

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
January 7, 2015	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Katie Rains, Co-chair, facilitating in Sash's absence
Note taker:	David Skattebo, Secretary

AGENDA:

1. Introductions + Projects (3:00-3:10)
 2. December Meeting Minutes (3:10-3:15)
 3. Public Communication (3:15-3:20)
 4. Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports
 - i. Leadership – Nominations, elections... (3:20-3:40)
 - ii. Membership—Membership Roster Clarified (3:40-3:45)
 - iii. Communications – New business? (3:45-3:50)
 - iv. Policy (3:50-3:55)
 5. Proposal of New Group Norms & Collaboration with TTFAT (3:55-4:30) (*Katie Rains*)
 - a. Asset Building Coalition's Food HUB & Infrastructure
 - b. Collaboration with TTFAT in 2015
 - c. 2015 Meeting Schedule
 - d. February Meeting
 6. Discussion of WITs
 7. Public Communication (4:50-4:55)
 8. Events and Announcements (4:55-5:00)
- Next Meeting: February 4, 2015 at **2:00pm**

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Katie Rains, Executive Director, GRuB: Applications for KGP available through the end of January.

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Aslan Meade, West Olympia Farmer's Market and Bank Local Washington: The Cascadia Grains Conference is being held 1/10 at South Puget Sound Community College. The Washington Farmers Market Association Conference will also be held at SPSCC, on 2/6.

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity: E4E's Farm to Fork event was very successful. E4E is currently doing outreach in regards to their farm incubator program at Scatter Creek Farm. On Saturday, E4E's business training program begins.

Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications: The 2014 Community Garden Assessment is about to be published. Lesley's office recently received funding to do policy and environmental education work in schools.

Rachel Floyd, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator, Slow Food Olympia: The Campus Food Coalition is preparing for a series of events at Evergreen, including Farmworker Justice Day.

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound, TJ is purchasing an urban farm where Wendell Berry Community Garden is, which means the future of that garden is up in the air. SSS's grain project has been a success. TESC, led by TJ's program "Food", will host an event on food systems inequality—opportunity for TFSC to collaborate. Robert Egger (LA Kitchen) is coming to TESC 2/4 as a part of a lecture series, and is interested in attending the TFSC meeting that day.

Gifford (Marco) Pinchot, Taylor Shellfish; Marco's role at Taylor Shellfish has changed from "Community Relations/Sustainability" to "Marketing."

David Skattebo, TESC student researching the local food movement: David will be reaching out to food policy councils across the country to try and identify best practices, and will share his findings with the group.

Ali Mediate, Slow Food: Slow Food's annual meeting is on Sunday 1/11

ABSENT:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut

Michaela Winkley, Thurston County Food Bank

Susan Ujcic and Annie Salafsky, Helsing Junction Farm

VISITORS:

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust

Luke Burns, City of Olympia Parks and Recreation, Community Gardens Program Coordinator

Victoria (?), Field Organizer at Food and Water Watch working on campaign to get antibiotics out of CAFOS, particularly a local resolution calling on Sen. Murray to co-sponsor a federal bill on this issue

Brittney (?), TESC student

Mindy Roule, Thurston Asset Building Coalition Coordinator

Peggy Smith, League of Women Voters Ag Lobby Team

James Hibbs, TESC Center for Community-based Learning and Action Food Justice Liason

Ashley (?), Day of the Bed Intern at GRuB's Kitchen Garden Project

Mary Kay Johnson, MES student at TESC, marketing coordinator for TESC Organic Farm, runs small marketing company and is currently in E4E's business training program.

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (December 3, 2014)

Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2014 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

Luke Burns announced the start of event programming at Artesian Well Park, as well as a homelessness census on 1/29, and the beginning of registration for Yauger and Sunrise Community Gardens.

Victoria from Food and Water Watching announced a campaign to get antibiotics out of CAFOS, particularly a local resolution calling on Sen. Murray to co-sponsor a federal bill on this issue.

Loretta Seppanen is stepping off the council so that Ali Mediate can step on. She also announces that Slow Food is doing trials at Pigman's Farm of endangered plant varieties for the Arc of Taste. South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust is having their annual meeting 3/6, which reportedly has the potluck in the county.

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS

IV. A. LEADERSHIP (Katie Rains, Co-Chair)

2014 started with Sash Sunday (chair), Peter Witt (co-chair), and Zach Fleig (secretary). The latter two dropped off the council, with Katie Rains and David Skattebo taking their places, respectively, and will continue in those roles for 2015. Aslan Meade has been nominated for chair. No one else has been nominated.

TJ Johnson motions that the council elect the slate of Aslan, Katie, and David as the council's leadership for 2015. Lisa Smith seconds, and the slate is elected unanimously.

IV. B. MEMBERSHIP

The current membership roster is 13 people. Dianne Grace-Crutcher and Loretta Seppanen have stepped down from the council, and Ali Mediate has stepped on, representing Slow Food.

IV. C. COMMUNICATIONS: (Lesley Wigen)

Lesley Wigen mentions Sash's recommendation that we need a dynamic revitalization of the council's communications, which Lesley feels she is not capable of. The group discusses that this WIT needs to be expanded.

Later in the meeting, Mary Kay Johnson volunteers to join this WIT to help assist its revitalization.

V. D. LEGISLATION (Karen Parkhurst)

The Governor's budget is now on the table, and seeks to continue funding Voluntary Stewardship; it also eliminates budgets for state and county fairs and grants for community projects.

Karen gives an overview of some pre-filed bills for this legislative session: water rights issues; promoting access to private land for hunting; regulating industrial hemp; better small business support. Katie Rains mentions that the GRuB Bill has also been filed.

TJ Johnson volunteers to join this WIT.

VI. Proposal of New Group Norms & Collaboration with TTFAT (Katie Rains)

a. Asset Building Coalition's Food HUB & Infrastructure

Katie begins by talking about her proposal for collaboration with Thurston Thrives' Food Action Team, which has recently merged with the Asset Building Coalition's Food Hub. She notes that with these two organizations merged, TFSC would be remiss not to get involved.

Mindy Roule, ABC's coordinator talks about their focus: serving folks with low income, giving them a space to get together and coordinate. ABC consists of 4 hubs governed by a steering committee, and has 2 staff members. They use an expanded definition of "assets": whatever it takes for people to be stable in their community. ABC focuses less on running programs, more on being a convener and a connector for others, helping folks find ways to communicate and collaborate. They operate an email listserv of 280 businesses and organizations locally. They have funding for a collaborative project which is still to be determined.

Lisa Smith, who is a member of ABC's steering committee, notes the excellent opportunity for collaboration, and the productive, efficient structure of ABC. She describes TFSC as a perfect version of ABC's Food Hub, and that we have diverse voices and organizations representing food, health, and social justice. To have ABC officially involved with TFSC makes everyone stronger.

b. Collaboration with TTFAT in 2015

Katie notes that the Food Hub consisted only of Robert Coit of the Food Bank, and that TTFAT had all kinds of diversity—but lacked the passion and zeal found here at the council. The main strength of TTFAT is their annual Food Strategy Map—which has

been assigned value by United Way and is being used as a basis for giving funding. Currently the maps have great information, but lack a local food and food sovereignty perspective.

The group has a discussion about treating TTFAT and the Food Strategy Map as a WIT of the Council, and that we could benefit from both the diversity of TTFAT and their Food Strategy Map, as well as benefiting from the funding and governance structure of ABC. Treating these groups as a WIT of the council could potentially lead to a political merger between those groups and the council—but we are considering this collaboration as an interim step to merger.

Concern is raised about who is the parent organization of Thurston Thrives, which is now a partnership between the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Health. TJ Johnson notes that one of the early limitations of ABC and Thurston Thrives was not having a space for environmental sustainability. It would be great if we could bring that to these groups, but we don't want their limitations burdening us—which is why it is important to maintain our own identity.

c. 2015 Meeting Schedule

The group decides that in March and November, we will not have council meetings, to allow council members to attend TTFAT meetings, in addition to not holding meetings over the summer months. Everyone agrees to treating TTFAT as a WIT of the council, and not having meetings in March or November.

d. February meeting

The group decides to focus on the role of WITs for our February meeting, and will begin tackling the policy priority issues in April, when we will identify who we might want to invite to the table to discuss those issues. In February, the group decides to have Robert Egger as a guest, and will extend our meeting by an hour (2pm-5pm) so that we can still fit everything into our agenda. Katie volunteers to send out a poll to council members about their priorities for the February meeting and for moving forward. The group also accepts Aslan's February agenda, as well as doing homework about who needs to be at the table for our priority issues.

VI. Discussion of WITs	(Aslan Meade, chair)
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Aslan reads through the list of WITs, to sign up both councilmembers and members of the public to join them.

Mary Kay Johnson joins Communications. TJ joins the Legislative WIT; Brittney and Victoria also express interest. Katie, Marco, Lisa, and David join the Collaboration WIT, which will participate in Thurston Thrives Food Action Team. The Membership WIT is on hiatus. A Youth Involvement WIT is tabled until next year. Next month we will discuss who wants to join the Policy Issues WIT.

VII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

James Hibbs announces Farmworker Justice Day in late March/early April at The Evergreen State College, which will feature Familias Unidas por la Justicia, who have led a strike at Sakuma Brothers Berry Farm in Skagit Valley.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at TRPC at 2:00pm

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

Future Meetings: April 1, 2015

Draft Agenda Items:

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| 1) | Introductions and Projects |
| 2) | January Meeting Minutes |
| 3) | Public Communication |
| 4) | Guest Speak, Robert Eggar |
| 5) | [short break] |
| 6) | WIT Reports, if necessary |
| 7) | Choose who will join which breakout sessions |
| 8) | First Breakout Working Group |
| 9) | Second Breakout Working Group |
| 10) | [short break] |
| 11) | Whole Council report back, choose Scheduled Meeting Dates for chosen priorities |
| 12) | March Meeting: Thurston Thrives (Katie) |
| 13) | Public Communication |
| 14) | Events and Announcements |