



SSFSN Minutes
November 6, 2019; 9:30-11:00AM
TC Public Health & Social Services

Present: Marilyn Sitaker, Co-Chair, TABC Food Hub Rep. & TESC; Celeste Wade, Co-Chair; Rachel Friedman, Treasurer and Sustainable South Sound; Joel Hansen, SSFSN Event Point-Person & Tumwater Planning Commission; Lesley Price, TCPHSS; Chris Koehler, WSU Ext.; Lynn Fitz Hugh, Thurston Climate Action Team; Mayra Pena, TABC; Taylor Egordo, Thurston Thrives; Maija Glasier-Lawson, FSCSS, Deb Crocket, GRuB CEO; Tye Menser, TC Commissioner and Thurston Thrives representative; Bryce Dazell, Olympia Farmers Market; Amy Healy, Olympia Farmers Market; Stephen Bramwell, WSU Extension; and Cathy Visser, Senior Services for S. Sound & Secretary.

- 1. Self-Introductions, Updates, & Announcements** - Remember to send announcements for November/December activities to Lesley Price

- 2. Leadership Working Issue Team (WIT) Report**
 - Action Required – October Minutes were approved.
 - Financial Report – Current SSFSN checking account balance is \$1422.74 after paying \$250 for a deposit on the Lacey Community Center as the venue for the 2020 Food Summit; and \$19.68 for the SSFSN domain name.
 - Outreach Report – SSFSN leadership continues to do outreach with the goal of bringing more people back to the table, which will be ongoing, but seems to be working as new people are present at the table.
 - Thurston Thrives – Taylor reported that working issue groups will give updates of their work on November 18th, 3-4:40 pm at the TC Courthouse. Taylor recommended that we meet with MaryAnn O’Garro about food-related epidemiological data in February.
 - Thurston Asset Building Coalition update – Mayra reported back on the Opioid Use Reduction Forum event, which brought together partners from five counties to provide support to employers working with staff who may be struggling with substance-use issues. They created a legacy video that will be available soon at the PacMountain website. TABC also requested that all hubs suggest proposals for issues we are interested in promoting.

- 3. Standing Working Issue Teams Reports**
 - **Food Summit & Tasting WIT, Joel & Maija** - The Lacey Community Center is the venue for the March 14, 2020 Food Summit. The food summit and market/celebration/educational workshops will be held in one day; registration starts at 9 a.m., workshops and tasting between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mayra has updated the sponsorship list from the last summit. The WIT submitted a \$1000

grant request to the Community Sustainability Fund of the Olympia Food Coop. Mayra is helping with fundraising and sponsorship. We need to get the “save the date” information needed for a flyer prepared by November 15th. We are hoping to fundraise \$20,000 and will adjust expenses as necessary. Michelle Harvey, who has experience with event planning, is going to help as well. The WIT will need input on who to request sponsorship from and to who encourage to attend. Scholarships will be available and the WIT will ask agencies serving people on low incomes to identify people to attend on scholarship - and possibly receive a free CSA share if funding allows.

- **Ag Park/Food Processing WIT**, Stephen reported that the WIT met in October and discussed progress on the business planning/feasibility studies for a commercial kitchen for Senior Services for South Sound and a value-added produce processing and freezing facility to support local farmers and give them options for value-added processing. He reported back on his site visit to the Fort Wayne, Indiana Food Bank and value-added processing kitchen. The commercial kitchen and processing kitchen could be separately housed and managed or combined. This is yet to be determined. The WIT is in the process of surveying the community to assess the need for commercial kitchen space. The survey is live right now to 240 people identified as interested parties. We’ll send out a link to the survey after the first round of respondents have been completed. The Port of Olympia is not in a position to fund this work in 2020 due to budget constraints. Future WIT meeting will focus on how to proceed after this first round of the feasibility and planning phase.

4. **Data Presentation: Direct Sales**, Marilyn presented data indicating that direct farm to consumer sales grew rapidly in early 2000’s but has leveled off starting in 2012. It is possible that interest in direct to consumer (DTC) sales, which includes roadside stands, CSA, u-pick, farm stands, farm markets, and online marketplaces, is waning. Intermediated sales, i.e., sales from farms to institutions, outperformed direct sales 3:1 indicating that this is a potential revenue source for local farmers. Marilyn suggested that the infrastructure for intermediary sales could be better developed in our region. Both of these sales sources still only make up about 3% of total farm ag sales. DTC sales in Thurston County is higher than the average for the nation. We have 1200 farms with 62,250 acres in production in TC in 2017.

5. **Upcoming Meeting(s) & Agenda Items:**

- December 4th
- Speaker suggestion included Natasha from Mosaic Marketing, who will speak in December about how she can support the SSFSN and upcoming Food Summit. In January, Marilyn will present research on the impact of providing CSA shares to families living on a low-income. Taylor or Marilyn will ask MaryAnn O’Garro to speak about food-related epidemiological data in April.