

The NIFF Coalition met on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at noon at the Winneshiek County Extension office. Present: Brenda Ranum, Mary Steen, Lyle Luzum, Charlie Baier, Craig Chase, Eric Nordschow, Teresa Wiemerslage.

- **Institutional Survey** –
- Data is being entered by the intern. Additional surveys may still come in. Craig will begin analyzing the data as soon as all the survey results are entered—end of January.
- Only \$37.40 (2 people) was spent for mileage. This leaves \$962.60 to be reallocated to another project
- The group discussed the next steps following the survey. They talked about the timetable to calculate results, getting the results to the public, making connections to farmers. Within the next 6 months, there will be a result meeting in each county for those who participated in the study to learn about the results. We will use local testimonials. i.e. Robin Gaines at Bartels Nursing home. There is confusion of food safety and insurance—excellent educational opportunity.
- There is money in the Kellogg proposal for a regional conference. Group discussed having county meetings in the next 6 months in each county to talk to local institutions.
 - Include BFBL directory
 - Showcase local foods
 - Pay for panel
 - Handouts
- **Household Consumer Survey Update**–
 - Survey pre-tests were distributed in all five counties. Fayette—15, Winneshiek—10; Allamakee—5, Howard--9 completed; and Clayton county just distributed theirs this week. Reports back indicate that it takes about 30 minutes to complete and a few of the questions are confusing. The group spent time after the meeting edited some of the questions on the survey.
 - Depending on the results of the survey, CD-DIAL may need to revise the survey and will distribute the survey in February. Two weeks prior to the survey being mailed, we will want to do a mass media campaign (radio, newspaper, web) explaining NIFF and asking people to complete the survey, when to expect it, how the results will be used, etc. The group is looking for someone to help with marketing the survey.
 - End of timeline is end of May—Brenda will ask the Leopold Center for a 6 month extension.
- **Asset Mapping** – Tim Johnson will be completing this survey for our Coalition beginning in January (estimated value \$5,000). Craig Chase, Eric Nordschow, Mary Steen and Brenda Ranum will meet at the Dairy Center in Calmar on Jan. 9 at 10:30 am to prepare information needed for this survey. Other committee members are welcome to attend.
- **Economic Analysis** – (Committee: Craig, Eric and Mary) Dave Swenson will begin his work in February-March 2007. He will need the information prepared by Tim Johnson to begin his work.
- **Base-Line Survey** – Data is being collected from Institutions through the Institutional Survey.

Education Committee Update:

- **Presentations:**
- Report on NIFF Surveys and Kellogg Proposal Presentation to the Regional Food System Working Group (RFSWG) (60-80 members, meet quarterly) in Ames on Dec. 14 (Craig, Eric and Brenda)
 1. Eric handed out news release on the meeting (posted to webpage)
 2. People keep asking how we are doing it
 1. Keep group focused

2. Get a diverse group
 3. Get the members in the right seat on the bus
- Report on NIFF Coalition Presentation to Chamber Ag Committee (Eric) 8 people, March 21 is the lunch; need to have a NIFF display
 - Upcoming NIFF Presentations
 - Added Value Conference in Red Wing, MN on Jan 27 – (Craig, Brenda, Eric)
 - Sustainable Ag and Food System Funders conference on June 28 – (Rich Pirog and Brenda) Only have one conference in the country per year. We need to be ready with a proposal.
 - We are moving from a planning stage to an acting stage and the planners still need to plan and the actors still need to act. County meetings once a quarter to keep stakeholders involved.
 - **Small Grants to Producers** –\$600 per county available to local producers.
 - Allamakee Update –4 applications; awarded 2
 - Clayton Update – see attached sheet
 - Fayette Update – see attached sheet \$100 to each of the farmers
 - Howard Update – no report
 - Winneshiek Update – no report
 - Community Vitality Center funds for 2K are on hold until July 1, 2007. Mark Edelman, CVC Director wrote that because these dollars are from a federal grant, some of the money may not come through, so until further notice, he asks we delay awarding these funds to producers. (If the funds are not cut, we can award them to producers for attending trainings, business plan development, and technical assistance such as legal, engineering, and accounting purposes. They may not be used for permanent facilities and permanent equipment.)
 - **NICC Community Outreach Portal Update** –Lyle and Teresa demonstrated the new portal. Before the NIFF meetings in Feb and March, they will demonstrate how to use the portal at 11:30. The portal has message boards/discussion forums, calendars, task lists, address books, file storage, web bookmarks, and chat features.
 - **Review Johnson County’s Local Food Alliance “Ethical Commitments”** – The group discussed the need to have a statement of core values and this piece is a good place to start. A draft will be posted to portal for comments. Pieces of this document will be reviewed at NIFF meetings in the next 6 months. Members have the opportunity to add their comments to the discussion board on the portal.
 - **Several upcoming programs** were discussed. Check out the website for more info.
 - Brenda gave an update on the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food & Fitness Initiative

Next Meetings: **Thursday, February 1, 2007, Noon – 2:00 pm; Portal training at 11:30**
Thursday, March 1, 2007, Noon – 2:00 pm: Portal training at 11:30