

FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 14 May 2007, 3:30-5:00 PM, 9R Admin Bldg

ATTENDING: Katy Pepinsky, Krista Garand, Katrina Blair, Jeanine Justice, Sherri Wormser, Julie Hudak, Shari Fitzgerald, Marcus Renner, Jennifer Wheeling, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Katrina announced the formation of the Organic Land Stewards Collective of La Plata County, which is planning work to reduce pesticide and herbicide use on community lands and home landscaping, especially to help protect honeybees among other benefits. To get involved in planning, contact Katrina at Turtle Lake at 247-8395.

Julie reported that Extension Master Gardeners will be working with Manna Soup Kitchen on a garden project.

Jim announced that the Kellogg Foundation has funded a National Farm to School project which should provide additional resource support for local programs.

9R DISTRICT UPDATE: Krista announced that a salad bar has been ordered for the Ft Lewis Mesa School for next fall.

FTS LOGO: Krista has asked for a logo that she can use in the school menu to highlight local foods. We reviewed several used by other communities, and decided to use the national logo for now, and to look into a contest next fall in the county schools for a local logo. Jim will develop a list of themes for guidance, and Sherri agreed to help with the logo development.

FARM TO COLLEGE AND HOMEGROWN CONFERENCE: Marcus reported:

- Tina Evans Food for Thought tree planting project will start soon with some plantings at La Boca.
- Discussions on campus about community-based learning projects have recognized local food production as a fruitful area of work for students.
- The design process for the new College Union Building is considering edibles in the landscaping.
- Work on the campus garden will be continuing through the summer to demonstrate several different production approaches.
- Marcus will have 5-7 students working on food projects next fall, so he welcomes project ideas — especially ones relating to low-income community members. Shari suggested that Marcus arrange for students to meet the non-profit groups working on local food.
- The next FTS Outreach meeting will be 3PM on 6 June. Contact Marcus at 247-7091 or RENNER_M@fortlewis.edu to get involved and be notified of the meeting location. We will be discussing the plans for the committee and the possible development of a larger advisory group for local food projects throughout the area.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COALITION GRANT: Jeanine reported on the activities of the working subcommittees under this grant. Katy reported on the current work of the Healthy Local Foods subcommittee, and led a discussion of possible “Buy Local” campaign approaches.

SASCO JUNE 4th MEETING: The general membership meeting (open to all in the community) in June will feature local food and agriculture. We will try to notify all on this list of the exact time (evening), location, and featured items.

SCHOOL GARDENS: Shari reported that the Needham School Garden is expanding on the xeric native plantings to include edibles, and that the principal has bought “Earth Box” growing systems for each classroom. She also reported that the Ft Lewis Mesa Garden is developing quickly with 150 students attending the groundbreaking in April.

Jennifer Wheeling reported on plans for the Animas Valley School Garden, and efforts to secure funding for the irrigation system, raised beds, and deer fencing.

We viewed a 10 minute DVD of the “Edible Schoolyard” project in Berkeley. Contact Jim for a copy if you would like to see it.

We will circulate a summary of developments in school gardens throughout the area soon, and plan to add it and some exciting photos to the website.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be Monday 11 June, 3:30-5:00 most likely at the 9R Admin Building — room to be confirmed.

Remember — all FTS minutes and other FTS and local food info is at www.sustainableSWcolorado.org

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer