

<b>Thurston Food System Council – Thurston Thrives Food Action Team – Asset Building Coalition</b>	
Date/Time/Location	May 4, 2016 - 9:30am – 11:30am - TRPC
Document	<b>Monthly Meeting Minutes</b>
Chairs	Katie Rains and Aslan Meade (Co-chairs)
Note taker	Lesley Price, Secretary

**1) Introductions & Announcements** (*Announcements written on sign-in sheet are included in meeting minutes*)

1. DiMatteo, Mary, Olympia Farmers Market
  - a. The Olympia Farmers Market open all year 10am-3pm
    - i. Jan-Mar: Sat
    - ii. April-Oct: Thur-Sun
    - iii. Nov-Dec: Sat & Sun
    - iv. [mary@olympiafarmersmarket.com](mailto:mary@olympiafarmersmarket.com)
2. Friedman, Rachel, Sustainable South Sound
3. Grace-Crutchter, Diane, Food Sovereignty Nutritionist
4. Greg Gachowske, Thurston County Solid Waste
5. Helsing Junction Farms - Sue Ujcic
  - a. CSA – EBT pick-up @ POWER Downtown Oly
  - b. Strawberry U-pick & chocolate fountain May 28 & June 4 – Live Music!
  - c. Strawberry Shortcake Fundraiser @ POWER June 5<sup>th</sup> noon – 4pm
6. Helsing Junction Farms - Annie Salafsky
7. Helsing Junction Farms - Jen Witherspoon
  - a. Community kitchen coop – steering committee/informational & interest meeting contact [jen@mamapower.org](mailto:jen@mamapower.org)
8. Johnson, Mary K, Corona Communications Marketing & Design
  - a. Graduation is coming!
9. Meade, Aslan, Economic Development Council
  - a. West Oly Farmers Market opening day May 10 Tues, also open Saturdays this year
10. Moorehead, Sarah, Thurston Conservation District
  - a. Thurston CD Board of Supervisors accepting applications to fill elected board member position #3. For more info. contact Kathleen Whalen 360-754-3588 x114 or [kwhalen@thurstoncd.com](mailto:kwhalen@thurstoncd.com)
  - b. Managing for pasture fertility seminar: Monday, May 9, 6pm-8pm @Thurston CD office
11. Parkhurst, Karen, Senior Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council
12. Pinchot, Marco, Shellfish, Taylor Shellfish Farm
  - a. ASC Certification – first certified farms in south Puget Sound and Willapa announced
13. Price, Lesley, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
14. Seppanen, Loretta, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, Slow Food Greater Olympia

15. Smaciarz, Tracy, Heritage Meats
  - a. USDA Mobile Processing Unit Update
16. Smith, Justin Griffis, WSU Extension Mason County
  - a. Data Collection
  - b. Economic Modeling
17. Smith, Lisa, Enterprise for Equity, Food Related Entrepreneurship
  - a. Scatter Creek Incubator in fall swing in Rochester WA. Business training program begins in May 2016
18. Visser, Cathy, Nutrition Director Senior Services for South Sound
  - a. ABC Director position open, go to [thurstonabc.org](http://thurstonabc.org) for details
  - b. Event: Morning Beyond Poverty II May 24 8:30am – 3pm, SPSCC Lacey Campus
19. Waters, Charissa, Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department
20. Watford, Tanikka, Deep Roots Foods
21. Witten, Tara, WSU Thurston County Extension Food Sense Program
  - a. Master Gardener Plant sale 5/21/16
  - b. Slow Food events: Pigmans Organic Farm dinner: 7/9/16, Colvin Ranch 8/6
22. Barnes, Carl, 1LT., Dietetic Intern
23. Poste, Aleta, Squaxin Island Tribe
24. Johnson, Leslie, Squaxin Island Tourism
  - a. Waves of perfection: A culinary journey [squaxinlandmuseum.org](http://squaxinlandmuseum.org) (info & tax). Handcrafted foods & wine not usually available in wine tasting. A NW Culinary event @ our home of sacred belongings (SIT Museum)
25. Stewart, Shauna, Visitor & Convention Bureau
  - a. Bountiful Byways marketing plan includes a new map, website, social media & public relations initiatives. Deadline for Byway members to be included on June map is May 15.
26. Richardson, Robin, citizen
27. Ferer, Shelly, League of Women Voters
28. Smith, R. Peggy, League of Women Voters
29. Shannon, Marcela, GRuB
  - a. West Oly. Market stand starts Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm
  - b. Raffle tickets for sale 1 for \$10, 3 for \$25
  - c. CSAs still available
30. Rehwaldt, R Jeanne, Mason Matters/WSU Mason County Extension
  - a. Master Gardener plant sale this Fri & Sat at Kneeland Park in Shelton (Fri 9-6; Sat 9-4)
  - b. July 9<sup>th</sup> Mason Co. MG Garden Tour
  - c. Mason Matters would like to present our goals & mission to groups working to create a culture of health locally to include impacts achieved
31. Davis, Liz, Thurston County Coordinating Council Coordinator
32. Koehler, Chris, WSU Grays Harbor Extension
33. Bramwell, Stephen, Director, WSU Thurston County Extension

## 2) Approval April TFSC & F.A.T. Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2016 were motioned, seconded, and passed for approval without changes.

## 3) Team updates

- Leadership
  - Updating contact list
  
- Housekeeping
  - N/A
  
- Communications
  - Posting announcements to Facebook
  - Liz Davis to provide access to team – to add documents to the Thurston Thrives website (Food page)
  
- Legislative
  - Two mental health hospitals have been proposed in Thurston County – food needs to be central (for health)
  
- Zero Net Loss
  - N/A
  
- Data & Reporting
  - Continue to collect and compile data

## 4) Food Economy Reports

### ● Sustainable South Sound ~ Rachel Friedman

Non-profit, since mid-90's, umbrella for organizations; Buy Local Program (produce and distribute a coupon book); newspaper 'Sustainable South Sound Living Local', printed quarterly (not available online at this time), use as outreach/education to reach people who don't typically know about local foods; started the Local Foods System (TJ Johnson); community gardens

- **Bountiful Byway ~ Visitor & Convention Bureau ~ Shauna Stewart**

Thurston Bountiful Byway Marketing & Communication, working on getting the word out, want to reach visitors who want a different kind of vacation, niche marketing strategy (won't attract everyone), learning & connecting with the land, target audience are agricultural related businesses (must be a member of Visitor & Convention Bureau), also targeting visitors and locals, target folks within a 3.5 hour driving range as well as the international market (China (growing the fastest), UK and Germany), millennials (culinary experiences), baby boomers (mild physical activity), ag. experience, cultural heritage outdoor recreation (bicyclists), economic development of small towns; social media; website; new map available in June; media field trip; advertisements; deadline to join is May 15, 2016; currently have 14 members

- **Squaxin Island Tribe ~ Leslie Johnson & Aleta Poste**

Tourism for 10 tribes, mostly in south sound areas, Pacific Coast Scenic Byway; marine & forestry industries are under-covered; starting a volunteer tourism program; suicide rate of Native Americans is highest in the nation (gardening is therapeutic); Native Americans are good stewards of the land, have created a salmon friendly golf course

Started a 5.5 acre tribal (community) garden to create a food system and to provide education, medicine making, cooking with chefs, harvesting techniques, canning classes, therapeutic to decrease suicide, increase health foods to decrease chronic diseases; will not be renting out plots, garden will be for the tribe

- **The Olympia Farmers' Market ~ Mary DiMatteo**

Established 41 years ago with tents in the street; 104 member vendors; 11 new vendors; open year-round; accepts EBT, WIC and Senior coupons; shared annual sales data

- **Heritage Meats ~ Tracy Smaciarz**

USDA meat processor; have a new lease for a mobile slaughter unit with Pierce County Conservation District, but it is currently not operating, hope to start next week; need a permanent location

- **Enterprise for Equity ~ Lisa Smith**

Works with entrepreneurs, many in agricultural businesses; provide microloans for people who cannot get a loan from a bank; economic

advancement HUB; works with Veterans Admin. and GRuB (work with vets who are not able to work yet); have 13 entrepreneurs who do value-added work

- **Helsing Junction Farm ~ Jen Witherspoon**

30-year farm; 25 years CSA (focus on direct sales for farm income); partner with other businesses (like a small food HUB); some decline recently in CSA sales (all farms); biggest challenge is competing with pricing of wholesalers selling to grocers (farmer only gets 30% when sell to wholesalers); GAP Certification is an expensive barrier

- **Deep Roots Food ~ Tanikka Watford**

Small batch co-packer and processor for others; need a facility (currently have to go to clients' facilities/kitchens) that is 40,000 square feet, 6-8 lines going at one time; have funding for a food HUB (warehouse and storage space)

- **Taylor & the Shellfish Industry ~ Marco Pinchot**

Based in Shelton; largest producer of farmed shellfish in North America; beyond sustainable – RESTORATIVE; 125-year old family owned; also farms in other parts of the state; sell at farm stands, oyster bars, distribute locally, sell to restaurants in Olympia, Tacoma, Seattle and Bellevue, FedEx to homes, wholesale, export to China

- **Aramark at The Evergreen State College ~ Bill Kinter**

N/A

- **Thurston EDC/Port of Olympia ~ Aslan Meade**

Creating a directory of businesses and resources – Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Calculator; have created a form to fill out for the directory

- **New Thurston WSU Extension Director & Ag Faculty ~ Stephen Bramwell**

N/A

- **Mason WSU Ext. ~ Justin Smith**

N/A

- **Anchoring Local Food follow up ~ Mary K Johnson & Aslan Meade**

N/A

## **5) Adjourn**

**NEXT MEETING: June 1, 2016, 9:30AM-11:30AM, TRPC – Food Recovery**

**Note: No meetings in July or August**