

# Whatcom Food Network Steering Committee Meeting

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

Date: 3/11/21

Time: 10:30am–12pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Mtg

## Present

Facilitator: Ander & Laura

Note taker: Kerry Eastwood

Kerry Eastwood Rhys-Thorvald Hansen Elma Burnham	Ander Russell Sean Hopps Laura Ridenour Derek Long (for part of meeting)
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**Red = DECISIONS**

**Yellow = ACTION ITEMS**

**Opportunities**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:		
By when	Action Item	Person(s) responsible:
3/19/21	Reschedule next SC meeting for last week of March	Kerry
3/29/21	Put ideas for restructuring/rehoming WFN Coordinator position in the <a href="#">bike rack</a> .	EVERYONE

## NOTES

- 1) Welcome & Get settled
- 2) Purpose, [agenda](#) review
- 3) Update on fiscal sponsorship and WFN Coordinator Position from Derek Long:
  - a) Sustainable Whatcom funds the quarter time position.
  - b) Mardi, Holly, Laura were all central in the formation of the WFN and it was agreed that some funding for a staff coord would be good. Sustainable Whatcom Fund contributes \$3,750 for the coord position. Health Dept was the original lead and fiscal sponsor.
  - c) For many years we've been struggling, having conversations because we have expenses that far surpass the amount being given by Sustainable Whatcom. It feels like now is the time to make a change.
  - d) Derek feels that Sustainable Connections is not really a fiscal sponsor, we provide staff services with the WCF grant money. We've been subsidizing at around \$10k each year.
  - e) Kerry's time was turning out to be more of 30-40% WFN rather than 25%.
  - f) New members, new ideas, create more energy and time needed around the work.
  - g) Sara and Derek talked about the issue of the coordinator position four times a year.
  - h) This is not a new struggle for Sustainable Connections with this position, this is the right decision for our organization right now.

- i) Kerry's responsibilities to membership and development are becoming a higher priority and we are more constrained due to COVID so it makes it even more important to prioritize Kerry's other work.
  - j) WCF is fine with a different org and staff person taking the \$3,750 funding.
  - k) For Sustainable Connections, in hindsight, we could have done this 2-3 years ago.
  - l) There are no other reasons besides an existing strain on staff time that is now exacerbated by the pandemic.
  - m) Relationship with Sustainable Whatcom Fund was in large part fostered by Mardi and Holly.
- 4) What now? How does this fit in our current JEDI process?
- a) What do we need to do differently to have an org host this position successfully.
  - b) This was never funded at the full amount needed.
  - c) I think we should look at it going forward as a fiscal sponsor rather than just a staff person. That creates a stronger system of support.
  - d) WCF is probably going to continue with some small amount of funding, but we will need to fundraise from other sources and we need an umbrella org to do this.
  - e) Do we go forward after April with no Coordinator or do we look for an umbrella org?
  - f) We're in a place of rebirthing and reworking and we could hire a contractor to do that for us. We could hire one person and use both the WCF and SEED funding to fund it.
  - g) What are the needs of the network in growing and expanding in the ways that we can actually have impacts: we have a choice for how we spend this \$\$\$. We don't have to necessarily spend it on a very admin heavy coordinator position.
  - h) Investment is coming and we need to be there to demand and claim it.
  - i) Maybe Rhys can hold the admin information and documents so that we don't have to worry immediately about who to transfer files and logins to.
- 5) Steering Committee recruitment
- a) Open seats:
    - i) Elizabeth from CMFC
    - ii) Naomi opp co
    - iii) Noelle from SNAP-Ed
    - iv) FSC-WFN Liaison
    - v) Mission sectors: Consumer, essential workers
  - b) Process going forward:
    - i) Brainstorming in the bike rack what the coordinator position will look like
    - ii) Starting april 1 - do we want a coordinator, or do we just hire someone to help with our current JEDI planning process?
    - iii) Make a more formal process so that we can track org needs better.
- 6) Wrap-up and What's next
- a) Next SC meeting
    - [Kerry will send out a [doodle](#) and reschedule the April 8th SC meeting.]
    - i) Decide on whether to have a coordinator position for the next 8 months, and what that will look like. Put ideas in the [bike rack](#). [Everyone]
    - ii) Vote on whether to move to the fiscal sponsorship model.
    - iii) Discuss recruitment.