

FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 16 Oct 2007, 4:00-5:30 PM, 9R Admin Bldg

ATTENDING: Krista Garand, Jenny Wrenn, Beth LaShell, Zachary Ray, Darrin Parmenter, Katy Pepinsky, Julie Hudak, Linda Herz, Cindy Dvergsten, Jeanine Justice, Caroline Thompson, Holly Napier, Marje Cristol, Jason Cole, Jim Dyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Linda Herz is trying to connect with those caring for gardens in the 9R schools, and determining their needs.

Jason has been supplying broccoli, tomatoes, and apples recently to 9R.

Krista reported that Beth LaShell made a second trip to the San Luis Valley for potatoes for this week's Natl School Lunch Week. We are working to reduce Beth's gas bills in the future!

Cindy reported on the land use planning project she is doing with County Planning. The Land Use Net Benefit program is designed to explore the incentives that can be developed to help preserve ag land, production, and producers in the County. Several events are planned including a tour on 26 Oct. See her website at <http://www.landusenetbenefit.net/> for more details.

Jim reported on addressing the Colorado Hunger Summit in Denver last week where school breakfast was particularly emphasized. He also visited with the Colorado Dept of Agr and Rocky Mtn Farmers Union on Farm to School in Colorado.

There was a good article on FTS in the telegraph on 11 Oct. It can be found at: <http://durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/07-10-11/coverstory.htm>

CHILDREN'S HOUSE: Caroline Thompson, who is a chef and a parent at Children's House pre-school, joined us for help in sourcing as much local food as possible. This Montessori school prepares all lunches from scratch – 50 per day. They have storage and would consider a freezer. Jim directed Caroline to the Mesa Verde Guide on-line and suggested visiting with Krista. Any producers interested can contact Jim (jadyer@frontier.net 970-588-2292) who will coordinate with Caroline.

COLORADO PROUD MEAL: Krista reported that the 12 Sept Colorado Proud lunch at all 10 schools featured RAS potatoes at Sunnyside and San Luis Valley potatoes at all the other schools, along with Jason Cole's broccoli. Thanks to Beth for traveling to get the SLV potatoes.

FUTURE FOOD NEEDS: Krista is still looking for local products to add to the lunches this Fall, so please contact her:

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201 E. 12th Street

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(970) 247-5411 Ext. 1436
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ANNE COOPER: Krista and Julie joined a small group of invited FTS advocates to meet in Denver earlier this month with Chef Ann Cooper of Berkeley, CA schools. Krista recounted Ann's advice that a key to success of FTS is getting the school board to write conducive policies. The Berkeley program thoroughly integrates garden classes, cooking classes, and lunch. Both Julie and Krista were inspired by Ann's progress and determination.

SLOW FOOD DURANGO: Darrin reported on the Slow Food organizing picnic on 30 Sept at the James Ranch. About 30 people including Marje, Darrin, Jim, and the James family participated. After good food, the group discussed revival of the local convivium with a focus on healthy, local, and affordable food. Andrea Parmenter agreed to help coordinate the organizing effort. If you are interested in learning more and getting involved, contact Andrea at 970-799-0210 or awp9@q.com

FT LEWIS COLLEGE: Zack reported that the FLC garden is being prepared for winter, and that they are looking for weed-free straw (call the Env Center at 970-247-7091 if you have a source). Garden planning has commenced for next year, and they are meeting with Sodexo about getting local foods into the meals on campus. The FLC Hunger Banquet and discussion session is set for 13 Nov.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COALITION (HLC) FOOD COMMITTEE WORK: Katy reported that she and Julie will be attending the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" national conference in the Front Range next month, which should help guide us in developing the best "Buy Local Foods" campaign here. This will help the HLC pilot program with restaurants and stores to promote healthy local food choices. Jim has been meeting with the Sustainability Alliance, City officials, and others on developing a broad "Buy Local" effort that would encompass food as well as other goods and services.

Julie reported on the need for a logo for the restaurant project above. Contact Julie at hudjul24@evergreen.edu if you have ideas.

The Tour de Farms event on 22 Sept included about 30 participants biking to "urban agriculture" sites in Durango followed by a local lunch in the Smiley Garden. One hardy participant even completed the 5 miles on training wheels! Next year we plan a dual event: a short bike as this year as well as a much longer one to area farms. This event was designed to promote both healthy local food choices and active lifestyles, and was an idea originating locally with Katy.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday 5 Nov 3:30-5:00 at the 9R Admin Bldg Conference Room.

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

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer