



Minutes

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:30-11:00AM

Location: VIRTUAL MEETING

1) Self Introductions, Updates & Announcements 9:30 AM

- Share your organization's activities, particularly regarding COVID-19

Marilyn Sitaker, The Evergreen State College

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Melissa Davis, SNAP Ed - Melissa Davis - SNAP Ed

- Potential collaboration with PacMtn to serve CSA food boxes for low income families
- Including food preparation and preservation tips with boxes
- South Sound Food Hub getting ready to launch in August

Heidi Smith, Bounty for Families

- On waiting list for USDA Food Boxes for Families program through Evergreen United Food Hub
- New board member taking over Community Gardens project, working with Nora and team

Deb Crockett, GRuB

- Fewer/ younger staff, staggered work schedules
- Background garden projects w/students in Yelm and Elma
- Victory Farm in Lacey managed by veterans
- Wild Foods and Medicines doing online webinars, kits to tribal communities/ homeschoolers
- Need more volunteers for maintenance, mowing
- Finished first 50 backyard gardens, got 100 canvas containers, 10 installed
- Looking for applicants among essential workers, people impacted by racial violence

Patrick Rolfe, Community Farm Land Trust

- Huge demand for farm maps, need to print more

Maija Glasier-Lawson, Family Support Center

- Cold weather/ emergency funding allows for support of 16 additional families
- Fully staffed, adding additional staff
- Local restaurants are supporting with food
- Funding from Dept. of Commerce for early learning organization to come on site – looking for partners

Cathy Visser, True for You Nutritional Consulting

- West Central Park garden not quite open yet. Project still moving.
- Working with Marilyn on Earth Friendly webinar for TCAT

Colleen Minion, Thurston County Solid Waste

- Change in management
- Focus for next year is less food waste

Celeste Wade

- From Bay Area, involved in many sustainability initiatives there
- Co-created concept behind Wild Bee ID app

Email: southsoundfood@gmail.com

Web: ssfoodsystemnetwork.org

- Interested in advocacy and getting involved regionally

Chris Koehler, WSU Cooperative Extension Grays Harbor

- Looking for simple cooking demonstration videos for kids working on their GEDs.

Nora White, Thurston Conservation District

- Holding workshops online – over 100 attended pasture management web class
- Working in Yelm through USDA grant, interested in connecting with GRuB for alternative ways to do direct outreach
- New board supervisor Helen Wheatley – through next spring
- Soil testing program, equipment rental going strong
- Five-year strategic plan has been approved and is on website.

Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity

- Administering CBDG forgivable small loans in Mason County to small businesses, independent contractors, gig workers that have suffered under COVID. Can apply for up to \$10,000.
- Upcoming workshops: eCommerce, Business Financials, Business Readiness

Lesley Price, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

- Nothing to report

Celeste Wade

- Food is Free Olympia – national food sharing program has exploded in Olympia. Take what you need, leave what you have extra of.
- East-West Food Rescue. Large scale farmers in Eastern Washington driving million of pounds of food to Western Washington to give away. Transportation and labor are donated. Drop off in Woodinville – working on another drop off point in Rochester.
- Need support with transportation. Larger vehicles or more of them. Tacoma pick up on Thursdays, Olympia pick up on Saturdays.

Pat Rasmussen, Edible Forest Gardens

- Senate bill 5947 re: regenerative agriculture passed
- Working with regenerative ag group to figure out implementation of bill
- Looking for farmers who want to convert to regenerative ag

2) Leadership Team Report

10:00 AM

- June Meeting Notes/Audio Recording (Approval?) [Approved](#)
- Financial Report (Celeste) [No change](#)
- Thurston Thrives (Celeste/**Taylor**) [Not present](#)
- Thurston Asset Building Coalition Update (Marilyn/**Mayra**) [No updates](#)

3) Standing Working Issue Team (WIT) Reports

10:15 AM

- Food Hub Update (Stephen) [Steering committee has been meeting to decide on a tentative date for launch in August. Funding through PacMtn for food security boxes. Farmers interested in participating should contact Aslan Meade, at Thurston EDC.](#)
- Food Security/Emergency food system (Eileen) [No changes. Eileen unable to attend.](#)
- Gardens (Celeste, Deb, Martha, Michaela, Lesley, Cathy, Amanda) [Haven't met since April. Group hadn't decided how to communicate all the info we have. Need to update website with current links.](#)
- Food Resilience & Strategic Planning (Jeff, Deb, Lesley, Lynn, Marilyn, Martha) [Need to update strategy map. General discussion of value of summarizing organizational history and/or having a facilitated retreat to focus on purpose/strategic planning.](#)

Action Items:

- [Lisa will send out a Doodle poll re: September dates for retreat](#)

- Marilyn will create a summary of organizational history for September meeting
 - Lisa and Marilyn will look for a facilitator
- Earth Friendly Eating—partnership with TCAT (**Lynn**, Cathy, Marilyn)

Next Virtual Meeting: September 3, 2020

We will not meet in August, but will resume in September

(We will retain the virtual option, and will let you know if we're also able to meet in person)