

TFSC / Thurston Food System Council	
March 4, 2015	3:00pm – 5:00pm at TRPC
Meeting	Monthly Meeting Minutes
Facilitator	Katie Rains, Co-Chair (in Aslan's absence)
Note taker:	David Skattebo, Secretary

AGENDA:

1. Introductions + Projects (3:00-3:05)
2. January Meeting Minutes (3:05-3:10)
3. Public Communication (3:10-3:15)
4. Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports (3:20-3:25)
 - Leadership
 - Inter-food group relations
 - Communications
 - Legislative
5. Breakout Working Group Sessions (3:25-4:25)
6. Whole Council Report Back (4:25-4:50)
7. Public Communication (4:50-4:55)
8. Events and Announcements (4:55-5:00)

Next Meeting: April 1, 2015 at **3:00pm**

Attendance and briefs on member projects:

Katie Rains, Executive Director, GRuB: On 3/26, GRuB is co-sponsoring (with Enterprise for Equity and Growing Veterans) a showing of "Ground Operations" at Capitol Theatre, to launch GRuB's veterans work with Growing Veterans (tickets \$9 at the door). The GRuB Bill died in the senate appropriations committee, despite the hearing being positive in Education Committee. GRuB is also about to hire a Community Food Solutions Manager.

Karen Parkhurst, Thurston Regional Planning Council: Karen talked about political interest in veteran's agriculture projects; county commissioners met on the issue, looking beyond community garden projects. Karen will be presenting to the Board of Health on issues of food and health this month. She also talked about the continuing

success of the Voluntary Stewardship project on environmental regulation, and the collaboration between agriculture and conversation, despite setbacks.

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity: Eleven farmers came to E4E's Incubator Farm orientation, and cultivation might begin this summer! E4E is also supporting veterans in agriculture with the "Ground Operations" showing 3/26. Ted Howard from the Democracy Collaborative, which started Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland, OH, will be speaking about community wealth building 3/17 at SPSCC's SUB building. He will also be giving a talk at Panorama City about healing the industrial food system.

Lesley Wigen, Thurston County Public Health Nutrition; TFSC Communications

TJ Johnson, Sustainable South Sound, Food Systems faculty at TESC: The Food and Water Watch resolution urging Sen. Murray to co-sponsor a bill to get antibiotics out of CAFOs (caged animal feeding operations) passed, despite some trepidation. The Inequality Townhall for TJ's "Food" program at TESC was a success; 52 research posters from students and 125 attendees.

David Skattebo, TESC student researching the local food movement: David has finished his draft of the final cumulative paper for his year-long research project, which will be finished next quarter.

Loretta Seppanen, Slow Food Greater Olympia, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust: sitting in for Ali Mediate today. The Farmland Trust's 2015 Farm Map came out! More farmer's on the map than last year, which might indicate that the local agriculture sector is growing.

Heather Sundean, Thurston County Food Bank Warehouse Manager: The food bank is moving into and adjusting to the new warehouse, and will soon begin a new bulk buying program. The new warehouse is much more efficient and has a loading dock (the old space did not). The food bank also held its first growers meeting of the year, bringing together the home gardeners who supply produce to the food bank.

ABSENT:

Sash Sunday, OlyKraut

Susan Ujcic and Annie Salafsky, Helsing Junction Farm

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

Gifford (Marco) Pinchot, Marketing Director at Taylor Shellfish

Michaela Winkley, Thurston County Food Bank, Food Bank Garden Program Manager

Ali Mediate, Slow Food

Rachel Floyd, TESC Campus Food Coalition Co-Coordinator, Slow Food Olympia

VISITORS:

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

Dianne Grace-Krutcher, food sovereignty nutritionist

II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES (February 4, 2015)

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2015 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes, and submitted for upload to TFSC website.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

IV. WORKING ISSUE TEAMS

A. LEADERSHIP

The Nisqually River Council is having a meeting on community wellness and wants a member of TFSC to present on the health impacts and feasibility of locally-grown food.

B. Inter-food group Collaboration (Katie Rains)

The Thurston Thrives Food Action Team will be meeting 3/11/15, 8:30-10:30 am at Thurston County Public Health, 412 Lilly Road NE 98506. Community members and councilmembers are encouraged to come with things they would like to see included in the food metrics designed to assess the health of our community around food.

C. COMMUNICATIONS: (Lesley Wigen)

Mary K Johnson is going to help rebuild the TFSC website, and has a site map and updated member intake form to give more information on the website about the different council members. Loretta will send Mary K the already-existing bios and info of the members.

D. LEGISLATION (Karen Parkhurst)

One hundred thirty-one agriculture-related bills have been passed out this legislative session; many bills are related to water. Information about these bills can be found at leg.wa.gov. There have still been difficulties in working out the transportation and education budgets. There is one bill in regard to food policy forums that has gained some interest, but there is still a chance the bill might die. Another issue of concern are the 50 or so bills limiting state agencies from rulemaking, which weakens regulatory power.

V. Breakout Working Group Sessions (Katie Rains, co-chair)

The council and community members broke into the two working-issue teams that were developed last meeting (**Farmland Preservation, Restoration, and Expansion**; and **Institutional Food Purchasing/Food Hub Development**) To help frame the discussion, Katie asked: what is the scope of the issue? What are intended/desired impacts this year? Is there a timeline to host a meeting/have a dialogue to get folks to the table?

VI. Whole Council Report Back

(Katie Rains, co-chair)

The Farmland Preservation, Restoration, and Expansion WIT compiled a thorough list of potential collaborators and organizations/people to invite to a public meeting addressing farmland, scheduled for October. The intention is to expand public awareness of this issue to get more people behind doing something about it.

The Port of Olympia's progress on establishing a food hub has been stalled, due to Sue Gunn's ill health, who has been the main champion of local food on the port commission. Because of this, the Institutional Food Purchasing WIT has decided to focus on institutional purchasing, and will convene a meeting in October focused on addressing what institutions would need to purchase more local food. This would be a precursor to the Farm2Fork event in December, which is more centered on producers and building relationships between producers and purchasers. Holding these two events would demonstrate the community and local economic support for procurement of local foods, highlighting the need for serious distribution infrastructure, which could encourage the Port to take action. The WIT also compiled a list of people/organizations to reach out to and invite to the October meeting.

Both WITs commit to convening public meetings of stakeholders and citizens around the issues in October-November, with the intention of catalyzing some sort of action or increased attention to the issues of farmland preservation, restoration, and expansion, and strengthening the local food economy by encouraging the easy institutional purchasing of locally-produced food. The council agreed that the Institutional Food Purchasing event could be before the Farmland Preservation, Restoration, and Expansion event, and that both would require larger venues.

The group also discussed approaching the Community Investment Partnership and/or the Thurston Thrives Food Strategy Map as possible partners for funding. Lisa Smith mentioned that this work is not just about events, but data collection and making connections with community partners to advance actions on these issues. There is some discussion about council policy on getting support letters. The precedent is that the draft letter be sent to councilmembers by the chair first to see if anyone objects; and then the letter can be sent out.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

3/11 Thurston Thrives Food Strategy Map meeting; 8:30-10:00am at Thurston County Public Health, 412 Lilly Road NE.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at TRPC at 3:00pm

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

Future Meetings: April 1, 2015

Draft Agenda Items:

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