

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
May 1, 2013	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	TJ Johnson, Chair; Karen Parkhurst
Note taker:	Diane Grace and Sash Sunday <gracedd@earthlink.net>

AGENDA:

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL of MINUTES: April 3, 2013
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
- IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:
 - A. MEMBERSHIP
 - B. COMMUNICATIONS
 - C. NEIGHBORHOOD DISASTER FOOD RESILIENCE
- V. NEW PROPOSALS
- VI. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS
- VIII. NEXT MEETING: **June 5, 2013** at TRPC 3:00pm
Summer Meeting Dates: July 10th - August 7th - September 11th.

Attendance and Introductions:

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound; TFSC Chair

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council: Robert Coit's "Food 101 - Food and Waste" presentation has been **rescheduled for July 12**, due to a May 3rd Agenda change for Sustainable Thurston's meeting, which does not have a food theme.

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; SSCFT and TFSC Memberships:

All of the "Farm to Table" events are listed at <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/events/>.

Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties; Mason Conservation District; and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market

Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications and Website. Email events and announcements to tfsc0@yahoo.com.

Sarah Rocker, Staff Advisor for TESC's Flaming Eggplant; West Olympia Farmers Market; "South Sound Local Farms, Local Markets" Assessment with Lucas of WSU Extension. Sarah will be presenting at the Rachael Carson Forum.

Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut, TFSC Co-Chair

Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, TFSC Secretary gracedd@earthlink.net

Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market, Buy Local Program at

Sustainable South Sound. Representing **Bank Local Washington**, see new website.

Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator: Sustainability and Social Justice Dining Coordinator at TESC; clarifying contract language with Aramark; providing TFSC Communication Team with Web site support.

ABSENT:

Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County
Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market and Kiwanis Garden Projects
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity

VISITORS:

Brent Chapman, Horticulture Technology Instructor at SPSCC.

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES: April 3, 2013 (- Diane Grace)

Updates submitted for the initial distribution of April 3rd Minutes:

- Detail was provided for visitor Laurel Smith's announcements.
- Correction for March 6 and April 3 Minutes, for Zachary Fleig's affiliation: Evergreen's "**Division**" (not "Office") of Student Affairs.
- July 12th Table for Olympia Community potluck is **cancelled for now**, as it will **not** be sponsored through the downtown association.

Other updates submitted for the April 3rd minutes were considered unsubstantive. Due to numerous edits, Diane recommended "re-distribution" of the April 3 Minutes.

The Secretary need only note substantive changes henceforth. Non-content edits can be resolved directly with Communications Team.

Please e-mail "**content, details and edits**" directly to Diane at gracedd@earthlink.net . Content received by **2:00pm Thursday** can be included in initial Draft Minutes. For August meeting, Sash will serve as Alternate Secretary, in Diane's absence.

TFSC Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2013 were motioned, seconded and approved for posting.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Brent Chapman, SPSCC Instructor: The 40-year old "**Horticulture Technology**" Program at South Puget Sound Community College started a new 1-year certificate program last Fall, 2012. "**Sustainable Food Production**" is one of four subsets in the 2-year program, and there is a great need for training. The program includes sustainability, industry trends, holistic production, usage and value added. Their Industry Advisory Committee is looking for **internship sites**, networking connections, community **guest speakers, field trips, potential employers** and making connections for their students. "How to Grow and Cook", a Culinary class, will be offered this summer, 2013.

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:

A. MEMBERSHIP (- Loretta Seppanen)

TFSC now has 15 of “20 Members at the Table”. Representation is still missing in 5 “Sectors”. One does not need to be a council member to volunteer on a WIT.

- **Tribal Members**
- **Food Distributors**
- **Full-Time Farmers**
- **Fish / Shellfish**
- **Grocers / Owners**

Prospective members from these sectors will be invited to a TFSC meeting to give a 15-minute presentation about the food system from their perspective. Follow-up will include: some invitations for membership, or to help us find a sector liaison; an invitation to join a WIT; our welcome to come again. They might stay or not.

As there are **three Tribes in the area**, two guests will attend TFSC’s **June 5th** meeting and present for 10-minutes each, plus time for discussion, to help us connect to a Tribal perspective:

Elise Krohn, Tribal Food Sovereignty and Wild Foods Educator: contributor and speaker with “Our Food, Our Right” (book and event April 19th at Traditions Café). Elise will talk about the work that has been happening, or offer recommendations.

Kim Gridley, Nisqually Tribe Salmon Recovery Coordinator and Restoration Biologist: working with salmon fisheries and habitat.

Regarding Grocers: On May 15th, Public Health’s “Thurston Thrives” has Outreach on the Agenda, including businesses in the area. Grocers Wal-Mart, Safeway, and Stormans might come. Robert Coit is leading this. TFSC should stay involved and connect with the Local Food Panel and others.

B. COMMUNICATIONS (- Lesley Wigen, Zachary Fleig)

The Communications WIT has not yet had an official meeting. The website has been updated with the logo (the quality of appearance is still being worked on). The **Google Calendar** is working.

There are two working drafts of the Communications Strategic Plan, which is still pending, with a lot of possible channels. Who has the time and passion to move this forward? Announce “seeking a volunteer” for this, and include it in the Strategic Plan.

The **Facebook** page will be up tonight and will link Calendar and Events with Facebook. To post **Events and Announcements**, please send edited version to ffsc0@yahoo.com. For **Resources**, go to <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/links-and-resources>

The Meeting **Minutes** are being distributed through the **members list** at ffsc0@yahoo.com ; a “members email address” does not yet exist. The Google-group is pending.

Peter created a **Drop Box** Account with the **PowerPoint** presentation. This can be turned into a Google document.

Suggestion: **Add a “WHAT’S NEW” tab** on the website? (Positive response.)

There is an Intern Database at TESC, which goes out to current students and recent graduates, with lots of interest in food issues. We could post for volunteers on this Community Opportunities Database (CODA).

C. “NEIGHBORHOOD DISASTER FOOD RESILIENCE” (-Diane Grace)

Diane finished the project “content”, and asked who to send it to for approval? (A “highlighted changes” copy was sent to Lisa Smith, Project Criterion Team, on April 27, 2013; Lisa is currently out of town.)

We create the WITs, the WITs report back, and then the council approves the actions of the WIT. Council member votes requested for the June 5th meeting include:

- **“Is there consensus to upload this project onto the TFSC website?”** “Under Links & Resources?” This would provide the method of distribution.
- **“Is there consensus to add the Logo on to the Template”?**
- **“Shall an exact web address be assigned to the Template”**, or should email promotion direct people “to the Home page”, or “to the Links & Resources” page?

Zach will email the Finished Template to everyone on the member list for review and comment. Please email any comments to Diane at gracedd@earthlink.net. (Diane will track and highlight any changes).

This project fits in with Emergency Management’s “Building and Strengthening Disaster Readiness among Neighbors: Map your Neighborhood” publication (on the “Skills page”).

Question of Process: If one is not on the WIT and familiar with the project, is it appropriate to offer changes? Or simply vote “yes or no”, and WIT members make all the changes?

Suggestion that “*Created by*” Diane Grace be added to Reference [6] to denote authorship. Contact info? (She has minimal technology access.) Should email responses to the Template be received via tfsc0@yahoo.com and sent to Diane?

V. NEW PROPOSALS

(1) Farmers Markets can give **“double market value” credit via EBT** if the Markets are members of the **“Washington State Farmers Market Association” fund**. This model is very effective around the country, with grants allowed by Federal Law. Local funders (such as hospitals, counties, large employers) **pay 50% of the market value** purchased with EBT cards. Seattle Farmers Market Association does this, sponsored by Chase Bank. Olympia and Yelm FM’s are participating, through State level membership. Are we a member of the State’s FM Association?
{“Kayla / Kaleb”} is establishing a Regional association.} (?)

What are the eligibilities, studies and impacts? “Studies show a dramatic increase in vegetable intake [2:1] even after households lose the benefit of eligibility.

Katie has EBT for the GRuB Farm Stand. Relationships are needed with the funder. Sarah will seed this idea to the West Olympia’s Farmers Market, which is getting EBT.

This could be a WIT. “Do the farmers markets want this”? TFSC could seek local funder(s) to pay the 50% benefit for Thurston County’s farmers markets. Perhaps Earth Friendly Products, State Farm Insurance, Providence Hospital or others? Continue to explore this. (More volunteers and energy would be needed to pursue this.)

(2) Create a “Future Events WIT” to explore whether or not we should organize events, like the Oct. 24th Food Day; participation in the May 10th “Food Revolution”, hold another Food Summit (in process)?

We could pick an initial meeting date and send out an email “blast” to EVERYONE, inviting them to show up if they want event(s) to happen and will help to plan them. Send this to the Sustainable Thurston list; the Food Summit list (with 500 contacts) and TFSC’s “Interested” roster. Post a TFSC website **“Wish list: Volunteers”**.

Leadership? SSS will set up a meeting date. If there is sufficient interest, then a new WIT can be created. See further discussion under (3).

(3) “Table for Olympia” - Community potluck will **not be sponsored** this year through the Downtown Association. It’s been held for 4 years, **let’s keep this going!** The 2012 budget was about **\$3,500** so money is needed. TJ will manage the Facebook page, **if others will work to plan the event.** SSS is interested; Mixx96 will support; TFSC? This could be a good marketing tool for the Food System Council. The banners, placemats and coasters have no date printed on them, so any date can be selected, May through October. For this giant community potluck, we close down the streets, people bring food and we all share. It is awesome. (More volunteer energy is needed.)

We could rotate location county-wide, “Rochester”?

How do we **capitalize on Events to attain council goals?** Consider the **value** of investment for the impact attained: “\$3,500 for 1-night”? Examples to consider: the Food Summit “Network Tabling”, May 10th Network Tabling, or Local Business Expos?

A survey could inform the work that we do. Food Council members could wear identifying buttons saying **“Tell us”**. TFSC Members can **lead, so that others can follow**. To make an impact, we need 500 (participants).

(4) Loss of Farmland: Acknowledging the work of existing Land Trusts, **should we form a WIT to look at the broader political strategy surrounding farmland preservation?** “How do we reach our mission if we are losing farmland?” There is deep concern. Farmland preservation seems to be a key piece of this council’s mission.

Erik Hagen is working on this topic in Mason County. With grant funding to develop a **Thurston Conservation Farmland Inventory**, Erik is initiating projects to include asset mapping, production potential, promotion of planning and zoning. The “soil survey” is currently looking at certain soil types only (Prime Ag). Asset map looks at “is it viable” for potential purchase.

There is a lot of additional “non-Ag-classified” land. There are gaps between the needs and the production possibility, Open Space and fallow. Statewide, Farm Link is not active in the South Sound. (More information will be forthcoming.) Erik will present to the State Ag Advisory Committee at the end of May.

American Farmland Trust’s website map shows recommendations and potential (+/-) for each county. See their 2011 survey, taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture: <http://communityfarmlandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/thurston-county-farmland-inventory1.pdf>

The Willamette Valley Analysis is 3-years old, and includes typical farms, Economic Development, training for new farmers, etc.

The **Sustainable Thurston Action Plan** asks, “**What does it take**”? The elected officials are quite interested. TFSC should weigh in on this.

(5) “Legislative & Regulatory Update: Agriculture Committee” (- Karen Parkhurst will lead, and seeks volunteers.) Food issues reach across the isle, both East and West statewide. What are the updates? What is getting in our way? What passed, or didn’t pass? The Farm Bill is up again, and everything is still in play.

In July (after the session is done) invite the Legislators to Food Council meetings and events; inform them. Help them understand, “what do we want them to see”? Karen will **present an update at June 5th TFSC meeting**. This may become a WIT later.

VI. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Brent Chapman, SPSCC: “Great!”

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

DISCUSSION: TJ and Sarah attended the **American Farmland Trust Conference** in Seattle last week. **Current Trends: “2042: Last Acre of Farmland in Puget Sound area”**. Many city and regional planners were there with a few farmers. Pierce, King, Snohomish, and Skagit Counties: We should connect with these regions. The plan from Montpelier, VT is THOROUGH and 1,000 pages long. What is our dream “food plan” for Thurston County? **The Action Plan WIT is coming.** Other regions are far ahead; some have state plans. Mark Winney is working on grant-funded Resource Development for food policy and food system councils. We should follow-up on this, and be on the Food Policy Council Listserv. Does someone want to follow this?

RESOURCES are a key issue. Vermont spent \$750K plus \$500K per year to do this plan. Where do we secure resources? Can we find an alternative?

Thurston County and Olympia's Market are ideally located regionally, with cross-county borders with Lewis, Mason and Grays Harbor.

“LION” model: There is a **Slow Money Conference** this week. Bring capital “in”; local exchanges; equity in farms (“shares”). TFSC could “encourage” these activities.

Aslan is working to expand locally-owned businesses. He is putting together a “Boot Camp” with EDC for late-summer, and seeking Businesses with strong track-records (of business loan repayment) as “poster children”.

MAY 3: GRuB New Site Visit (1.8 Acres, funding from SSCFT/Conservation Futures).

MAY 4: Co-opatopia Saturday 1pm-6pm at St. Martins Pavilion, with 25 Co-ops (30% to 50% of them are food-related). In 2014, this annual event will focus on the intersection of specific Food Systems, the Regional Co-op Economy and “Bank Local”.

MAY 8 – 10: “SYNERGY” Sustainable Living at TESC. Zachary will email the details.

May 8: “Real Food Challenge” 1-3pm with Emma Brewster presenting a “third party assessment for college campus food systems”. Aramark has a new 9-year contract.

May 9th Farm Worker Justice Panel, with Keynote Speakers Rosalinda Guin {sp?} and Jose Gomez; also Mijas (Mujeres Improving Jobs and Security for Women).

5pm: TESC Faculty, Peter Dorman, on Carbon Cycling;

6pm: TESC Faculty, Zoltan Grossman, on “Fracking vs. Climate”; and Food Justice.

May 10: Rachel Carson Environmental Forum: Expo 5-6pm; Forum Panel 6-8pm with Sarah Rucker, TJ Johnson, Stephen Buxbaum, Blue Peetz, at the TESC Longhouse.

June 1 at 10:30am Alumni Event at TESC's Flaming Eggplant: “Food and Ag Panel” formed by Graduates of the Flaming Eggplant, who now work at Co-operatives or have jobs in food businesses.

June 1: Sash Sunday will do a Kraut Workshop.

June 6th: GRuBuation (see the website); open to the public. Starting this summer GRuB will have 2 sites and 2 crews, including Muirhead Farm.

{ ? May 4, Sat?} **CCBLA** / Coalition for Community Based Learning and Action's “Outdoor Education”: They will **build a school garden at Madison Elementary**, to grow food for the Thurston County Food Bank, **12:30pm – 5pm**.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, JUNE 5, 2013 at TRPC at 3:00pm
plus MEMBERSHIP meeting at 2:00pm**

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE: July 10 - August 7 - September 11.

TFSC, JUNE 5th: Karen Parkhurst will report on the **Legislative Session**.

TFSC, JULY 10th: Sarah Rucker will report on the **“South Sound Local Farms, Local Markets” Assessment** that she is working on with Lucas and WSU Extension.

- Lesley will post this on the website, and send Outreach Announcements for the dates and presentations.
- “Table Tents” naming Food Council members will be made for meetings.