**Clallam County Food Policy Council Forum**

January 6th, 2011

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Port Angeles Library

In Attendance: Bryon Gunnerson, Max Mania, Karen Westwood, Tom Clark, Holly Clark, Jane Hielman, Gary Gleason, Dennis Hultman, Jack Caldicott, John Burdick, Colleen Teevin, Sarah McCarthey, Steve Johnson, Karen Bert, Mark Ozias, Patrick Downie, Curtis Beus, Patty McManus, Clea Rome, Jennifer Garcelon, Lorin Garrison, Carrol Hull, Susan Molin, Joanne Mathias, Barbara Wieseman, Jeri Weinhold, Mike Doherty, Mark D. Bowman, Elizabeth Seifert

Introduction

Jane Heilman-facilitator

History

Introduction to: www.proposedclallamfoodpolicycouncil.weebly.com

Jane’s e-mail: sunsetswestcoop@yahoo.com

Jane asks the group if anyone is interested in forming a food coop to see her.

Community Gardens Report

Karen Bert reports.

See attached report-on website

Max Mania and Gary Gleason would like a copy. Holly Clark and Karen Bert will send.

January 15th ground will be broken for the community garden across from city hall. Richard Bonine with City Parks is in charge of this project.

Regulations and Zoning

Curtis Beus reports that there is a perception of road blocks.

Gary Gleason is present and on the Planning Commission.

Curtis says the biggest issue is to sell local food from the farm. What types of zones? Curtis says farms in agriculture retention zone would have more rights than others.

Gary says this project has been going on for 5 years and he,Gary, is the sole representative of farms on the planning commission. There is a question of what to put in the ordinance specifically? Planning commission refuses to put it out to vote because of the immense issues and issues out of their jurisdiction. The farm community needs to come to the planning commission with information. There has to be some input to the planning commission in order for the commission to make decisions and to open up discussion. This will also help get the county commissioners to get up to speed with regulations.

Max-If you know of meetings you could inform the FPC of when these meetings take place?

Curtis-Identify a group from the FPC committee to attend those meetings.

Gary-Bring specific problems with community farming to the meetings.

Curtis-Colleen and Brian Gunnerson put in a very nice commercial kitchen. It was costly.

Brian-The experience was an “eye opener”, the septic system alone was $50,000. $4,000 for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, $2000 for the bathroom. Soaps specific. 4 months was spent on going between state and county.

Jennifer Garcelon-Proccessing food at the store falls under state. Foods that do not need permits -fruits and vegetables. Processed foods fall under county.

Curtis-Farmers get “dizzy” with code and regulations.

Holly-Is there a permit for farm stand in Clallam County? Jefferson County is “on the ball.” They chose a goal of 20% of their county population consuming local food. They went from a half percent to 4 percent in a short period of time.

Curtis-Is anyone interested in forming a group to look at County, City and State jurisdiction?

Curtis-Jefferson just went through farm ordinance recently that is award winning. A model.

Max-Why can’t we just use Jefferson County’s model ?

Gary-The little plots are producing so much. They should have the right to farm. The neighbor next door might have issues. The right to farm has been designed for large scale.

Curtis-The major opposition for adopting Jefferson’s model is lavender farming. Open application for rezone which doesn’t come with the same rights as the ag’ zone.

Tom-Is there a tax break if you are in the ag’ retention zone? If you are in ag’ zone then your property can be put in open space. Does Jefferson get a tax break?

Mike D-There is a tax shift.

Gary-Rolled home base business and agriculture got rolled into one with the planning commission

Max-What about bringing in Jefferson County to speak to the forum?

Jack-I strongly suggest to the county to hold a work session on this issue. To get this matter resolved.

Jane-Who is willing? Patrick, Max, Brian, Curtis, ask Sid.

Gary-Make sure you give very specific steps to the commission.

USDA Slaughter Cut and Wrap

Holly Clark reports

See USDA Slaughter…report

C lea-Fill out an application through Clea to get RC&D to do a feasibility study to bring in a USDA and/or custom cut and wrap and slaughterer to the area.

Jane-There is a gentleman who would like to build a mobile slaughter unit for chickens.

Curtis-Stevens County has a blue print for a mobile slaughter unit for chickens. Curtis will get this for Jane.

Mark-from a retailer’s perspective meat is regulated so there are not as many local meat farmers supplying meat to local stores. Eggs have regulations but it is easier, produce has less.

Structure

Mark Ozias reports

See Structural Considerations Report

Mark met with Anne Murray and the goal was to look at other food policy councils. There needs to be some tie to rule makers.

All successful FPC have *active* policy makers.

Most successful FPC has specific members, representatives from County and City, Tribal, EDC, WSU, farmers, food processors, retail/restaurant end, waste management expert, NOLT, nonprofit service providers such as OlyCap, institutional (schools, hospitals, prisons), Olympic Peninsula Culinary Loop, community garden rep’, Farmers Market Manager.

Successful FPCs have some staff support.

Gary-suggests a forum style.

Curtis-RC&D is a two county council. Jefferson and Clallam counties

Mike- Clallam County has about 30 advisory councils. Some have a budget but most don’t. Maybe through the O’bama change there could be some monies.

Clea-Clea is a federal employee but could represent RC&D. Once a month the representatives from RC&D meet. There may be some value of having FPC at the meeting. Possibly have FPC representation at these meetings. If interested it could be discussed with the RC&D members first. Americore could be an option for staffing FPC.

Curtis-FPC should be two county.

Should we have a two county FPC?

Holly-Consensus from the first meeting is to have a separate Clallam County FPC.

Mark suggests looking at RC&D playing a part.

Clea-suggests the Clallam County FPC group works on Clallam County issues, another group works with RC&D. RC&D meets every 4th Thursday of every month in Blynn at the Jamestown Skallam Tribal Center.

Clea-She will send info’ about the meeting.

Mike-Have an Advisory Board of Health piece. FPC is appropriate for RC&D.

Mission Statement

Jack Caldicott reports

See Mission Statement Report

" Create and promote a healthy and sustainable local food
economy."

Mike-recommends adding “security or secure”.

 Jennifer-secure meaning tampering

Curtis- Security means three things.

1. Getting food to low income

2. A food system that is resilient with disaster.

3. Bioterrorism-Food supplies could be a path.

Patty-I would rather stay away from the word safe.

Jack-Getting people to grow their own food is a big picture.

" Create and promote a secure, healthy and sustainable local food
economy."

Holly motions the above mission statement. Jane seconds. A unanimous vote to adopt the mission statement:

**" Create and promote a secure, healthy and sustainable local food
economy."**

Carrol Hull-We are the grass roots.

Gary-would like a group that could advise us, planning commission on what to do next. Grass roots, the power of the group, …when you move up the ladder so to speak, you get bogged down with procedure.

John Burdick-Clallam County FPC now here by exists and we will seek to work with RC&D. Jack seconds. A unanimous vote, all in favor.

**County FPC now here by exists and we will seek to work with RC&D.**

Mark-someone from the structure will attend the future RC&D.

Carrol-The League of Women Voters would like to sponsor a Food, Health and Safety Forum in April which would feature issues of GMO’s, the benefits of buying and eating local food, and the importance of maintaining genetic diversity through seed banks etc….

Meeting adjurns at 4:00 p.m.