

Farm to School Connections Steering Committee Meeting August 29, 2006

Present: Erin MacDougall, Alison Leber, Heidi Broekemeier, Sylvia Kantor, Goldie Cauglan, Tim Crosby, Mary Embleton

- Thank you to Sylvia for having the UW CEP class write the white paper; group is excited to 'edit it.'
- Ambitious agenda; Goal is to come up with a plan for doing the work on the agenda; not necessarily *doing* all the work on the agenda.

#1-Revisit CFSC deliverables: gardening component not us; agenda today formed around these deliverables; February is end of grant; 6 meetings/6 educational sessions; is this the first meeting of the 6? As long as we meet once per month we'll have enough.

Decision: This is the first meeting of the 6 required in the grant.

#2-Who are we? Do we include the FPC? Boundary? Focus? Seattle? Whole state? Don't think we can be whole state; east is so different from west; Nutrition or farming? Where is our leverage? Even if we said we were Seattle, does this limit us? We could still share; 'Western Washington';

Goldie: If we draw some boundaries, that could help guide us; in a year or two, have goal to convene with other throughout the state; For example: Puget Fresh is a 12-county region;

Currently no state-wide coordination, yet policies are set at state level;

Sylvia: difficult to cut the state in half; Goldie: think we should open this up with Linda Fox, (Dean/Head of WSU Extension); Had tentatively mentioned it to her at a meeting, who might be interested; There is strength in serving as a clearing house for the state;

Tim: setting ourselves up as a model/momentum for the state; going to spin wheels if we pick up from other places; our goal is to have partners;

Alison: since there is no state-wide organization above us; makes sense to start out as state-wide; Could demand it from the university; Could ask for a meeting with Fox;

Erin: What is our hope? Have a list of farmers ready to work with institutions? Price sheets? Do we keep pushing to get buy-in from school districts?

Erin: We need an abstract for the paper; once we're clear on our goals

Mary: not just limiting this to schools; institutions;

Sylvia: we are representing the group of parents;

Erin: Economic and heartstring;

Mary: more barriers for schools than hospitals; Bon Appetite management, each in their corporate campuses Seattle Art Museum, Microsoft, Amazon;

Alison: private lunch caterers, go to private schools, don't have procurement policies to deal with;

Tim: Hospital stuff; Healthcare without Harm; connect with people in Oregon; momentum and money we're choosing the hardest place to start, the school, we're fragmenting off,

Goldie: In a state council for food policy, is where coherence should be

Mary: We are doing ourselves a disservice if we have this fragmented section;

What about the Small Farms and Marketing program at WSDA;

We need WSDA and WSU be part of this organization; two big players that could bring pressure; let's state what it is what we want;

Sylvia: Use White paper sooner than later;

Tim: if this were a state-wide effort, we'd still be sitting here; just missing some state-wide players; But are we the committee to address the bigger need?

Goldie: Think globally; act locally; To engage WSU and WSDA we must be state-wide

There's not a unified group that meets monthly in the area about food issues; white paper is our stepping stone for leverage; but don't know what's going on in (Chris Ostrander, activist in eastern Washington could be a good source)

Decision: We are the Farm-to-School Connections Team and Steering Committee; we will focus our work locally and on schools, as this is where we began; but we want to partner with others and do not want to exclude other regions of the state; we have high hopes of focusing state-wide. We don't want to limit ourselves to including other institutions such as hospitals and senior centers in the future.

#3-White paper: Has been updated since CEP class presentation; How to proceed?

Mary: Expansion/refinement: There's a gap with no farmer input/interviews; We need more farmer interviews to get perspective; Maybe find a farmer involved in the Olympia School district; Full Circle Farms?; Lopez? Clayton in Bellingham? Try to hear from farmers who farm-to-schools is working for and from farmers for whom it is not;

Does the committee need to come up with a questionnaire for farmers?

Where to publish it? State-wide agriculture journal; get national food security people involved because it could help to push the national agenda; If our goal is to get it state-wide and to legislators, then we need to send it to Linda Fox; Joint op-ed, Community Food Coalition; Tom Forster, Marian Kalb; Times, PI, on-line;

Sylvia: Paper not ready for publishing yet and readiness will depend on where it's going;

Do we need commentary before we publish or before?

Stimulate discussion; if the goal is to get policy changes Kurt Mullinex (Iris) Chris Feise's group (CSANR)?

Sylvia: Would prefer to know committee comments first; Also, Team comments; Strong need to identify gaps and missing pieces; Identify follow-up work; Heidi and Sylvia to edit/re-write

Decision: Committee decided to read white paper and submit comments via Share Point/to Heidi by Wednesday, Sept. 6 (3:30-5:30 pm); Committee will discuss them at the Sept. 7 meeting. White paper will be posted on Share Point; Heidi will work on Share point password, how to edit, etc., and will get this info to Committee ASAP.

#4: How to proceed with Strategic Planning: Retreat/Advance? Facilitator?
Once we get more of a direction, we can think about a retreat; Idea to hold a poster session at the Nov. 11 Tilth Producer Retreat, potential to include farmers because it is later in the season;
We need a governing structure; idea to borrow from AFPC; Use the consensus/five-finger hand raising method: 1-2 = discussion needed; 3=can live with the decision; 4-5= yes.

What's our vision for the next year?

Form it then present it? Is that something you do with a committee of people who showed up to the meeting?

Decision: Do a more formal planning meeting after we go to the larger group; invite others, be more inclusive that way; potentially after the Food Security Conference; late Oct or Nov ??

#5: Meeting dates/times/locations:

Is phone conferencing possible from Beechers?

Do we continue to holding meetings during the school day? Working parents

Suggestion for Team meetings: Updates at the end so that people can leave;

Alison is in contact with PTSAs and suggestion that we include a letter about F2S Connections Team

Steering

Thursday, Sept. 7, 3:30-5:00, Cascade Harvest Coalition (CHC)

Friday, Oct. 13, 9-11, CHC

Monday, Nov. 6, 9-11, CHC

Monday, Dec. 4, 9-11, CHC

January: TBD

Team

Monday, Sept. 11, 11:30-1:30, PCC – Steering Comm Updates; Shelley Curtis

Monday, Oct. 16, 11:30-1:30, Renton – Reports from Food Security Conference

Monday, Nov. 13, 10-12 (due to school early dismissal), Renton – TBD

Monday, Dec. 11, 11:30-1:30, Renton – TBD

Monday, Jan. TBD

Monday, Feb. TBD

Action Items:

1. Committee: Read white paper and make comments via share point/to Heidi by Wed. Sept. 6; Have comments ready to discuss for Sept. 7's next steering committee meeting
2. Heidi/Sylvia: To write Statement of Purpose/Background, which will go before the Vision/Mission; Statement will include our name: Farm-to-Schools Connection Team, but the Statement will describe our desire to start in the Puget Sound region, partner with others, and later expand state-wide
3. Committee/Sylvia/Heidi: Items the committee wants to report to the Connections Team on Sept. 11?
4. Sylvia/Heidi: Steering Committee meetings will be held the Monday prior to the Team meetings; (2 exceptions: Sept. 7, Oct 13) Sylvia/Heidi: Will do agenda for Sept. 7 meeting, but will do a rotating agenda setting/facilitation after Sept. meeting
5. Committee: Suggest committee members touch base with Kristin and Tom if they plan to continue to participate
6. Heidi: Gather feedback from Team for better Team meeting times; and require RSVP; currently set for second Monday of each month; mid-day, Renton
7. Heidi: Include clear directions to PCC for Sept. 11 Team meeting
8. Committee: Retreat/Advance to do more strategic planning will happen after committee gets more of a direction after Sept. 7 meeting; borrow governing structure from AFPC;
9. Heidi: Meeting times/dates to be posted on Share point and sent out on list serve