

FOOD, AGR, & FARM TO SCHOOL MEETING, 26 Feb 2009, 3:30-5:00 PM
Needham Elementary

ATTENDING: Carla Mulkey, Judy Williams, Beth LaShell, Chris Paulson, Brian Petrie, Megan Jenks, Richard Dilworth, Jackie Ellis, Jenny Wrenn, Pam O'Donnell, Pat Crowell, Shari Fitzgerald, Linda Herz, Diana Wilkening, Jim Dyer

NEEDHAM UPDATE and TOUR: Carla and Judy gave us a tour of the indoor grow boxes in the solarium and the new outdoor garden being developed. Seven teachers have expressed interest in using the garden so far, and the plan is that nearby teachers will take care of it on two-week shifts during the summer. It was great to see the progress since our last Needham meeting about a year ago. Here is their report:

Notes on Needham Garden for FTS meeting, Thurs., Feb. 26

- . We have 8 beds composting right now. We worked with SW garden project to "lasagna" the beds.. cardboard, llama manure, straw
- . We are ordering supplies from Farm-Tek to build the beds. We have 2 work days scheduled with SW Garden project for Mar 17 & Mar 24 to build the beds and uncover our lasagna, add soil, etc.
- . We are in the process of planning beds with classes. So far ideas have been: kinder: rainbow garden first: sunflower house & herbs (Nora Stafford), squash and pumpkins (Mary LeClaire) second: salad garden (Alan Morris) third: three sisters garden fourth: worms -also Nora Stafford worms fifth: still planning
- . Seed starts will either be bought from FLM green house or donated from La Boca
- . Our plan is to have starts or start our own in classrooms by the second week in March.
- . When school delivers May day flowers we will attach invitations to community members for our garden ceremony on May 15
- . Plant the last week of school... with close watch by garden team for covering for the last frosts
- . Hopefully most food will be a late summer early fall harvest that can be used in school lunches, salad bard, Needham family cooking night, Needham farmers market, individual class lunches, etc. Early crops will be donated to safe house, homeless shelter, and other Needham families in need.

forwarded by Carla Mulkey/ written notes from Beth Saren

REPORTS: Chris Paulson described continuing discussions about a possible garden at the Riverview parcel.

Pam and Pat reported that the FLC Environmental Center is working on plans for Earth Week, 29 March-4 April. They are sheet mulching the new garden site as well.

Questions were raised about the school breakfast menus and salad bar availability for lower grades — Jim will relay these to Krista for discussion at a later meeting.

Beth announced that Barnyard Days will be at FLC on 17 April. Contact her if you would like to help: Beth Lashell Lashell_B@fortlewis.edu

Jim explained the Farm to School related sessions to be held at the SW Marketing Network Conference at the Doubletree in Durango on 6-8 April. The conference brochure and registration is online at: www.swmarketingnetwork.org

Jan Tuchscherer at Escalante forwarded this to Jim:

I wanted to put in my less- than- 2 -cents worth... while my program is a microscopic speck in purchasing needs vs. district-wide purchasing, I am interested in purchasing & continuing to use local foods for my Foods classes cooking labs and demonstrations. Next trimester (ie next week), I will begin 3 Foods classes, reaching approx. 75 students. Please share this info with whomever you feel would be most appropriate.

Thanks,
Jan Tuchscherer, Escalante Middle School
Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, jtuchsch@durango.k12.co.us

Shari directed people to the “Upcoming Events” including the Great Garden Give-away on The Garden Project’s new website at: <http://www.thegardenprojectswcolorado.org/>

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS MEETINGS: Food Service Directors from surrounding counties met on 3 Feb to discuss joint purchasing of local products, and then asked to meet with local producers on 24 Feb. Between the two meetings, schools represented included Ignacio, Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Bayfield, Srn Ute Academy, Pagosa, and Dolores. Several producers and processors joined them at the 24 Feb meeting. We will follow-up to better articulate product availability, seasonality, and school needs. These were very encouraging meetings indeed.

DONATION FOR PRODUCER VISITS TO CLASSROOMS: Healthy Community Food Systems accepted for the Farm to School program a \$1000 donation from Healthy Lifestyles La Plata (HLLP). This money is to be used to offer modest honoraria (in the order of \$50) to local producers visiting classrooms throughout La Plata County to talk about local agriculture and food.

We discussed selection parameters. Contact Jim if interested. HLLP will develop a list of potential speakers as part of the school tour list process and Linda Herz will get that to appropriate contacts in the schools. It was noted that many producers may be most interested in visiting their closest school.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is planned for 26 March from 3:30-5PM. We will notify you all when the location is firmed up.

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

We are also appending below the **Resources List** from the bottom of our meeting agenda. This list is updated on each new agenda with new resources as they become available.

Thanks to you all

Jim Dyer

Resources (newest items in bold)

- **SWMN Conference Registration Open, April 6-8, Durango**
www.swmarketingnetwork.org
- Fresh Ideas in the Lunchroom: Denver Post, 10/1/09:
http://www.denverpost.com/lifestyles/ci_10593581
- Herald's 22 Aug 2008 Editorial on Durango Farm to School: http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=opin&article_path=/opinion/opin080822_1.htm
- Herald's 21 Aug 2008 Good Earth article: http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=earth&article_path=/earth/08/earth080821_1.htm
- CitySpan show including FTS: <http://www.durangogov.org/cityspan10/tott/index.cfm>
- LA Times mention of Durango: http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-na-lunch23-2008jun23_0_3503416.story
- Mary Barter's 9 Apr 2008 article: http://durangoherald.com/asp-bin/article_generation.asp?article_type=edu&article_path=E:/sites/durangoherald.com/education/08/edu080409_2.htm
- Children's House article, 6 Feb 2008: http://www.durangoherald.com/asp-bin/printable_article_generation.asp?article_path=/food/food080206_1.htm
- 10/11/07 Telegraph article: <http://durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/07-10-11/coverstory.htm>
- 7/7/05 Article: <http://www.durangotelegraph.com/telegraph.php?inc=/05-07-07/coverstory.htm>
- 9R School Wellness Teams contact person: Linda Herz lherz@durango.k12.co.us
- National Farm to School Program: www.farmentoschool.org
- SWMN — Southwest Marketing Network: www.swmarketingnetwork.org
- Mesa Verde Guide to Local Food & Fiber: www.sustainableSWcolorado.org
- **ALL LOCAL FTS INFO** at Sustainability Alliance — SASCO:
www.sustainableSWcolorado.org

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