

<b>TFSC / Thurston Food System Council</b>	
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup> 2014	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC First Wednesday of the Month
Meeting	<b>Monthly Meeting Minutes</b>
Facilitator	Chair
Note taker:	

**AGENDA:**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS and Key project of organization (10-15 min. 1.5 min each)
- II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (5 min.)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- IV. PRESENTATION: (25 minutes)
- V. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:
  - A. LEADERSHIP (10 min.)
  - B. MEMBERSHIP (10 min.)
  - C. COMMUNICATIONS (10 min.)
  - D. ACTIVE PROJECTS REPORTING (3-5 MIN EACH)  
BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
  - E.
- VI. PRESENTATION OR DISCUSSION (20 min.)
- VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- VIII. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 min.)

**NEXT MEETING:** 2014 at TRPC 3:00pm  
Future Meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays:

**Attendance and Introductions:**

**Sash Sunday, OlyKraut** Chair  
**Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market and South Sound Fresh** Vice Chair  
**TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound**  
**Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council**  
**Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market and Bank Local Washington**  
**Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity**  
**Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB**  
**Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist**, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison  
**Heather Sundean, Produce Manager** for the **Thurston County Food Bank** and Satellite Liaison with Hunger Relief Organizations

ABSENT:

(Excused)

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

**Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications**  
**Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator:** Sustainability and Social Justice Dining Coordinator at TESC; TFSC Communication Team Web support.  
**Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County**  
**Erik Hagan, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Mason and Thurston Counties;**  
**Mason Conservation District; and Co-Founder of West Olympia Farmers Market.**

VISITORS:

**Rachel Floyd**, AmeriCorps Food Justice VISTA, CYS/Center for Youth Services and Thurston County Food Bank “School Gardens” [racheljacklynfloyd@gmail.com](mailto:racheljacklynfloyd@gmail.com)  
**Michaela Winkley** School Garden Manager Thurston County Food Bank  
**Rachel Cermak**- Grub Intern doing research and developing food policy action plan project  
**Chris Hawkins**- Dept. of Health representing Lesley Wigen at today's meeting  
**Ron Lawson**: Boys and Girls Club and related urban garden projects

**II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (for date) (- TFSC Secretary)**

Meeting Minutes for (date) were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

*Minutes were briefly reviewed and approved by TFSC board.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:**

None to speak of

**IV. PRESENTATION:**

**Council meeting structure and meeting goals discussion**  
**Three options were explored for sharing community and organizational projects and work efforts in the community. After some deliberations and discussion the TFSC council agreed that during the meeting introductions each council member would have about 1.5 to 2 minutes to introduce themselves and share a key project that they, their organization or others are engaged in.**

**In this way we all learn from each other and become aware of what council members are doing in addition to their WIT project work.**

**Lucas and Erik: Erik** offered to follow up on the possibility of the McLane Grange as fiscal sponsor (a possibility as the Grange is a state-recognized 501c3 non-profit); WSU offered as another potential fiscal sponsor. The Grange canceled the grange meeting last month so a vote on this effort was not taken. Erik plans to provide TFSC with an update at the next council meeting

TJ Johnson: Evergreen students are enrolled in course work related to food systems as it related to the TRPC sustainability project. 50 students are researching the key topics and subjects identified in the TRPC Sustainability reports as they pertain to the local food system., i.e. Agritourism, Processing, Infrastructure, etc...

**Karen Parkhurst:** TRPC letters to the county commissioners regarding food and agriculture portion of sustainable plan have been sent to them.

Lisa Smith: March 4<sup>th</sup> at E4E board room, 7pm a discussion related to Commercial Kitchen needs, requirements and availability will be held

Sash Sunday: Olykraut is processing and preparing lightly processed bagged produce. Current customers are Olympia Schools, and Mason General Hospital. Customer are working with Sash to work out the kinks and business processing steps for 5lb bags

Ron Lawson: B/G clubs is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year gardening projects and classes for kids. Also working to have more produce for the local food banks this year. The urban garden has been recognized by Lacey community for sustainable funding. He is also involved with a low-income apartment complex in Lacey raising interest and education about the available urban gardens. The Boys and Girls club garden has a sustainable urban garden and farm stand.

Heather Sundeau: Food bank growers meeting Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm at TC FB. Who is growing what when meeting. Meeting is being expanded to include tour orientation of facility to be included in the growers meeting. She was promoted to Operations Manager in January 2014.

**Aslan Meade:** Listed jobs open for Westside farmers market and the South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust (SSCFLT) philanthropic coordinator

Diane Grace: Shared some information related to the open space and agriculture pending legislation HB 1437.

**Peter Witt:** Friends of Olympia Farmers Market and Olympia Farmers Market boards are holding several events collaboratively for 2014. A new family oriented event in October is the Annual Harvest and Awards Dinner. Prices will focused on family friendly pricing and affordable dinners for a family. A community celebration of the harvest and our local artisans and producers.

Chris Hawkins: Dept. of health project on reducing salt consumption. Project starting with state cafeterias and beginning to work with SPCC. Community garden projects 3 of the 5 will have their 1<sup>st</sup> season in 2014. Another program briefly mentioned as the Grow Happy Kids program.

**V. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:**

**A. LEADERSHIP**

(- Sash Sunday)

Nothing significant to report at this meeting

**V. B. MEMBERSHIP** (- Membership Lead)

Katie Rains reported for the team:

## **Thurston Food System Council 2014 Membership Information & Roster**

The Thurston Food System Council was developed in 2012 as an outcome of a community-driven Food Summit that took place at the Thurston County Fairgrounds in October 2011. The Thurston Food System Council is a grassroots citizens organization composed of a diverse group of community stakeholders empowered by the community and recognized by local government to foster collaboration and active engagement in the local food system. The Council meets monthly to bring together community resources, people, and programs to develop and strengthen the local food system. Through our collaborative efforts, we envision a vibrant food system where everyone in Thurston County has the right and access to healthy, local, affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced food. There are currently 20 seats on TFSC and we are actively recruiting new members to ensure diverse representation. The council strives to recruit a membership that represents various essential sectors of a vibrant food system.

In order to be eligible to serve on the Thurston Food System Council, all applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a participant in the local food system of Thurston County
- Must participate in at least one Working Issue Team (WIT) throughout the year
- Must be able to commit to a two-year term

Once appointed to the council, all TFSC members must adhere to the following attendance policy:

- Absences may be excused by the Chair for work, family, medical, or other valid reasons which are communicated by the member to the Chair
- Council members are encouraged to designate an alternate to attend in the place of the member by sending a letter or e-mail to the Chair and the Secretary with the name, and e-mail address of the chosen alternate. Each member will be responsible for arranging for the attendance of her/his alternate at any meeting missed by the member and will notify the Chair and Secretary in advance of an alternate member's attendance at a meeting. Attendance by an alternate does not count as an absence for the appointed member.
- A maximum of three unexcused absences are permitted per year. After the fourth unexcused absence the Membership WIT will recommend to the Council that the appointment be vacated and a new member be recruited & appointed.

*Participation on the Thurston Food System Council is voluntary and uncompensated.*

Food System Sectors Prioritized for Council Representation			
<b>Ag Policy</b>	<b>Environment/Sustainability</b>	Foundations/Philanthropy	<b>Public Health</b>
Chefs/Restaurants	<b>Farm Preservation</b>	Granges	School Districts
<b>Citizens &amp; Seniors</b>	Farmers	Grocery Stores	Seniors
Civic Organizations	<b>Farmers Markets</b>	<b>Higher Education</b>	<b>Social Justice</b>
Commercial Kitchens	Federal Agencies	Institutional Purchasers	Tribes
<b>Conservation Districts</b>	Financial Institutions/Lenders	Land Trusts	Underrepresented Groups
Distributors	Fish/Shellfish Industry	<b>Nonprofits</b>	<b>Urban Ag</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	Food Co-ops	<b>Nutritionist</b>	<b>WSU Extension</b>
<b>Emergency Food Providers</b>	<b>Food Processors</b>	<b>Policymakers</b>	<b>Youth Services</b>

## 2014 Thurston Food System Council Membership Roster

Name	Food System Sector	Term	2014 WIT
Lisa Smith	Ag Policy, Economic Development	2 years	
Karen Parkhurst	Environment/Sustainability, Policymakers	2 years	Communications
Peter Witt	Farmers Market	1 year	Leadership
Lesley Wigen	Public Health, Nutritionist	1 year	Communications
Zachary Fleig	Higher Education	1 or 2 years	Leadership
Katie Rains	Nonprofits, Youth Services, Social Justice	2 years	Membership/Food Action Plan
Loretta Seppanen	Farm Preservation	1 year	Membership
Aslan Meade	Economic Development	1 year	Membership
Sash Sunday	Food Processors	2 years	Leadership
TJ Johnson	Nonprofits, Urban Ag, Higher Ed, Environment/Sustainability	2 years	Food Action Plan
Erick Hagan/ Lucas Patzek	Ag Policy, Conservation Districts, WSU Extension	1 year	Membership
Diane Grace	Citizens & Seniors, Emergency Food Providers, Nutritionist	1 year	
Heather Sundean	Emergency Food Providers		
Vacant Seat 1			
Vacant Seat 2			
Vacant Seat 3			
Vacant Seat 4			
Vacant Seat 5			
Vacant Seat 6			

**V. C. COMMUNICATIONS:** (-Communications Lead)

Karen Parkhurst: We are waiting on the fiscal agent decision and funding for the upgraded features for the website. Would like to have advanced functions for buttons and ability to have council members post links and event without requiring a Webmaster intervention. Council expressed desire to have a Facebook page for the TFSC.

Katie Rains requested copies of the TFSC logos color and black and white. Peter Witt said he would forward them to her.

**V. D ACTIVE PROJECT REPORTING** (-Each Board Members reports)

Food Policy Food System Action Plan: TJ Johnson related that the TRPC sustainability board and county commissioners has requested that TFSC tackle preparing the local food system action plan. To date nothing has been planned except for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting between Katie Rains and TJ> Intern Rachel is assisting Katie in identifying other existing food system action plans and capture pros/cons/challenges each project has endured.

Diane Grace mentioned USDA nutrition study and related data analysis will take longer than the time frame originally considered. More information to come  
She also indicated a new email address: [gracedgc@gmail.com](mailto:gracedgc@gmail.com)  
And more good news she became engaged over the weekend and will be moving to a 4-acre parcel/farm off Johnson Point.

Aslan Meade shared information on Co-Opatopia- March 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 1`pm to 5pm at St Martins Pavilion. Celebrates cooperative businesses and ways they contribute to our local community and economy.

GRUB- Katie Rains encouraged the council to view Grubs website and consider gathering a team from their respective organizations for the date May 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of the Bed event. Raising local raised beds for family's wanting to grow more of their own food. GRUB also received an Award from the Whidbey Institute related to health and wellness.

**VI. DISCUSSION / DECISIONS:**

Karen Parkhurst: Shared Local Food System Tracker of Washington Legislative bills in both the house and senate that are related to food systems and agriculture. A full list was provided each council member. She plans to track the progress of each item and report their status at our monthly get-togethers.

TJ: Attended the Eco Farm Conference in California that last two weeks. A number of well-known speakers shared inspiring ideas and challenging opportunities with attendees. The Big take away is the impact on the food system of the drought in California and its impact on food costs since some much of our countries food and produce come from California. There are also significant impacts to

Ranches and meat production due to the lack of organic grains or grain/feed of any kind. Since organic grains and feed isn't available ranches are transitioning back to conventional feed. A major reason South Sound should be rebuilding the agriculture infrastructure and support systems.

Olympia ordinance for urban gardens was not funded for staffing until 2016. An issue to be worked with the city council.

An exciting opportunity for TJ involves the purchase of the surrounding acres of the Wendell Berry Farm location. There is a pollinator projects in conjunction with WSU and the garden will be the host site. Research and Demonstration of urban grain farming- small scale grain farming. It was suggested that Lucas be contacted to see where the local extension office can assist with the grains project.

## VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Friday 2/7 at TRPC Agritourism Lucas Patzek, George Sharp and Sandra Romero presenting. 8:30am room 101 TRPC.

Chris Hawkins shared that the health department is applying for a GRANT on Mobilization of Health

Handouts at the meeting included:

Jan meeting minutes, Membership guidelines, Legislative Bills before state congress and Thurston Thrives information. Outlines how to participate, who is on advisory council, project timeline, and project action teams.

Refer to website <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/thrives/>

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

To post **Events and Announcements**, please send edited version to [tfsc0@yahoo.com](mailto:tfsc0@yahoo.com).

**CO-OPATOPIA: Sat March 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 1`-5pm St Martins Pavilion** [www.coopatopia.coop](http://www.coopatopia.coop)

**Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm**

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, (March 5<sup>th</sup> 2014) at TRPC at 3:00pm**

[Conference phone is available at TRPC for those unable to attend **new dates**.]

Future Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, March 5, 2014