

**NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative**  
**Fayette County Planning Team Meeting Minutes**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - 4:00, ISU Extension Office, Fayette**

Attendees: Leif White, Donna Story, Sheryl Struthers, Vicki Rowland, Scot Michelson, Ann Bushman, Michelle Zander, Hope Onken, Karla Organist, Dan Burkhart, Ron O'Kones

Committee Members shared conversations they've had this week related to the work of the NE FFI and our vision:

- Felt like a promoter of grown local with recent presentations by Ann
- Had many conversations as he was involved with the process of reviewing RFAs, trails meetings, and Safe Routes to Schools presentations
- Shared a trails design workshop in MN
- Had conversations with local producers about FFI and told us that they have made big improvements at their place like a new greenhouse, landscaping, pathways and outhouse
- Talked about scoring RFAs and how that was all she thought about on Saturday... the process was difficult and that they grouped several together
- Feels like she is constantly sharing about FFI and found it difficult to isolate an incidence but recalls talking about gardening and saving our bees
- Talked about two new members joining FFI – local for school
- Spoke three times on Monday and she is excited about Valley's greenhouse
- Couldn't recall a particular conversation but she signed up for CSA and discussed trails. She is thinking about going to the Marquette market

2. Bread and rolls were baked fresh by Lucy. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches, frosted rolls, milk and cheese.
3. Scot briefly shared key points from the Regional Team Meeting. He reviewed the timeline and talked about the visioning meeting next Monday 4/20 when the top 5 will be given. He said that some of the RFAs pertained to "organization" and "structure" and those may need to be handled differently. Kellogg has not yet indicated any amounts. Karla added that we should just submit what we have regardless of amount.
4. Scot discussed the organizational structure and shared how he thought his role might shift from county to built environments. He suggested having more experienced members on the county team. Karla countered that we also consider grooming for leadership as to avoid falling in a rut. Note was made that the new structure takes pressure off of the center of the old chart (current conveners).
5. A conference for county teams was discussed that would occur once or twice a year. People from all states are interested and encouraged by what FFI is doing in Iowa with regional food systems and planning. Food and Farm does send people to conferences and built environments could coordinate Safe Routes to Schools speakers and really get people working together more like trails.
6. Update on Fayette County Trails. They've started their fund raising and have secured \$48,000 in personal contributions to date. She expressed that this is a small segment of a bigger regional vision to connect Elgin to Clermont to Calmar and to LaCrosse. Phase two in Oct 2012 from Nims bridge to the Prairie Farmer Trail received T1 funds in the amount of \$136,000. Regional concept of 5 counties connected by trails will bring tourism. Brochures are available and press releases are scheduled for the local newspapers.
7. Next Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. 4:00 – 6:00, ISU Extension Office.

Our Vision:

NE Iowa is a unique place where all residents and guests of every age experience, celebrate and promote healthy locally grown food with abundant opportunities for physical activity and play EVERY DAY. Healthier people make stronger families and communities.