

FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 11Sept 2007, 3:30-5:00 PM, Durango Rec Center

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Katrina Blair, Marye Jackson, Jenny Wrenn, Beth LaShell, Zachary Ray, Darrin Parmenter, Katy Pepinsky, Julie Hudak, Linda Herz, Jason Cole, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Zachary reported on the Ft Lewis College garden and greenhouse program that is gearing up this Fall and on a possible local food event.

Jim announced that the SW Marketing Network has received a grant to be the Southwest regional liaison between the new Kellogg-funded National Farm to School Program and local community efforts. Jim will be the liaison for Colorado and expects that this will bring additional support to our efforts and those throughout Colorado and the Southwest.

Jim is looking for the two borrowed DVDs: "Cooking with Kids" and "The Edible Schoolyard." If you borrowed these, please get them back to Jim as soon as you can.

Everyone on the list should have already received notice of the Slow Food organizing picnic at the James Ranch on 30 Sept. The announcement is attached if you missed it. This is a great opportunity to help promote healthy local food, so we hope you will join us there.

Jennifer Wheeling sends word that the teachers at Animas Valley are very supportive of the garden plans and that the next step is to meet with the PTO.

Karla Sluis called to say that she is interested in doing a piece in the Herald about the various school garden projects underway.

Jim visited La Boca Farm with Linda Daniels of the Srn Ute Academy last week as they planned on purchasing food from La Boca this Fall on a pilot basis.

Krista is planning to attend a meeting with renowned Farm to School chef, Anne Cooper in Boulder in October. We look forward to a report from her on what she learns.

Katy indicated that a limited number of hardcopies of the La Plata County Food Assessment are being distributed to government leaders, the Durango library, and other key spots. The full report is available on-line o the SASCO website www.sustainableswcolorado.org

9R WELLNESS POLICY UPDATE: Linda Herz reports that she felt that the All Staff Breakfast at 9R (see below) went very well and that the several new school garden projects are very encouraging — both items being part of the 9R Wellness Policy. She will look for opportunities for us to lend support to wellness teams at individual schools as they organize to implement activities this year.

9R ALL-STAFF BREAKFAST: Krista also felt that the 15 August All-Staff Breakfast featuring local foods went very well. About 600 staff members enjoyed bagels from Doughworks and Durango Bagel as well as zucchini bread and quiche made from:

- Flour from Trent & Linda Taylor at Blue Horizons Farm
- Eggs from Mimi Thurston
- Broccoli from Jason Cole
- Zucchini from Jennifer Wheeling

COLORADO PROUD MEAL: Krista gave a preview of the Colorado Proud Meal scheduled for 12 September. Tom & Sara at RAS (Regional Agr Supply) have provided 120 potatoes for Sunnyside School and Beth LaShell delivered about 1600 bakers from Farm Fresh Direct in the San Luis Valley of Colorado for the potato bars at each school. Jason Cole provided broccoli as well. Jason will also be providing tomatoes for sandwiches this Fall.

FUTURE FOOD NEEDS: Krista indicated that if producers have extra supplies of products to contact her since she would like to feature as much local product as possible — and ingredients for salad bars are especially easy to work in.

Producers may want to consider providing potatoes next Fall, considering that Krista was able to use over 1600 potatoes for this year's Colorado Proud meal alone. It doesn't appear that russets are necessary for baking: Yukon Golds and red varieties seem suitable as well – she will know for sure after Wednesday's potato bar event. Contact Krista if you are interested in providing potatoes this year or next, and to discuss varieties and quantities:

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES FOOD COMMITTEE WORK:

Katy announced the Tour de Farms bike tour to urban agriculture sites in Durango coming up on 22 Sept. Space is still available, so do sign up if you can. A flyer is attached in case you missed it.

Katy also reported on work the Committee is doing to work with restaurants to develop effective ways to highlight healthy food choices and local products in their menus. A meeting with a few restaurants to develop a pilot that would be available to all restaurants in the area will be held soon.

Jim explained some of the discussions happening locally about how to encourage local purchases for items including food. A committee from SASCO, Marcus Renner of the Ft Lewis College Environmental Center, and others have been meeting with City officials. Jim is involved to try to ensure that local food interests and local agricultural producers benefit from these efforts.

MORE TO CONSIDER: Just in case we don't have enough to do, Jim suggested that we consider the healthy local food choices that could be involved beyond the school-provided lunch. Our Local

Food Assessment provided insights into the buying habits of High School students who go off campus for lunch. A number of students bring lunch from home as well. As we consider the big picture, including education about these food choices would provide more complete coverage of our student population.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be scheduled in October.

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

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer