

# Farm to School Outreach Committee

## Minutes

3 – 4:30 p.m., 29 August 2006, Fort Lewis College

*In attendance:* Jim Dyer and Marcus Renner

Jim reported that he was approached by Chuck Slothower from the Durango Herald about covering events. He's interested in school food as well as Carla, and so we have to really figure out whom at the Herald to deal with. We still need to sound Carla out on what kind of series she wants to do and when they would appear (weekly, monthly, etc.)

Susie Francis is getting a lot of interest in cooking classes at the DHS.

9-R is interested in doing local food for their Homecoming BBQ

Marcus and Jim discussed the potential outcomes of a local food conference in late February or early March and ways to coordinate the outcomes of the conference with the Community Food Security Grant due around that time.

Jim said he thought the CFS grant was a 100% match. If the grant asks for \$200-300K, then we'd have to find that much in matching funds. Volunteer hours count, which is one of the reasons we're trying to document people's participation in the process.

We then talked about what kind of action steps could come out of a conference. Perhaps there would be different breakouts after some overview presentations that would each emerge with an action plan on their particular topic.

- We looked at the list of brainstormed 2-3 year outcomes from the last meeting and tried to boil them down into areas or tracks. Jim suggested the following areas that could move us furthest, fastest in setting up a stronger local food system:
- Increase direct marketing opportunities besides farmer's markets (such as multi-farm CSAs and work-site CSAs) and look for ways to make these opportunities more affordable to people who just can't afford the farmer's market prices.
- Create more school and community gardens. This would also help with affordability issue.
- Try to set up individual school/community action teams that would focus short term on the implementation of the wellness policy and long-term on Farm to School. This would dramatically change the scale of the Farm to School work by both getting more people involved and transforming the focus from the region or the district to individual schools.
- Work closely with the local land trusts to identify the prime farmland that needs saving in the region and push the county to think about these areas as it does its open space planning.

Marcus commented he was having a hard time sorting through all the issues without having a “logic model” of the problem – that showed the different factors involved and help identify the most strategic leverage points to create change (see attached)

Some things that we brainstormed could go into a conference included:

- A “meet, greet, and eat” session
- Direct marketing to attendees by local growers
- Examples of what’s happened in the schools so far
- Workshops or discussions or tours of garden sites – with the EC garden perhaps being the best since it’s right there.
- Seed exchange
- Land identification session for prime farmland in the region.

The question that we both began and ended with was whether the conference should focus specifically on farm to school or cover community food security and local food more broadly.