

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

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Darrin Parmenter, Katy Pepinsky, Julie Hudak, Jeanine Justice, Jennifer Wheeling, Jason Cole, Katrina Blair, Marcus Renner, Benjamin Downing, Linda Herz, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Julie reported on work under the Garden Project with community service volunteers at the Manna Soup Kitchen garden and recommended this work force to others.

We welcomed Benjamin as a new participant from Fort Lewis College.

Katrina reported on apple pressing and other activities with school children in support of Farm to School. Her 2008 calendar will feature pollinators on local plants and in 2009 she will be including local food events.

Jim reported that the Durango Farmers Market plans to add monthly markets in the winter next year – becoming a year-round market!

Jim distributed multiple copies of the latest Mesa Verde Guide of local producers. HLC has printed 500 copies, so if anyone wants any to distribute, please contact Jim.

9R REPORT: Krista reported that the Salad Bar program is going well, and that she is still getting some local produce for other parts of the meals, but that is winding down due to the season. She feels that we have made excellent progress this year in terms of increasing the local food in the schools.

Jenny Wrenn worked with Krista and 9R on a “Love Your Veggies” proposal to support nutrition education and purchase local veggies. Fingers are crossed.

Krista will try to visit producers at the Holiday Farmers Market which is at the fairgrounds on 15 Dec from 10-2.

CHEFS & SCHOOLS: Jim reported on a progressive Chef to School program in N Carolina where 27 chefs gathered to be trained to give school cooking demonstrations. Grant support included pay for farmers who hosted chef tours, pay for teachers who developed the curriculum, and gift cards for chefs to buy local products for their demonstrations. We think this might be a good project here, and Jim noted that Linda Illsley of Cocina Linda is interested in offering cooking lessons in the community.

SCHOOL GARDENS: Jennifer reported on connections being made regarding the Animas Valley garden plans. Linda explained some of the work needed to accommodate the new garden.

Linda Herz reported on 9R work to help school gardens including Animas Valley, Fort Lewis Mesa, and Needham.

We discussed how to develop community support for school gardens including possible help – especially in the summer from master gardeners, DHS students involved in service projects, and FFA students.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COALITION (HLC) FOOD COMMITTEE WORK:

Jeanine reported on the proposal preparation to LiveWell for next year, and indicated that LiveWell Colorado is becoming a non-profit entity.

Katy and Julie explained the discussions going on as to whether to buy into the national “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” campaign which we would try to coordinate with the other localization efforts here. Producers present expressed support of the concept.

We discussed the plans for a mid-week farmers market next year, perhaps at the Smiley Building in conjunction with the Smiley Garden stand. Several producers at last week’s Durango Farmers Market meeting expressed interest. This may be independent of the Durango market, but in any event we will coordinate with them closely. Some concern was expressed about parking and Smiley not being easy customer access. We expect that new producers and ones not participating in the Saturday market will be needed to grow this market. Contact Julie or Jim if interested.

Julie is working on a Mesa Verde Guide to Local Food Initiatives – simply a listing of “Who’s Who” in local food system efforts in the area. We plan to get this up on the SASCO website for use, review, and additional suggestions.

NEXT MEETING: According to our decision last meeting to rotate our meetings around local schools in 2008, we are planning our January meeting at Animas Valley. We hope to view and discuss progress on their school garden in addition to our regular business meeting. Jennifer will try to arrange the meeting there and see if 14 Jan from 3:30 – 5 will work. We will notify you when the date, time, and location are finalized.

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

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer