

SW CO FARM TO SCHOOL & POLICY MEETING, 3-4:30PM, 19 JULY 2005

Attending: Shari Fitzgerald, Anna Milburn-Lauer, April Atwood, Katrina Blair, Darsi Olson, Jan Blanchard, Kay James, Dave James, Wendy Rice, Kim Cotta, Bill Manning, Trent Taylor, Jeanne Trupiano, Chris Barker, Diane Doney, Jerry Zink, Michael Rendon, Beth LaShell, Jim Dyer.

OPENING: Introductions were made. Jim distributed a contact list of regular attendees. Bill Manning gave his new phone as: 882-5421

FOOD POLICY: Jim announced the Statewide Food & Ag Policy meeting, 11 August in Brighton - an agenda is posted on the Oakhaven website at www.oakhavenc.org under state policy. Please contact Jim if you are interested in attending or learning more.

Jeanne gave an overview of her review of the County Land Use Code open space section, and she will get a flyer of info that she has compiled to Jim for e-mail distribution. The consensus was that comments from us as a group would be more influential than as individuals (perhaps we should do both). Nancy Lauro at the County is very interested in feedback and willing to help people in their review. If you have questions or comments on the Code, please contact Jeanne <jeanne@animasconservancy.org> or Jim <jadyer@frontier.net> Thanks Jeanne.

FARM TO SCHOOL REPORTS:

SWADESHI: The workshop at Swadeshi was well attended by 23 people and brought many newcomers to the group. Comments included: the idea of posting signs on products of "Miles to Market"; better school food should yield less waste; and coordinate our education efforts with the Zeri school being planned.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH: Jim handed around copies of the Telegraph's 7 July Farm to School article which was highlighted by the handsome young man in the Blue Horizon booth. The article can be found at: <http://www.durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/05-07-07/coverstory.htm>

Jim relayed Bliss Bruen's willingness to work on a brochure for all teachers on Farm to School, which would include one of her favorite links: edibleschoolyard.org People thought this was a good idea.

Jim announced the Farm to School Lending Library (things that have been sitting on his desk that should be passed around). Items include Wendy Rice's "Making it Happen" nutrition success stories (available also on-line at: <<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/makingithappen.html>>), Cooking with Kids DVD by Lynn Walters, Iowa Farm Policy Council video, CSU Food Links video, and Creative Local Food Links pub. If anyone wants to borrow these to view and show to others, please contact Jim Dyer -- they are excellent resources.

PROCUREMENT: Jim presented info from Le Adams in NM on the divide between what schools tend to pay for produce and what local producers need to charge. It appears that in the SFE and ABQ areas, it's mostly producers who are already wholesaling that sell to schools. It seems that

anything from within NM tends to be included in "local" for their purposes. Grants are used to subsidize prices, but it is understood that this is a temporary fix. Successful programs across the country have been able to save money on some items to allow higher prices for local ones.

Shari agreed to get us information on how the Riverhouse Children's Center is providing nutritious food at a very reasonable price. We will try to get her to our next meeting (I have invited her).

NUTRITION: Wendy passed around info on a second grade nutrition curriculum that she will be trying out locally. Contact Wendy for more details. Shari said they are trying to get support for the "Food, Land, and People" curriculum use here.

GROWING PARTNERS ASSESSMENT: Shari gave an progress report on the assessment project. A workplan has been submitted to USDA, and she would like anyone interested in helping to work on details to contact her or Chris.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE: Michael reported on last weeks Farm to College meeting where plans were made to meet with the Sodexo rep on campus and talk about more local food as the contract comes up for renewal in 2007. A collaboration on campus is looking into a food composter as well.

OTHER SCHOOLS: Jan's daughter, Beth Graham is watching our efforts with an eye to what might be done in Bayfield where she teaches Kindergarten. Jan has made contact with the school nurse in Ignacio who would like to be the liaison with us. April explained the interest at Excel in local food, and will be discussing the possibilities with Kim. Kim will get contact info for food service directors at other area schools to Jim for the e-mail list.

ALL STAFF BREAKFAST AT 9R: Kim gave an update on the plans -- a breakfast burrito featuring local beef, tomatoes, eggs -- and a coffee cake of local flour and peaches. The product choice is up to Kim, but the group, at Dave's urging, established its preference as criteria for product selection:

Foods that:

1. Are as local as possible, and
2. Are healthy and nutritious, and
3. Help convey some knowledge of local agriculture.

Kim has drafted a flyer for the event explaining the source of the local products on the menu: 9R will invite the Herald and Telegraph and keep Jim in the loop on this and on a press release.

Kim handed out a form for producers to submit as to product availability for the breakfast as well as for the coming school year. Jim has extra forms if any producer needs one. These can be returned to Kim at:

Kim Cotta
9R School District
201 East 12th Street

Durango, CO 81301

UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR LOCAL PRODUCTS: Any interested producers should submit the form described just above. Kim and Diane think that Needham is a good school to pilot some local foods since they have Comprehensive Health Grant already. Kim says that their food service is looking at taking over the catering services for special events and this may open the door for some more local products. Jim will submit a short explanation of our Farm to School program for the school menu calendar (done).

Jerry Zink explained that he can provide some meat products that are a bit farther away than our immediate area, that can be cheaper than some local meats -- this will be a discussion to be continued.

Kim will work with the James &/or Jerry to test the school's kitchen's capacity for grilling local hamburgers.

NEXT MEETING: 21 Sept at 3PM -- tentatively at the 9R Admin Bldg -- the location will be confirmed and agenda sent to you as the next meeting nears.

-- Jim Dyer