

Thurston Food System Council – Thurston Thrives Food Action Team – Asset Building Coalition	
Date/Time/Location	April 6, 2016 - 9:30am – 11:30am - TRPC
Document	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Chairs	Katie Rains and Aslan Meade (Co-chairs)
Note taker	Lesley Price, Secretary

1) Introductions & Announcements (*Announcements written on sign-in sheet are included in meeting minutes*)

1. Auvinen, Alyssa, Washington State Department of Health
2. Burns, Luke, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation
 - a. Still garden plots available at Sunrise Community Garden
olympiawa.gov/communitygardens
3. Davis, Liz, Community Coordinator Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council
4. Friedman, Rachel, Sustainable South Sound
 - a. Living Local – spring food/farming edition will be available in mid-April & we will be tabling at Artswalk
5. Johnson, Mary K, Corona Communications Marketing & Design
 - a. Graduating this year
 - b. Exciting projects I look forward to share end of Mg!
6. Jones, Judy, Thurston County Food Bank
 - a. Partnership with Tumwater Farmers Market and sponsorship by Twin Star Credit Union to provide vouchers to our clients
 - b. Summer lunch program will begin in June
7. Meade, Aslan, Economic Development Council
8. Moorehead, Sarah, Thurston Conservation District
 - a. Thurston Conservation District Farmer Workshops: 6pm – 8pm Apr. 11th – Impacts of Climate Change to Agriculture in Puget Sound; May 9th – Pasture Management @ Thurston CD office: 2918 Ferguson St. SW, Tumwater
9. Parkhurst, Karen, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council
10. Price, Lesley, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
11. Rains, Katie, GRuB/Non-profits/Youth Organization
 - a. Victory Farm kick-off on 4/2 was a huge success, subsequently learned that lease arrangement may not work for landowner
 - b. Hosting Rooted in Community Youth Leadership Summit
12. Rutledge, Ryan, Rutledge Corn Maze
13. Seppanen, Loretta, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, Slow Food Greater Olympia
 - a. Farm maps available, contact communityfarmlandtrust@gmail.com
14. Shannen, Marcella, GRuB
 - a. The GRuB Institute in May, raffle tickets for sale
 - b. Farm drop-in hours start Wed 2-6
15. Smith, Justin Griffis, WSU Extension Mason County

- a. Plan to submit proposal for research that links well-being and ecosystem services
16. Smith, Lisa, Enterprise for Equity, Food Related Entrepreneurship
 - a. Women in Agriculture
 - b. Agripreneur-Business trainings in progress
 - c. Scatter Creek Incubator Farm – 4 applicants 2016
 - d. Micro loans available for food producers
17. Visser, Cathy, Nutrition Director Senior Services for South Sound
18. Watford, Tanikka, Deep Roots Foods
19. Witt, Peter, Friends of the Olympia Farmers Market
 - a. Attend-participate TFSC when I can
20. Witten, Tara, WSU Thurston County Extension Food Sense Program
 - a. Will email Lesley details of upcoming events

2) Approval March TFSC & F.A.T. Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2016 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes.

3) Team Updates

- **Leadership Team**

N/A

- **Housekeeping Team**

The Housekeeping Team met a second time. There are no decisions to make at this time.

The Housekeeping Team continues to intend to include “South Sound” in the groups’ name, leaning towards ***South Sound Food System Network***.

A participant asked if there were other groups similar to ours with “network” in the name in Washington State; other participants provided examples of such groups.

The Housekeeping Team is also working on updating the mission and drafting operating norms – will have a proposal for group to review at the next meeting.

○ **Communications Team**

Will post new mission statement (when finalized) on website and social media.

Will need to change the domain name on website once name change is final.

A participant suggested we use the Thurston Thrives' website (has a food team page). Liz Davis stated that the Thurston Thrives website is Word Press and has drop box and calendar. They can give access to someone from our group to make updates.

Thurston Thrives also has Insight Vision (software for aggregating data).

○ **Legislative Team**

The legislators went home after the special session.

Karen will send out an updated tracker.

Karen asked that we brainstorm about things we want to educate the legislatures on next year.

○ **Zero Net Loss Team**

The Zero Net Loss event last November was about preserving farmland.

- Want to get more money for farmers.
- Goal is to keep farms as farmland forever.

Applying for a grant that is due May 10, 2016 re: farmland preservation or restoration. Need about 15 partners with monetary contributions, have most of those partners identified.

○ **Data & Reporting Team**

Data & Reporting Team met last week, and came up with 4 goals that answer "What are we trying to do?"

1) Update Thurston Thrives Food Strategy Map

For the past two years have provided a report that shows the complexity of partnerships, includes data that could be provided.

Each objective on the strategy map has a measure.

Some data was skewed because of small sample size.

2) Create report for 2015

In the past provided a template for each partner organization to fill out and submit for the report.

This year will send a form (Google link) to fill out.

Still want photos to be sent by organizations submitting data.

3) Build culture of information sharing

Will have value for jurisdictions.

Will have value for entrepreneurs.

Will have value for nonprofits.

4) Positive deviation

The current data report is inadequate to capture the collective food system data, because only have certain data available.

Want to be able to capture what people are doing that is valuable.

Want to identify the deficits/gaps and what we want to track (what we would rather have), and document it in the 2015 report.

Justin Smith is working on data collection system to share data. Everyone has different ways to obtain data. Justin is developing a way to aggregate data in a mobile app to

collect story/narrative data. Will be able to share data in a drop box. Want to extrapolate charts and infographics. A challenge is the amount of data to show significance (like drowning data, will be looking at getting data from news stories about drownings). Could pull out data to update the strategy map. Need to get the public involved in understanding and participating in data. Need to find what useful data to monitor is. Justin is also working on a consumer price index for local foods.

Ryan Rutledge discussed the recent availability of the USDA Economics of Local Food Systems, an online toolkit for communities to measure the economics of the food system. It can be used to capture data. A participant stated that this only measures the economic part of the food system, need to also evaluate non-economic parts of the food system.

4) Wrap-up Next Steps

To be distributed:

- USDA framework
- Whole Measures documents (used at the 2011 Food Summit)
- Nourish Food System Map (want to have at least one measure for each component of the nourish map)

Will have a report ready for review in September/October.

Food economy will be discussed at the next meeting.

5) Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: May 4, 2016, 9:30AM-11:30AM, TRPC