sehome High. Then there will be workshops at Shucksan Middle School the next day, again around the Good Food Promise. Farm To School met with the PSFH to try and make a connection to help get more local food into schools. There will be a meeting of all the Whatcom Food Directors to talk about Harvest of the Month (HOM) for the next two years, purchasing local food, and talk up PSFH. The vision is for “fifth season:” that schools can capture the swell of seasonal food, process it, and then use it at a lower price point throughout the year. First Food System Committee meeting will be Feb 20th, focusing on business procedures. Ali has mentioned several times that we, or anyone, can go.
   2. Pete: Lots going on at waterfront. Halibut season starts March 15. Development down at GP site is slowly going forward. Putting in three large mix used condo buildings will be the next phase. Subject at Port Commissioners have been negotiating a new development protocol: Lummi will pledge to not interfere with projects along waterfront if it’s clear that there won’t be enviro impact and in turn their fisherman will get free moorage. There might be more opportunity for them to offer more product to the public.
   3. Holly: East County Foodbank did get the contract and will be built. The Health Department has been doing an amazing job around food security and development work out there. Nooksack Native Foods Project is moving forward, and has been really great. They are currently looking for Camus rootstock.
   4. Amy: Amy is the new Marketing & Outreach Manager for the Community Food Co-op, has 20 years of corporate marketing experience. The Co-op’s Annual Meeting and Party is March 30th, and the Good Food Promise is the keynote for that event.
   5. Karlee: A lot of energy focused on legislative session and orca task force. Three bills have been filed, one on vessel noise impact, habitat for salmon recovery which includes a piece on making it more stringent for homes putting up docks or “hardening shoreline” on waterfront properties, and one on toxics which will allow Ecology to identify emerging chemicals of concern. New ReSources ED, Shannon, is hosting a get together for anyone that wants to meet her, at Squalicum Boathouse tonight. The conversation around water supply has dwindled, we failed to meet Feb. deadline to address permitted wells so it’s now in DOE’s hands.
   6. Diana:
      * 1. Ali will be joining the Coordinating Team and Amy Esary from the Co-op will be joining the Steering Committee, we will be doing her orientation to the WFN this week.
        2. I will be starting the 2018 Whatcom Community Foundation (WCF) grant report for the WFN this week, and will submit it early March. Will be reaching out for help with editing, etc. soon.
        3. A request has been made to the WCF by Sustainable Connections to continue funding a .25 staff person (to be housed at Sustainable Connections). We should know soon if funding was approved. 2021
        4. We will know more about the timeline for rehiring for my position soon, most likely a job posting will go out in late February or early March. We will follow the same process from when I was hired, WFN representative from the Coordinating Team will help with the hiring process. My last day is April 30th
        5. We did great work last month with making shifts to our language around goals and principals, I am currently in the process of updating the printed materials and the website and should have something to share soon.
3. **Re-envisioning the WFN, continuing the conversation:** 
   1. After meeting last month we decided that the core function of the Network was still communication, collaboration, and coordinating.
   2. Today we want to look at this more deeply:
      1. Who do we communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with now?
         1. We reach out to the organizations that work in the various sectors to increase communication between them, make sure efforts aren’t duplicated, and highlight opportunities for collaboration. Increase awareness of what’s going on across the difference sectors.
         2. How we communicate: Steering Committee meetings, CFA, our listserv and the Forums (CFA and Forums link to food system plan).
         3. Conversation about the depth and breadth of each type of communication.
            1. Shallow communication: Listserv
            2. Medium: Forums
            3. Deep: Steering Committee Meetings and CFA
         4. Could we maximize our deep level communication and our time with the Steering Committee?
         5. There could be more opportunity to really leverage communication, collaboration, and coordination here.
            1. Could the Steering Committee meet more frequently (every other month? Or meet for a few months every month and then have time off?) and have more time for sharing and connecting. Attendees would need to prep for sharing at each meeting, and there could be better leading/probing questions.
            2. Make the Committee more robust, have two people from each sector (this means we need to spend more time on recruitment, where do we build this in?). This would help with attrition and building a pipeline to Coordinating Team.
            3. We could connect Steering Committee meeting agendas with Food System Committee (Ali can help create Steering Committee agenda and part of each SC meeting is a report out of Food System Work).

A bunch of people applied to be on the Food System Committee we should see if we can use that list to recruit members for Steering Committee? Diana to follow up with Ali.

* + 1. What are would be defining activities to foster coordination and foster collaboration?
       1. More and better use of sharing at Steering Committee

It’s important to be intentional about sharing the work that each sector is doing, sometimes this seems like an afterthought. (Important to share opportunities or think outside the box).

* + - * 1. More use of listserv

Our WFN rep or Ali reports out regularly from what’s happening with Food System Committee via the listserv

Steering Committee members commit share info they get off of listserv with their network.

We should expand reach (individuals/affiliates) of who can get listserv but keep it that only WFN member can post to it.

* + - * 1. More public outreach at Forums, more push to get general public there

We make Forums a home for hot topics and do it well.

* + 1. Distinguishing communication, coordination, and collaboration, our definitions:
       1. Communication is sharing info
       2. Coordination is having awareness of each other’s work and making decisions with that knowledge in mind
       3. Collaboration is working together toward a shared goal.
    2. How could we envision this being shaped or affected by the work of Food System Committee?
       1. When the Food System Committee, when things start to percolate up, the WFN could implement some of the outcomes or do outreach for them.
    3. Diana and Mardi will work together to draft some proposals the Steering Committee can review based on the conversation we had today.

1. **WFN Forum**
   1. Preferred time for the meeting is May 16th
   2. Consumption is the next topic: focusing on local food consumption.
      1. Steering Committee liked proposal. Brainstormed/continued conversation:
         1. Get Mateo to talk (from Ciao Thyme but will now help do menu planning and development and staff training in central kitchen)
         2. Sees the two topics as very different. Would draw two very different crowds, should we just choose one topic?
            1. Should we stick with addressing hunger? Schools/food banks/soup kitchens
            2. Food equity, food sovereignty, what does a sustainable food system look like that’s not based on foodbanks? More inspiring story is talking about potential for central kitchen and increasing amount of healthy food for kids and how much that impacts people. Schools as a place for health equity.
            3. Talk about food inequity happening around the county – weave in Mount Baker School District Here
            4. Feed people a typical school lunch and then show them vision of the best lunch at the event.
            5. Address stigmatism of eating school lunch. If stigma isn’t addressed will kids buy in? will all this awesome local food make a difference?
            6. Seafood: Genuine Pollock producers would speak at the forum, trying to get fish into school districts.
            7. A possible connector between buying local and buying school lunch: convenience, cost/$, if you purchase the value is great for your community. Impact of your dollar.

We do it as game at the Forum: JA Village, make multiplier effect a felt experience.

Understanding our investment what that means for sustainability and health of your local food system (then we could also talk about food system committee, which will be looking at these issues…)

Need to decide if game will be played by Individual or institutional consumer

* + 1. Really liked the local food sales piece want to keep that in there.
    2. Spring Forum: Topics/Presenters
       1. Bham Public Schools: Good Food Promise/schools as a place for health equity (work with Mardi and Holly)
       2. Local and Institutional Purchasing (like proposal suggested) (Sara)
       3. Food System Committee: be a part of framing of forum on consumption and talk about new committee during it.
       4. Make sure we give a primer on what a food system is at beginning and weave in through the entire program.
    3. Diana will continue to work with Coordinating Team to set an agenda for the Forum and will present it to Steering Committee at March meeting for approval.
    4. Entire topic for another Forum? What is a Food System and Why You Should Care, talk about new Food System Committee