

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
October 2, 2013	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	TJ Johnson, Chair
Note taker:	Diane Grace <gracedd@earthlink.net>

AGENDA:

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (10 min.)
- II. APPROVAL of MINUTES: September 11, 2013 (5 min.)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (10 min.)
- IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:
 - A. MEMBERSHIP (15 min.)
 - a. 2014 Membership
 - b. 2014 Leadership
 - B. COMMUNICATIONS (10 min.)
- V. FOOD DAY OCTOBER 24th – Status Report (10 min.)
- VI. 2014 WORKPLAN PRIORITIES (20 min.)
- VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- VIII. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (15 min.)
- IX. NEXT MEETING: **November 6th, 2013** at TRPC 3:00pm
Date changes: December 11th, 2013 and January 8, 2014

Attendance and Introductions:

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound; TFSC Chair
Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications
Sarah Rocker, Staff Advisor for TESC’s Flaming Eggplant; West Olympia Farmers Market, and “South Sound Local Farms, Local Markets” Assessment
Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity
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 representing Bank Local Washington and West Olympia Farmers Market
Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market and Kiwanis Garden Projects
Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; SSCFT and TFSC Memberships:
Eric Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties, Mason Conservation District, and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market.
Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator: Sustainability and Social Justice Dining Coordinator; TFSC Communication Team Web support.

ABSENT:

Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County
Heather Sundean, Produce Manager for the **Thurston County Food Bank** and
Satellite Liaison with Hunger Relief Organizations

VISITORS:

Sarah Moorehead, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Thurston Conservation District smoorehead@thurstoncd.com: Available to help TFSC with volunteer outreach.

Rachel Floyd, with AmeriCorps Food Justice, CYS/Center for Youth Services and Thurston County Food Bank “School Gardens” has an **Oct. 24th Food Day** plan (and is attending for Heather Sundean).

[Introductions omitted as “just members” were present; Visitor introductions upon arrival.]

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES: September 11, 2013 (- Diane Grace)

Changes to initial draft:

- Erik Hagan < erikhagan@wsu.edu > Cultivating Success will be held at **SPSCC**.
- Sarah Rocker’s follow-up **Assessment Recap** is rescheduled from <November> to **December 9th**.
- Karen Parkhurst confirmed Sustainable Thurston’s “1st reading” of the Local Food Systems **Matrix** will be **November 1st**, with “adoption” **December 6th, 8:30am**.

September 11th TFSC Meeting Minutes were motioned for approval with changes, 2nd, passed, and forwarded to Lesley for upload to the website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Rachel Floyd, AmeriCorps Food Justice and Thurston County Food Bank “School Gardens” will be hosting “Spinach Planting” and “making Green Smoothies” with local ingredients, for **Oct. 24th Food Day** at Lincoln Elementary. **Heather Sundean, TCFB** may do an Ingredient Demonstration at Capital and/or Olympia High Schools.

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:

A. MEMBERSHIP (- Katie Rains)

The Membership Team is assessing a preliminary process for 2014 TFSC membership. Many 2013 members have not yet filled out the Membership Application form. *(Please do this soon.)*

A summary document of the 2013 membership applications “received” was distributed.

An informal sign-up sheet was circulated for **2014 one- or two-year commitments** (to “stagger” transitions in membership). “Let us know where you are on this”; confirm your sector, council position and list any WIT Team that you have served on. How do you wish to serve in 2014? Who is your alternate?” The membership team will do additional recruitment based on remaining sector needs. **Members are asked to hold one leadership position and/or serve on one WIT during the year.**

- Clarkson County includes, “Must be a resident of the County”.
DISCUSSION: Some “county-overlapping” relationships are currently established with TFSC:
 - **Tribal** contacts (Squaxin Island and Skokomish, for example) are scheduled to present at upcoming meetings.
 - **Fishing/Shellfish remains an unrepresented sector.**
Taylor Shellfish (presenting next month) is located outside of Thurston County. (Regarding membership, it was mentioned that “environmentalists are against their unsustainable geoduck farming”).
- **“Required meeting attendance at 75% of meetings (9 of 12) per year”.**
Current guideline states that by missing 3 consecutive meetings, a member will be replaced (to assure participation and quorum for votes). Membership Team will monitor for attendance.
- Membership team requests **flexibility to increase seats at the table between 15 ~ 21 to accommodate expanding roles.** (For example, interface with Sustainable Thurston was mentioned.)
- DISCUSSION: **Should WIT Teams be “limited to 2 sitting Food Council Members” and supplemented with other volunteers, in order to distribute council members among a greater number of project WIT teams?** The concept of “administration” versus “action” was mentioned. (20 members on 10 teams?) **“Limited to 3 Food Council Members”** seemed more palpable. This will be considered.
- We need an **“Action Plan” first.**
- Patrick Suther, Evergreen MEB Graduate Student, has applied for membership. As Zachary Fleig is already a Food Council member, perhaps he would represent TESC/The Evergreen State College?

A **3rd WIT, “LEADERSHIP”**, was motioned, 2nd and approved for creation, including the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary with a request to report at monthly meetings.

Should the Food Council schedule a “field trip” to the Squaxin Island Museum?

Work schedules do not support holding a meeting there (for 3 members), with carpooling from TRPC at 2:00pm, and allowing 20-minutes of driving time and 20+ minutes to explore the exhibit before the 3:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday TFSC Monthly Meeting. Loretta distributed information (mentioned below), and will research and suggest potential Wednesday-Thursday-Friday dates (during the first 3 weeks of the month) before the Museum closes for Christmas Week. Look for an “on-line poll” to select the date, which will be listed on website:

Revitalization of Local Native Food Traditions: The Burke Museum is circulating a (small) new exhibit and video, currently at the **Squaxin Island Museum**, titled **“Salish Bounty: Traditional Native Foods of Puget Sound”** highlighting **280 plants and animals of the traditional coastal Salish cuisine**, with a local perspective of **21st Century food issues**.

B. COMMUNICATIONS (- Lesley Wigen, Peter Witt, Zachary Fleig)
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The Strategy has been published. Regarding the long-term website plan, the team has not been able to schedule a meeting yet. Peter had researched a PowerPoint and PDF presentation suggesting that “3 full-time people are needed. The Communications team has several questions to answer:

- What is our **Content Management Strategy?** There seems to be the need to hire a Manager, as we need “experience”, an Expert. This is complex. We are all volunteering “over our head”.
 - **Wordpress requires an HTML Programmer** to make sense of it.
 - **What is our Brand?**

 - Is the primary purpose of our communication (website) for:
 1. **“Internal business, for council member use”:**
 - Agenda
 - Minutes
 - *[This is ‘fine’; we can continue ‘limping along’.]*--OR--
 2. **Broader Community Outreach**
 - Communication about our Food System
 - List all county gardens; processes, etc.
- “Which one are we working on (#1 or #2)?”**

DISCUSSION: For **2014: “Build the Strategy + “Need \$ Resources for professional Management” + “Search for Funding”.**

- **Create Food Council Action Plan + Budget**
- Post a list of our members
- Gather outside input / specialists / explore the price of “Expertise”.
- Seek volunteers (Scott Bishop?) to make recommendations. **Create a Plan.**
- Funding? **“Community Sustaining Fund” offers up to \$1,000 / quarterly** for outreach and seeking funding, with a 1-page application (Google for the address). With a small grant, we could:
 - Articulate our priorities
 - Craft a budget
 - ...in order to build out **(#2) Broader Community Outreach.**

- **Zach Fleig** can work on a **“Visual Hub”** with Sarah Rucker, and can submit “gardens” and “agencies”, as well as broaden and deepen (website content). He can host it; content can be emailed to Communications Team.

[Related discussion continues under **“VI. 2014 Workplan Priorities”** below.]

To post **Events and Announcements**, please send edited version to Lesley Wigen at tfsc0@yahoo.com. For **Resources**, go to <http://thurstonfoodcouncil.org/links-and-resources>. The Meeting **Minutes** are distributed via the **members list** via tfsc0@yahoo.com.

V. OCT. 24th NATIONAL FOOD DAY – Status Report (- TJ, Karen Parkhurst)

Effort was made to “get Oct. 24th onto the agenda” with the County Commissioners; dates still unknown. In reality, it is “too late” to start the process of a Proclamation. We could make a 3-minute Comment announcement at a meeting (...or “have Food Day Streakers run through the meeting”...). **Recommend starting the process in January for OCT 24 Food Day 2014.**

Karen Parkhurst mentioned {... failed to give any Resolution to School Board; Rick Anderson, Athena Group...} *Notes incomplete, please clarify?*

Rachel Floyd with the **Food Bank** shared her **OCT. 24 Food Day program** (see **Public Communication, Section III**, above).

Sash Sunday was working on an **Oct. 24 Food Day flyer** with sample text; the logo was not attaching to the Co-op’s Local Food Committee’s email, for inclusion.

- Eating out: Serve Local. Look for **Local Eats decal**, “**Ask me what’s local today**”. All farmers and processors have access to the decal; they are dated annually. “**It makes people think**”. “**Ask!**” It’s a good thing for customers to do.
- Kim Langston of Olympia Food Co-op has been invited to present at TFSC in January, 2014.

Trudi Inslee, the wife of Governor Jay Inslee, will be the host of a **10/24 Food Day** event at **GRuB**. The youth will help; Katie Rains will “give a plug for 10/24 and TFSC”.

“**EVENTS**” **WIT recommended** to plan council endorsed events ‘every-other month’.

VI. 2014 WORKPLAN PRIORITIES (-TJ Johnson)

(1) TFSC 2014: During our September meeting, we reviewed the **Sustainable Thurston Action Matrix**. Do we need a **Comprehensive Food System Action Plan**?

A great draft letter was submitted to Sustainable Thurston’s Food Council (9/23/13) requesting resources and suggesting, “Let’s converse and plan”. (This was greeted with subtle smiles and stunned silence; “not disinterest”). Note that this is the end of a three-year process for them, and Food is just one of many focus areas. Two of their members asked to come to TFSC meetings.

“The stars are aligned!” FOOD is at its highest priority since before the Food Summit. There is traction to leverage a Food System Plan!

What is “It”? We need to define this, it is up to us. Priorities are both inside and outside of the Matrix. Let’s flush this out during the next few meetings.

(2) 2014:

- “**EVENTS**”
- “**COMMUNICATION**”
- “**2014 ACTION PLAN**”: Include many pieces, Thurston Thrives, etc.
 - “No Resources” is TFSC’s basis for seeking funding. We even need money to start with Volunteers.

- What is our Key Strength? Traction? Actual Working Strategy? Coalescence? Let's play a strategic role. Do not try to do things which we are not the best body to do.
- **“FUNDING & BUDGET”:**
 - In November, some budget money +/- “may or may not” continue; the current budget ends in December 2013. Some TRPC \$ remains, some for Sustainable Thurston, some for Food Systems Work; +/- \$10,000 for year 2014.
 - **Ideal for USDA / EDC Partnership funding, with DOH, WSU, TRPC = GRANT! Develop strategic lead, develop clear deliverables; include staff, funding, engage the public.**
 - KP: South County Grant {?}
 - **Who is missing at TFSC? Can a WIT represent them?**
 - Staff time = funding to this project, not collaborated.

DISCUSSION on **development of an Action Plan**: [Note: Read TJ's letter.] Discussion explored “Stakeholders / Jurisdictions”, with strong recommendation for “grass-roots driven” = “owned by community from the ground-up”, in comparison with “agency-driven = outcome owned by their resources' imprint”.

- TFSC as “Conveners”: We pulled the conveners together to build (the Food Summit and) this council; Importance of a convener to coordinate partnerships, with the document output representing US, the grassroots. If a funding source manages the grant, then they get the credit. {m.o.u.??}
- Why seek Funding? Let us just do it. Could we use the same format as in 2013, for 2014, focusing council meetings on member creation of the Food Council Action Plan (and using website for internal member business, Communications option #1, above).
- Is our passion sufficient, with missing sectors, organizations and resources? Recommendation to bring in organizational support (“missing sectors, jurisdiction support and various organizations”) for a solid structure.
- **(a) Development of a Community Food Action Plan in 2014 is #1 Priority.**
(b) Continue to keep TFSC (Food Council) going.
(c) Write Grant: Katie Rains of GRuB offered to co-chair the WIT / Working Issue Team for this. She is prepared to help prepare the process, build coalition, prepare resume and do the work to get the funding. Anyone from the council can participate in this dual function: “TFSC + Organization”. What other leadership is needed? Engage the community. **This could be published in 1-year.**
 - **Who would be the Fiscal Sponsor?** (“Who would write the grant?”)
 - **“Plug holes” and get community engagement.** We require resources.

Lesley suggested that since Katie is Vice Chair of **Thurston Thrives** (attended also by TJ and KP), a Food Strategy could **use the outline** of their “All Health of Thurston County” format, referring to the “blue version Section 2 Objectives in the Logic Model”, “Community Food Action Plan”. It can overlap with existing groups/work.

- Lisa Smith is on **4 different food coalitions**, each with a different focus as well as common spokes. “Poverty” is where they come together.
- **Inside TFSC + Outside groups.** If TFSC is the Hub, we must cross with these other agencies: Thurston Thrives, Sustainable Thurston and Food Asset Building Coalition = pull together. TFSC can fill the role to build a unique grass-

- roots coalition with Rotary, civic, church, gardeners, pulling from strengths and ideas. < Not including policy or government >.
- **TFSC as a Resource Home, TFSC Umbrella:** robust website; identify all campaigns; calendar, **FOOD SUMMIT documents (visions and actions identified)**; TESC/Evergreen Food Guide. All in context with us.
 - **Re-invigorate the Food Summit!**
 - **2014 Priority: “Develop Visual Resource Hub on-line, on TFSC website”.**
 - **Additionally: “Community Engagement WIT”** with Thurston Thrives, Sustainable Thurston updates. Diane Grace may be interested in this (to be advised).
- Talk – think – bring forth. Let’s repeat this discussion at **November** meeting, examine, and **lay down the proposals. Make decisions in December.** Hit the ground running in January, 2014. **Everyone come prepared with specific proposals / priorities / WITs.**
- **Can 10 of us come up with \$10,000 Grants?**
 - Let’s put links to existing food council action plans and models up on the website (i.e. those presented at TFSC by Peter Witt at January 9th meeting). How do they present the issues, and who was involved?
 - Multnomah (Suzanne Briggs spoke at Food Summit). “You said you wanted this in the plan – Now will you sign on to it?” Their food council tracks this.
 - Vancouver, B.C.
 - City of Seattle
 - Oakland, CA
 - Vermont; “executive”.
 - Tribal?
 - **Karen Parkhurst wants a Legislative WIT.**

VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

No comments at this time.

Sarah Moorehead, Education & Outreach Coordinator for Thurston Conservation District is partnering with Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for the “**Thurston County Fallow Land**” program to **find affordable land to lease to new farmers**; to provide **education on easements** (as a part of their mission to farmers); and to provide **transitional planning for retiring farmers**. Through Jeff Swotek, the **Sentinel Lands Grant will apply for funding IF there is a solid commitment for locally matched funds. Thurston County is one of the pilot sites.** smoorehead@thurstoncd.com.

VIII. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

September 12: The **American Farmland Trust, together with SSCFT, Nisqually and Capitol Land Trusts**, are holding an event at TRPC, to discuss the future 2015 opportunity (October 2014) to increase the money for easements on farm property. Loretta, Erik, TJ and Lucas are involved.

The value of Agricultural land fluctuates up and down with the economy; the land cannot be developed until sold; the farmer gets money now and the land stays in Ag. All three land trusts want this.

There is **land** next to the military base, **protecting 5 animals** (gopher, lark, butterfly, etc.) and the military does not want to be alone on this; encouraging ranching and agriculture to join in, to keep the program and funding alive. DOD/Department of Defense + Ag = funding for Thurston County, **50 / 50 in matched funds**.

The “**Sentinel Landscapes Project**” pays for farm easements, and increases habitat for species and farm animals. Ok for conservation land. **Jeff Swotek of NRCS/National Resource Conservation Services** is involved. There is **local money, doubled with NRCS funds**, for “**Agricultural Conservation Easements**”, specific to prairie habitats, special targeted soil types and also row crops. **Education!**

This is related to one of Sustainable Thurston’s plans and strategy.

October 4, Friday 8:30am: “FOOD 101” at TRPC with 3 Producers and panel. Sash Sunday of OlyKraut, Selma of Flying Cow Creamery, Tracy of Heritage Meats (and one more) will discuss “What regulations get in the way?”

October 7: Sustainable Thurston Task Force Hearing and Public Comment (which closes 10/3/13). They have added **Food Trucks** and **Commercial Kitchens**; and Thurston Thrives and Robert Coit’s input.

October 12: Black Lake Grange “Fall Festival, Open House & Cider Pressing”, 12 – 5pm, featuring info on the **Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association** and **Olympia Beekeepers Association** plus Ag info; 6011 Black Lake Blvd. in Olympia.

October 13: Tickets for GRuB’s Alderbrook Manor Fundraiser sold out during early-bird ticketing, for 157 people.

October 15, 4-7pm: West Olympia Farmers Market; last day of 2013 season, at Gloria Dei parking lot.

October 29, Tuesday, 7pm: Confirmed: Philip Ackerman-Leist, author of “*Rebuilding the Foodshed: Remapping our Expectations for Food We Share*” offering a practical Lecture, open and free to all. Sustainable South Sound will pick-up the space reservation as fiscal sponsor. TJ Johnson will introduce him “and plug TFSC”.

Site is to be advised: downtown with easy transit access. Help PROMOTE! Details will be emailed out next week. Encourage Sustainable Thurston to attend. Can anyone create an email invite promotion to go out?

Zach Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition: “Lot’s of eager young energetic volunteers are available” to help glean at farms, and **help with events like Oct. 24 Food Day!**

The **TESC Food Bank** is going strong with 80 participants, Tuesdays 4-6pm. They are **seeking a Cooler** (- Does anyone have any leads? Maytown referral?). How to offer fresh produce in the future? **Community Forums** are coming up; he will share.

November (date to be advised): “**Local Investing Night**”, per Sash Sunday

November 1st: “First Reading”, Sustainable Thurston’s Matrix Plan, 8:30am TRPC.

November 6: Local Investing is building momentum! Join Jaime Heinricher of Sherwood Press and Active Source Capital {?}, Slow Money and Rooted-In, who are

committed to the food & farming industry, to learn what's out there. They still need a site; Aslan Meade will send out details next week.

November 7: Kim Gaffe has returned from sabbatical to GRuB, and is one of 6 “**Women of Achievement**” being **honored** at the YWCA Fundraiser; \$80 per person. Welcome Kim back at < kim@goodgrub.org >

December 6: “Adoption” of Sustainable Thurston’s Matrix Plan, 8:30am TRPC. Grant money ends. **Each jurisdiction will sign a pledge to implement.**

December 9: Sarah Rocker’s follow-up **Recap** of the **South Sound “Local Farms, Local Markets” Assessment**. (Time and site are “to be advised”.)

December 9, Monday: Farmer-Chef-Buyer Event with USDA resource partners, WSU Extension, Enterprise for Equity, Cascade Fresh and others for networking (and the end of the grant) **1:00-5:00pm**. **Suggestion that TFSC should have a banner there!** \$10 per person, held at Expo Center at Thurston County Fairgrounds.

WSU “Pollinator Habitat in Thurston County at Community Garden Sites”: A Graduate Student will be researching this, to support habitat.

Lesley Wigen: There is a “**Student Health Advisory**” developing in Tumwater.

Lisa Smith: With the sale of the Governor Hotel, **Enterprise for Equity** is **searching for local kitchen sites which are approved as commissary**, for use by the six E4E Entrepreneurs who worked from Governor’s commercial kitchen: a low cost, perfect partner site. There are 13 “food-based” E4E students needing space. Lisa **visited 18 local sites** – and there are simply **not enough appropriate sites** for their use. The Olympia Center site is not approved as commissary. She is temporarily working with The City of Olympia searching for more sites. **New Agripreneur training program begins in November and December.**

Treacy Kreger has replaced Fred Coleman in the position of **Thurston County Board of Supervisors**.

Does TFSC endorse “**Initiative 522 – Label Genetically Engineered Foods**”? “It’s a longer discussion; **bring it up at November meeting**”.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 6, 2013 at TRPC at 3:00pm

Upcoming MEETING SCHEDULE: *Date Change:* December 11, 2013.

2014 Priorities:

- **November: Come prepared with specific proposals / priorities / WITs.**
- **December: Make decisions.**
- Hit the ground running in January, 2014.

November: Charlene Krise of Squaxin Island Tribe is scheduled to present, along with Taylor Shellfish. (Sarah Rocker and Erik Hagan will be out of town.)

December: Winter Strong of the Skokomish Tribe might present; Also Sarah Rucker's follow-up recap of the "**South Sound Local Farms, Local Markets**" **Assessment**.