

Minutes of: Food System Council

Date: January 28, 2010	Location: 11104 NE 149 th St. Brush Prairie, WA 98606	Recorded by: Tricia Mortell
Time: 4:00-6:00pm	Mtg. chaired by: Alison Dennis	Reviewed by: Team

Attendees: Sandy, Bill Cestnik, Paul, Bill Coleman, Theresa, Ingrid, Alison, Tracy, Greta, Anne, Debe, Kristine, Anna, Bruce, Gayle, Amy Sidran,
 Staff: Tricia, Elspeth,
 Absent: Dion, Amy McFall Prince, Kendra, Doug, Yvonne
 Speaker: Tricia Kovacs Sexton, Farm to School Program Manager, WA State Department of Agriculture

Topic	Discussion	Decision	Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Alison called the meeting to order.		
Meeting Minute Approval	Minutes approved.		
Brief Updates	Membership Committee - Committee will meet to discuss chair/co-chair and new members –	Anne agreed to join committee	Report back at February meeting
	WA State Food System Council Bill – discussed this proposal and whether FSC could endorse. Questions remain regarding how this would work since Governor is currently working to reduce councils/boards. Is a law actually necessary to get organizations to work together? Perhaps connections across local/regional Food Policy Councils more important?	Anne, Greta and Gayle will forward questions to Tricia to send to the group	Ask supporting agencies to address FSC questions about this State policy council.
	Rural Lands Task Force Ingrid has continued to represent FSC on this committee. The work is complex. Committee members are supposed to not have affiliations but farm advocates were added last year and are actively discussing issues related to farming/farm land. Commissioner work session coming up soon, not clear when hearings might be.	Ingrid will forward documents once they become available to individuals for comment	Return comments directly to Ingrid for her continued work on the committee



<p>Farm to School</p>	<p>Tricia Sexton Kovacs, Farm to School Program Manager, WA State Dept of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm to school means more than food; also education, experiential learning, visits to farms and farmers markets, chefs in classroom, etc. • Fruit and vegetable program; WA program small but the USDA program is expanding and now school districts can have more than one school. Schools must have 50% or more free and reduced lunch. Tricia encouraged submitting applications even if turned down before. She can help school districts with finding WA grown food for this program. • Provided examples of a variety of farm to school programs/projects that others can learn from (Auburn, Olympia, Spokane, Orcas Island). Many have been able to make their programs economically feasible through changes in menus, or other food service savings and because of increased participation in school lunch including from staff. Most have experienced huge support from front line staff who enjoy making a difference and getting recognition for their efforts. • Tricia can provide information regarding WA education approved curriculum. Currently it is limited but plans are under way to develop more. • Consider adapting farm to school programs and project based on your situation. SW WA may have trouble finding enough farmers; could look at small demonstration projects, working through current produce vendors to identify and source more WA products, could work on a “focus” food. • What have others done about food safety questions? know your grower and ask about good agricultural practices, some farmers are able to get liability insurance, use a checklist based on good agricultural practices. • - What about processing? This is an increasing interest in our state, such as with berry growers. 	<p>Interest voiced in looking into a possible farm to fork or farm to school forum. Tricia also could suggest other activities such as farm/school tours, etc.</p>	<p>Anne, Amy S., Sandy agreed to f/u with Tricia and work on this possibility for our community.</p> <p>Tricia will provide feedback to guests in attendance on future activities.</p>
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<p>78th Street</p>	<p>Bruce reported on the final master plan. Some concerns exist about a road through the property and water tower placement. This will be before the commissioners fairly shortly and it would be good for FSC to comment. There is also an interest in how FSC could support efforts to mobilize more projects on the site and seek grant opportunities. Two possible opportunities for our involvement would be on a Technical Advisory Committee that would make decisions about proposed projects. There is also conversations to consider organizing a foundation – “Friends of 78th Street”.</p>	<p>Bruce will organize FSC comments for the hearing.</p>	<p>Bruce, Bill Coleman and Theresa will work together on our comments about the master plan</p>
	<p>Next meeting - February 25th 4-6 pm.</p>		

