

FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 13 NOV 2006, 2:30-4:00 PM, 9R Admin Bldg

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Jenny Wrenn, Maddy Overton, Katrina Blair, Katy Pepinsky, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jim reported that the SASCO website is up and running with a full section on Food Agriculture Policy, Farm to School, the Mesa Verde Guide, and the Community Food Assessment. See it at www.sustainableSWcolorado.org

Jim also announced that the SW Marketing Network Annual Conference will be in Flagstaff on 26-28 March 2007. Do save the date as there will be sessions on Farm to School and many related topics. Details will be posted in January at www.swmarketingnetwork.org, and check with Jim about scholarships.

COMMUNITY FOOD ASSESSMENT: Katy brought copies of the Farm to School section of the Assessment, to be published in December. Anyone who would like to review it can contact Katy at pepinkp@hotmail.com.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COALITION: Jenny Wrenn is writing a grant to the state for the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, which is being coordinated by Wendy Rice. Several of us have been working with the Coalition to develop objectives and strategies around developing a healthy local food system, increasing local production, helping people make good food choices, and Farm to School.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE: Maddy reported on Farm to College activities at FLC. The green house has been constructed and is closed for the winter due to safety regulations regarding snow loads. Sodexo has expressed willingness to feature some local products at their special event meals every other month. A semi-local potato bar is in the planning stages for December. Students at the Environmental Center are researching Farm to College programs at several other colleges for insights on how to do it here. Finally, the annual Hunger Banquet was held on 14 Nov, presenting an opportunity to address sustainable food systems from a global perspective.

SALAD BARS: Turtle Lake greens continue to go to 7 schools and Krista reports it is going well. Two youth salad bars (shorter models) have been received for use by younger students. Karla Sluis has volunteered to write about the salad bars and the Wellness Policies in the Herald, and to help Katrina and Krista develop posters at the salad bars explaining the local ingredients, where they came from, and how nutritious they are.

MILLER EVENT: Katrina and the bicycle blender from Turtle Lake were at Miller Middle School last Friday and made local apple/elderberry cobbler and elderberry ice cream with the children for 200 people for family night. This is an excellent example of the type of hands-on activity that is necessary to support getting more and more local foods into the schools -- and Katrina and her staff does it so well. Thanks to Katrina and to all who helped.

BISON TASTING: Linda Daniel of the Srn Ute Academy could not make the meeting, but is checking to see if we can have a bison tasting in Ignacio on 28 Nov to talk over the idea of some of the Tribe's bison meat being used in school lunches in the County.

LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIERS: Jim reported that he has contacted several local producers who have indicated a willingness to provide food to 9R to get them in to meet with Krista at the next meeting or at ad hoc meetings arranged with Krista. This is the first step in planning for pilot meals this school year, and for getting more substantial amounts of products on the menu for the 2007-08 year. Jim will contact Trent at Blue Horizons to see if he would be willing to investigate selling his flour to a local tortilla maker who could sell to 9R. We are looking for ideas on similar connections we could try.

SPRING LOCAL FOOD & AGR EVENT: The draft schedule from Marcus for the spring event was reviewed, and received a very favorable response. The Outreach Committee will continue to develop the plans. We thought there might be some funds from the COPAN grant for this event, and that the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition should be a partner.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be Monday 4 Dec, 3-4:30 at the 9R Admin Building.

Thanks

Jim