



SSFSN Minutes

November 7, 2018; 9:30-11:30AM

Thurston County Conservation District -2918 Ferguson St. SW,
Bldg. #1, Suite A; Tumwater WA, 98512

Officers Present: Marilyn Sitaker, Co-Chair & TESC; Celeste Wade, Co-Chair; Rachel Friedman, Treasurer & Sustainable South Sound; and Cathy Visser, Senior Services for S. Sound, TABC Food Hub Rep. & Secretary.

Other Members Present: Joshua Earhart, TCCD; Melissa Davis, WSU Ext.; Mayra Penda and Stephanie Abraham, TABC; Lesley Price, TC PHSS & Website Coordinator; Chris Koehler, GH WSU Ext.; Krosbie Carter, Thurston Thrives; Joel Hanson, City of Tumwater & Tumwater FM; Michaela Winkley, TCFB; Nora White, TCCD; Maija Glasier-Lawson, FSCSS; Mary DiMatteo, Oly FM; and Patrick Rofe, SSCFLT.

1) Self Introductions & Announcements – Introductions and announcements were made.

Members are encouraged to email event information to Lesley Price to be shared via the SSFSN email system and SSFSN website.

2) Leadership Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports

- ✓ Action Required –
- ✓ October minutes were approved.
- ✓ Financial Report – Rachel reported the balance is \$1797.14 dollars.
- ✓ Rack Card Storage – TRPC needs them to be moved. Michaela from the TCFB will see if there is room for them to store at the TCFB. Ideally, they should be stored where people can arrange to come by and pick some up.
- ✓ Request for Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church *Meaningful Movies*: Marilyn has shared the SSFSN key message with church leadership. They would like us to choose 3 movies they can rightfully show. She suggested food waste reduction, soil conservation, and food access/everyone deserves to eat well. They will need representatives available for discussion at the end of each movie. Members present were in favor of helping with this.
- ✓ Thurston Thrives meeting, Krosbie Carter Eight different teams working on different areas of public health. Unifying issues identified during strategic planning in March 2018 was housing. To expand this, the TT Coordinating Council would like to focus on the issues outlined below. How we support, overlap, and interact with these 3 areas of emphasis:
 - Housing Stability: Every person has a safe and affordable place to call home.
 - Resilient Children and Families – All children are healthy, safe and successful, in and out of school.

- Economic Opportunity – Thurston County is a thriving community where every person can afford to live, work and play.

She would like to know the top 2 or 3 issues that each of the eight groups are working on, so she can help us to develop metrics to measure our accomplishments.

3) Food Processing WIT Updates – Sydney reported that the surveys for CSA and institutional foodservice managers are in process. They still need help getting a few institutional buyers to fill out the survey. She reported on the Sept 24 & 25 Skagit field trip during which they visited commercial kitchens, processing facilities, and the WSU bread lab. The full tour summary and photos are available and she will send the link to Lesley to share with SSFSN members. The take away messages include that the food aggregation and distribution model is viable in the South Sound. They are working on funding sources for 2019, including a specialty crop block grant, to seek funds for business planning for the processing facility.

4) Standing WIT Reports

- **Legislative** - The Washington State Legislature will convene on the 2nd Monday in January - January 14, 2019 – for their regular 105-day session. Sessions in odd-numbered years are often referred to as “long” sessions or “budget” sessions, as the biennial Operating, Capital, and Transportation Budgets will typically be adopted. In even numbered years, the Legislature meets for 60 days. This is often referred to as “short” or “supplemental budget” session. Additional information and links is shared in her full report, which Celeste sent out to the SSFSN group.
- **Communication & Outreach** – The SSFSN FB page is outdated and Mayra agreed to have the new incoming VISTA person work on this. Celeste will manage the table tent name tags for the SSFSN monthly meetings.
- **Community Gardens** – Rachel reported that although the City of Olympia approved a resolution to support community gardens within ½ mile of each person within city limits, there is no funding or plan behind it. The City of Olympia has identified one new garden site near the TC Courthouse. Rachel is working on getting the City of Lacey to sign a similar resolution, but members did not feel having a garden within ½ mile of each community member was a good metric. She will pull a meeting together and Melissa, Joel, Nora, Lesley, Celeste, and Cathy would like to attend. Michaela will be doing a school garden assessment soon.
- **Local Food Culture Campaign** – tabled for now.

5) New/Upcoming WIT Team Proposals

- **Resource Compilation** – Mary D. reported for Loretta. Loretta wants us to consider resource mapping about who we are and what food system resources are available. Loretta wants to form a WIT to commit to this.
- **2019/2020 Food Summit** – SSFSN members present supported the proposal to hold another food summit and/or tasting at the end of 2019/early 2020. Winter could work because there is less competition in events and still some local foods

available. Krosbie, Melissa, Maya, Rachel, Joel, Cathy, and Marilyn are interested in the initial planning. Joel suggested that we try to access visitor bureau/hotel tax funding for the event if it's in Tumwater.

- **Secondary Advisory Group** – Celeste asked how we might get more farmers involved with the SSFSN? Mary recommended starting with email input from them.
- **2019/2020 & Beyond** – Food Access Issues, Mary informed the group that food access programs that benefit local farmers like the Fresh Bucks program, EBT/SNAP (food stamps) program, and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Senior FMNP are under threat in 2020 politically. As per the 2017 rapid market assessment, the Oly FM found that 64% of their shoppers are from TC; 83% felt that it was important or very important that the FMNP and EBT be available at the FM. This helps increase consumption of fresh produce for people living on limited incomes. Fresh Bucks is a dollar to dollar match, i.e., you spend up to \$20 in a day and receive \$20 back. It was launched in April 2018. Mary requested that we advocate for these programs. She encouraged that we help find ways to fund these programs outside of the federal government/Farm Bill, which is currently being debated. Seattle has the sugary beverage tax that they can use for these initiatives. This is no longer an option with the “no new taxes on groceries” initiative that just passed in WA.
- December meeting – Celeste will send out a survey of membership about SSFSN member priorities and desires from TT.

6) Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting(s) & Agenda Items:

- December 5, 2018 at Thurston Conservation District offices
 - Collective learning and 2019 priorities will be discussed.
 - Need of the SSFSN from Thurston Thrives
 - Other suggestions for the agenda.
- January SSFSN will be January 9th instead of the 2nd. Location TBD.