

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: 4/2/21

Time: 12-2pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Mtg

Present

Facilitator: Ander

Note taker: Kerry Eastwood

Kerry Eastwood Rhys-Thorvald Hansen Ander Russell	Sean Hopps Laura Ridenour Elma Burnham
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Red = DECISIONS

Yellow = ACTION ITEMS

Opportunities

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:		
By when	Action Item	Person(s) responsible:
April 12	Finalize master hand-off doc that includes immediate needs, ongoing coordinator tasks, link to all logins and post to Slack	Kerry
April 30	Continue adding ideas/strategies to SWOT	Everyone
April 30	Discuss next steps on Slack	Everyone
April 30	SC members Sign up for immediate hand-off tasks as outlined in the handoff doc Kerry will post to Slack	Everyone

NOTES

- 1) Welcome & Get settled
- 2) Purpose, [agenda](#) review
 - a) A picture of where we are at:
 - i) 5-6 SC members
 - ii) Several open seats on SC
 - iii) FSC liaison position open
 - iv) No coordinator
 - v) Some funding for coordinator and some other activities
 - vi) WCF is willing to pass the remaining \$\$ for us to continue, but we would need to build relationship for future asks
 - vii) Fiscal sponsor?
 - viii) Current Chair term is ending
 - ix) Forums on hold
 - x) Little comms with WFN Network as a whole
 - xi) Solid bike rack

- xii) We're in a pandemic
- 3) Financial status & outlook:
 - a) Personnel costs are around \$13k for a quarter time position for the past few years
 - b) Create a list of annual expenses aside from coordinator or forums [Kerry]
 - i) Web hosting (Acies, GoDaddy)
 - ii) Other expense categories?
- 4) What now?
 - a) Whatcom Community Foundation
 - i) need to establish a relationship with them;
 - ii) they are driving the food system COVID-specific response;
 - iii) they are not excited about increasing funding to WFN but if we had a new and solid plan
 - iv) Rhys, Sean, and Ander have relationships through their respective orgs
 - v) They have many active partners that are also leading the WFN
 - vi) There is a conversation of several orgs aligning in equity work – in early stages but WCF is involved.
 - b) SWOT Analysis
 - i) [See SWOT doc](#)
 - c) Pressing the pause button:
 - i) Is it a short term strategy or a long-term strategy.
 - ii) Do we want to do that while the world's burning?
 - iii) Maybe a pros and cons list would help us decide.
 - d) Source the WFN Network to help decide how to move forward
 - e) Is the WFN still relevant?
 - f) Keep process going on SWOT to see what strategies we can come up with and determine if we are still relevant.
 - g) We don't want the WFN to go away and just dissolve.
 - h) How do we support our members – their voice is not lifted up by us. That feels like a huge gap and opportunity.
 - i) Motivation and commitments are at a low right now all-around. White people will need to step up to do this work so limping along may be the best option until low-motivation breaks.
 - j) But we still don't have the answer to "what we are" moving forward. Resources to answer that question are low.
 - k) Continue to build community and build on relationships in this messy food system structure with the intention of having something to invite them to engage in in the future. We're currently unprepared to do that.
 - l) We would be inviting them to talk about our organizational structure rather than their needs.
 - m) As an organizer, you find a victory for your constituents and you bring it.
 - n) Idea: Middle ground.
 - i) Pause on talking about the what.
 - ii) Gather once a month or bi-monthly and anyone in network can join.
 - iii) Talk and find out how they can contribute to food system, voice needs, see how everyone is doing with food system idea.
 - iv) People can bring their policy or advocacy or action ideas.
 - o)
- 5) Hand off

- a) Kerry will create master hand-off doc that includes immediate needs, ongoing coordinator tasks, link to all logins [Kerry]
- b) Kerry will post to Slack week of April 12 and ask SC members to sign up for needed immediate handoff tasks [Kerry]
- 6) Choose new Chair – did not do. On-hold until we decide strategy so no official chair currently.
- 7) Next steps, wrap-up
 - a) Continue adding ideas/strategies to SWOT [EVERYONE]
 - b) Discuss next steps on Slack [EVERYONE]

Zoom Chat:

From Me to Everyone: 12:18 PM

Profit & Loss:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLZld2sViyLv1Ldpr6IRTI73H1woHLNa/edit#gid=2054763391>

From Laura Ridenour to Everyone: 12:29 PM

Is there a way to access Miro without having to log in?

Screen share

From Me to Everyone: 12:31 PM

Miro SWOT board

<https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/K76ubhwRVU1UTBcqInV7W982SubpOOUbQnMPu9JOT2a8kj7gtNbFkkEM3IA2bmBr>

From Elma (she/her) to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Hi here at my computer, thanks all!

From Laura Ridenour to Everyone: 01:06 PM

Here's the budget template. Super simple.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3JIriTRqCegIjuQGpPxa0Is1NSp7ISoY2IALtRMTA/edit?usp=sharing>

From Laura Ridenour to Everyone: 01:36 PM

Strengths: Kerry is compiling all the coordinator tasks, the log-ins, and the details about the hard drive, binder materials, etc.

Strengths: Listserve is well populated. Interim steering committee is committed to WFN strength.

Opportunity: WFN play an advocate role to follow up on FSC wrote letter to County Council and ask the members contact the County Council

still live here! but work in skagit in flour milling aka not holding a fishing job makes it feel irresponsible / at capacity

From Laura Ridenour to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Thanks, Rhys! Do you want to say something before you go? Or type here?

From Rhys-Thorvald Hansen | they/them to Everyone: 02:01 PM

I have to go, sorry!

From Laura Ridenour to Everyone: 02:18 PM

I have an idea that builds off of all of you .

From Elma (she/her) to Everyone: 02:25 PM

like the happy medium idea

I remember Rhys commenting on missing the sector check ins