

NOTES OF 26 July 2006 FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING

ATTENDING: Beth Lashell, Kim Cotta, Tracy Ford, Julia Dodd, Katrina Blair, Michael Brennan (part of meeting), and Jim Dyer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS:

Julia gave an overview of the Healthy Lifestyles project -- anyone interested in learning more and getting involved should contact Wendy Rice at: <RICEKW@co.laplata.co.us>

Jim outlined the minutes of the last Outreach and Planning meeting from Marcus Renner (attached). Included are some possible objectives for each of our 6 goals, and a draft calendar of outreach opportunities. Katrina's Oct apple pressing, Beth's Barnyard Days at the College on 13 April, and the Durango Farmers Market Holiday Markets in Nov & Dec were suggested as additions to the list. We are also looking for additional members of this committee. Please provide any feedback on these items to Marcus at <RENNER_M@fortlewis.edu>

AUGUST 16 9R ALL-STAFF BREAKFAST

Kim has developed a great menu and we have identified a good number of local producers willing to provide fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat, and more for this event (over 600 attendees). 9R is considering a banner or poster for the event and we will provide input as needed.

COLORADO PROUD MEAL, SEPT 13

9R is planning to participate in this statewide program designed to include as many Colorado products as possible in school meals on this date. We have also identified for Kim many local producers who can provide products for this event, and will work with her on logistics. We will help with publicity to encourage staff and students to eat in the cafeteria on that date and to bring public attention to the event. Kim will see if we can have some of the producers at the meals.

SALAD BAR COMMITTEE

The committee met on 20 July to discuss how to get more local products into salad bars at the schools. Kim and the committee will work with some past invoices to estimate the additional costs for local products compared to normal sources so we know what sort of funds would be needed to subsidize this program for the near term.

9R WELLNESS POLICY

Michael Brennan joined us for this discussion of the implementation and evolution of the Wellness Policy which is now in place. Teams will be developed at each school to decide what parts of the policy to focus on first and the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) will measure progress and recommend any changes annually in March. The policy can be viewed at

<http://health.durangoschools.org/wellness.php>

We urge you to become familiar with the provisions, especially those relating to local foods (pp. 6,7, 9, 10) and nutrition education (12, 13, 14), since we should be able to provide many resources to help the District with implementation.

Michael asked us to help provide some ideas on the benefits of local foods to help justify purchasing local foods. He also mentioned the interactive video capabilities that could help with education regarding local farms and ranches.

WEBSITE

Jim will be setting up a new website for the Sustainability Alliance which will allow us to post news, agendas, minutes, links, photos, and resources for our Farm to School program. This should be ready quite soon, and we will notify you when it is up and running.

CRITERIA FOR LOCAL FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

We discussed the following criteria based on last year's discussions. We agreed to use these criteria for our recommendations to schools for sourcing local foods.

1. As local as possible,
2. As healthy and sustainable as possible, and
3. Carrying as much of a message about local agriculture as possible (eg. The producer is willing to host farm visits or come to the classroom or provide info about their operation.)

We agreed to put some additional sources of information on safe, sustainable, and nutritious food on our new website.

PROPOSAL FOR A FARM TO SCHOOL PUBLIC EVENT

Marcus suggested, in the attached minutes of the Outreach Committee, that we consider an event early next year, in conjunction with the Ft Lewis Env Center, that would bring public attention and involvement to the Farm to School program. The group liked the idea, thought that Feb would be best, added Alice Waters to the list of possible keynoters, and asked that we determine if we would be able to arrange local foods to be served at the College (possibly dependent on the contract with Sodexo).

NEXT FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING: 22 August, 3-4:30 -- Most likely at the 9R Admin Bldg Conference Room -- to be confirmed.

Thanks

Jim

