

FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 11 June 2007, 3:30-5:05 PM, 9R Admin Bldg

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Katrina Blair, Jeanine Justice, Kay James, Marye Jackson, Jenny Wrenn, Beth LaShell, Wendy Rice, Jennifer Wheeling, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kay reported that the Slow Food Durango Convivia is reorganizing since Sean has resigned as the chair. Kay will keep us posted as to developments — especially regarding the inclusion of local foods and agriculture in their activities.

Jeanine reported on the plans for the Bike to Work Day on 27 June. The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition will have a booth including the Local Foods group and Farm to School has the opportunity to have materials there as well. Jim will work with Jeanine to develop some FTS materials for that purpose, and Krista will try to get us some photos.

Jim reported on new resource materials regarding procurement policies for school districts – such as states allowing preferences for local foods. These materials can be found at:

<http://www.foodsecurity.org/procurement.html>

9R LOCAL FOOD FUND & DONOR PROGRAM: Krista announced that 9R has set aside \$500 for each of the 10 schools for the purchase of local food products. A fund account has been established for these monies at each school so that community members can donate to an individual school or to all of them. We are very grateful to Krista and 9R for making this happen.

We discussed how we can promote these donations, and Krista plans to develop a flyer for parents and students highlighting local food products in meals and urging donations to continue their inclusion.

We thought it would be good to call this a demonstration or pilot program so people would recognize that we are working toward the day when donations are not necessary — as new policies are implemented especially at the state and federal levels.

We hope to work with 9R on the appropriate announcements including a press release, and Jeanine said she can include it in the Herald's Wednesday food column that she will be doing monthly. Jenny recommended we get the Telegraph to give it a "thumbs up." Dave James gives service club talks, so it was suggested that he include this as well.

FTS AD for 9R MENU CALENDAR: We finalized the content for the ad and will work with Krista to finalize the layout. Healthy Lifestyles Food Committee has agreed to pay the \$100-150 for the ad which will feature a Farm to School logo that will match an icon next to every local food item planned in the menu.

AD HOC LOCAL FOODS: In addition to menu items planned well in advance, Krista said that she would like to hear from producers who find that they have an abundance of particular products in case she can fit them into the menu on an ad hoc basis. Jim will work with Krista on a flyer explaining this opportunity to producers.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES FOOD COMMITTEE WORK:

Buy Local: Jim relayed notes from Marcus recounting the 6 June FTS Outreach Committee meeting which focused on local purchasing. We have seen a considerable interest in the community around buying local – beyond just food, so we are looking at how to approach this in a coordinated fashion. We realize that criteria for buying local may be different for tomatoes than for lumber or cars.

Marcus is approaching the BALLE group (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) to see if we can get some assistance in planning these initiatives.

Wendy brought up discussions from the Healthy Lifestyles Local Food group about stickers that might be placed by restaurant patrons on their bills to indicate why they chose particular items from the menu – for health reasons, being local, etc. Jenny will look into this from an evaluator's point of view.

Availability List: We asked Krista when she would prefer to know what products would be available from producers. For the Fall of 2007, she would like to know by mid-August if possible along with prices expected by producers. Salad bar items are especially welcomed since they can be added to the meal without changing the menu. She said it would be nice, but not essential now to have a weekly availability list.

A focus in the Fall will be the Colorado Proud meal day – in mid Sept. — featuring local products as much as possible. Beth said she should have potatoes from her variety trials.

Distribution: We also inquired about the need to help distribute products to the schools. Krista said that for the time being, if products are delivered to the 9R Admin building, which has a walk-in cooler, at least two days before the meal, the daily courier should be able to distribute items to each school – in most cases. So – the potential need that remains is to get products from the producer to the 9R Admin. Building.

SCHOOL GARDENS: Shari Fitzgerald sent word that gardening will continue over the summer at the Fort Lewis Mesa school and she hopes to post work dates on the calendar board.

Jennifer Wheeling was pleased to announce that \$1300 became available for the developing garden at Animas Valley so she suggested some initial items that should be purchased with those funds. The plan is to have a class plant pumpkins or other items in the Spring, and then harvest them and distribute them to other classes in the Fall.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be Thursday 2 August 3:30-5:00 most likely at the 9R Admin Building — room to be confirmed.

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

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer