

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
March 5, 2014	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Sash Sunday, Chair
Note taker:	Loretta Seppanen for Zachary Fleig, Secretary

Agenda

- I. INTRODUCTIONS (10 min.)
- II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (5 min.)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- IV. PRESENTATION: (25 minutes)

Patrice Barrentine, Outreach and Education Coordinator at Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), status of the regulations to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act and implications for Thurston County Farms

V. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS (WIT) REPORTS:

- A. LEADERSHIP (10 min.)
- B. MEMBERSHIP (10 min.)
- C. COMMUNICATIONS (10 min.)

VI. FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW (20 min.)

TJ Johnson & Katie Rains

- VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION (5 min.)
- VIII. EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 min.)

NEXT MEETING: 2014 at TRPC 3:00pm

Future Meetings on 1st Wednesdays: **April 2, 2014**

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut
 Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition, TFSC Communications
 Diane Grace, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist, Nutrition and Citizens Sector Liaison
 Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity
 Marco Pinchot, Community Relations and Sustainability Manager, Taylor Shellfish Farm

Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market and Bank Local Washington

Provided information about the March 4 meeting on commercial kitchens including a review of possible sites for such kitchens in the county.

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound

Invited participants to student presentations from the class, Ecological Agriculture: The Science and Policy of Sustainable Food Systems. Students conducting a research on one or more of the policy priorities for the local food system identified in the Sustainable Thurston report. The presentations are at TESC on March 11-13. (9 am to 1 pm at the Longhouse on March 11 and 12, 8:30 to 12:30 on March 15 at Seminary II, B1107

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Announced that two items on the [Thurston Regional Planning Council Agenda](#) this Friday are of interest to this group: 8:40 a.m. Olympia Mayor Stephen Buxbaum will make a presentation on past successful local food and agricultural efforts; 10 a.m. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Director, Don Sloma will make a presentation on [Thurston Thrives](#).

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia; South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust (SSCFLT)

Extended invite to the SSCFLT Annual Meeting, Potluck and Ag Networking Friday April 11 at South Bay Grange Hall. Non-profit and government organizations working with the ag community are invited to the networking session at 5:30 pm.

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

Reported that the Conservation District Farm Link program is working well to identify new farmers or farmers looking to expand, connect with landowners who are looking for new possibilities to lease or purchase land in the South Sound.

Katie Rains, Executive Director at GRuB

Announced changes in where the GRuB demonstration gardens are located at the GRuB farm and invited all to participate as volunteers in building any of the 60 individual or 10 institutional Kitchen Garden Project garden beds this spring culminating in the May 17 [Day of the Bed](#)

ABSENT:

Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension/Small Farms for Thurston County
Peter Witt, Friends of the Farmers Market and Kiwanis Garden Projects
Heather Sundean, Produce Manager for the Thurston County Food Bank and Satellite Liaison with Hunger Relief Organizations
Zachary Fleig, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator

VISITORS:

Patricia Barrentine, Outreach and Education Coordinator, WSDA pbarrentine@agr.wa.gov
Rachel Floyd, AmeriCorps Food Justice, CYS/Center for Youth Services and
Thurston County Food Bank “School Gardens” -” racheljacklynfloyd@gmail.com
Emily Dunn-Wilder - emily.kara.wilder@gmail.com - TESC Campus Food Coalition
Mike and Mary Lee Cody, [Community Rights South Sound](http://CommunityRightsSouthSound.org), info@communityrightssouthsound.org
Rachel Cermak, GRuB intern assisting Katie with the Food System Action Plan -
foodsystem@GoodGRub.org

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES February 5, 2014 (Peter Witt, note taker)

Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2014 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Mike Cody asked to provide the group with more information on an effort to create a local initiative on food security using the community rights approach. He will present information at the April meeting.

Rachel Cermak shared two documents from her work to date - "Food Councils 101" and a handout on TFSC. She will also send us a summary of Food System Action Plans elsewhere in the country. She asked us to review these documents before the April meeting.

Emily Dunn Wilder indicated that she and council member Zachary Fleig would like to provide information at the April meeting on the [Real Food Challenge](#) and the role this council might play in helping students get TESC administration to sign on to that approach for the campus.

IV. PRESENTATION: Patrice Barrentine, Outreach and Education Coordinator WSDA - FSMA

Patrice Barrentine provided background and draft FAQ about the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2010. This law was passed as the first update to federal food safety since 1938. Regulations have been developed by the Food & Drug Administration with a focus on precluding contamination in our foods. The regulations separately address food production, food processing and food distribution even though in a local food system one entity may integrate all three functions.

Regulations under FSMA are still being written with a final draft expected in June. It is very likely that most farms in our area will be required to meet new safety standards, different than the current voluntary Food Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) programs from the USDA. These new regulations will add to the cost of our food. Smaller farms may be allowed to come into compliance with the new regulations up to three years later than larger farms.

The WSDA would like to be funded to provide technical assistance to smaller farms.

V. WORKING ISSUE TEAM (WIT) REPORTS:

A. LEADERSHIP

No report this month

V. B. MEMBERSHIP

Loretta Seppanen

Because of Katie's work on the Food System Action Plan, she can no longer be on the Membership WIT. Other on the council are invited to join the WIT which typically conducts work via email and at 2:30 on the meeting day.

The WIT recommends that a list of all members of the council and the council goals be added to the TFSC website. The council concurred with the WIT recommendation.

The WIT requested review during the month of the one page TFSC document prepared by Rachel Cermak in preparation for adoption at the April meeting. This document could be used at a handout at upcoming events.

V. C. COMMUNICATIONS:

Lesley Wigen

The Communications WIT is continuing to update our website.

The council does not currently have a financial WIT nor a treasurer as the organization has no source of revenue at present. The council is waiting on the fiscal agent decision and funding for the upgraded features for the website. Eric Hagan reported that the McLane Grange would like to serve as the fiscal sponsor but need to check the limits on the amount of non-donated funds and total funds they could handle without changing their IRS or 501c3 non-profit status.

Page 3 of the "Food Councils 101" provides information on how funding for some other councils has been handled.

VI. FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

TJ Johnson & Katie Rains

The [Sustainable Thurston Plan](#) includes a request that the TFSC develop a Food System Action Plan. TJ and Katie have agreed to lead this work. They outlined a proposal in preparation for the April council meeting. They propose a community development approach with TFSC serving as the facilitator of the process of involving communities in the plan creation. This works will require financial funding for the facilitation role and the community work. They propose applying for USDA Community Food Project funding when the new round of applications open in October which requires matching funds.

Katie and TJ plan to engage the following community sectors in the planning work: Geopolitical (city government for example), cultural & ethnic, economic (business, low income groups), spiritual and ecological/agricultural. They propose this timeline:

April to August 2014	Frame the past actions that have lead to this stage - Food Summit, creation of TFSC, Sustainable Thurston, Thurston Thrives
	Connect with each sector seeking names of leaders who can engage their community

	Seek matching funds for & apply for CFP
Sept and October	Events in each community to explore food system needs and current gaps
Nov	Apply for CFP funding for a 3 to 5 year grant
March 2015	If funded, begin funded activity with grant
April to June 2015	Continued planning activities - plan approved by June 2015
July 2015 - July 2016	Start of implementation of Food System Action steps from plan

VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Emily Dunn-Wilder announced that there are still spaces in the March 10, 2014: Tour of Taylor Shellfish - 10 am. Marco Pinchot said that a light mussel lunch will be provided. Participants need to connect with Emily.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Karen Parkhurst reviewed the food system and ag related bills that are still under consideration by the legislature in this second to the last week of the short session. She will provide her report electronically. She asked that the council spend time before next January to consider issues that might require legislative action and prepare an action plan. The council briefly discussed the possibility of inviting local legislators to a farm tour, perhaps in early November after the fall election.

Loretta Seppanen shared a listing of farm to table events scheduled or tentatively scheduled for this coming summer. The events will be added to the Events section of the TFSC website.

TJ Johnson reported that the work plan of the City of Olympia's Planning and Community Development Department would defer any more work on urban agriculture and the food system until after 2016. The City Council is now reviewing the draft comprehensive plan identifying the Council priorities as it works towards adopting a new comprehensive plan later in 2014. At this point the City Council has not identified urban agriculture and food system issues as a high priority in this process. Those who would like to see these issues as a priority in the comprehensive plan work could take advantage of the public comment time at council meetings this month.

TJ recommend ***Bet the Farm: How Food Stopped Being Food*** (2012) by Frederick Kaufman about the *financialization* of food stuffs. He also recommended the Oakland Institute's [Down on the Farm/Wall Street: America's New Farmers](#) report - available as a PDF at the link

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at TRPC at 3:00pm
 [Conference phone is available at TRPC for those unable to attend **April 2.**]
 Future Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, May 7, 2014

Contact Chair Sash Sunday if unable to attend (sash@olykraut.com) in advance or if a last minute change occurs call TRPC for absences or late arrival notifications - 360-956.7575 or info@trpc.com