

The NE IA Food & Farm Coalition met on November 1, 2007 from Noon-2 pm at the Winneshiek County Extension office, Decorah. 14 members were present.

Discussion of Future Learning Opportunities/Events

NOVEMBER

- Tues., Nov. 13: NIFF Presentation to Midwest Sustainable Ag Conference, Des Moines (Teresa, Eric, Liz, Brenda, Larry and Diane)
- Wed., Nov 14: Local Food Breakfast for Food Producers and Food Buyers, 9 am, The Oaks, Decorah. Please help recruit food buyers and producers.
- Nov. 15: Winneshiek Community Foundation Grant Award Banquet, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, The Oaks Restaurant, Decorah, up to 3 NIFF members may attend. No volunteers. Don Arendt will be attending.
- Nov. 26, 10 am – 1 pm, Dairy Center Board Room, Meeting with Pam Benike, SE MN Food Network Coordinator.
- Nov 28-29: FFI Regional Team and Organizational Partners participate in W.K. Kellogg Foundation workshop, ***Organizational Learning and Systems Thinking***. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has generously offered to bring this workshop to NE Iowa. This workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and Thursday, November 29, 8:30 am – Noon, at the Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah. This workshop will allow our Team members to use key organizational learning and system thinking frameworks to 1) establish Core Values for our work, 2) define the Purpose for our work, and 3) create a Vision for what our work will accomplish in the next 5-10 years of the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative. This work will lay the foundation for us to learn and plan over the next 18 months to develop strategies, tactics and activities to put into our Implementation Plan in order to reach our Vision.

DECEMBER

- Dec 6-7: NE IA Food & Farm Coalition member will work at developing the Local Food System story. Details TBD.
- Dec 12: Buy Fresh Buy Local annual meeting, Vinton. 2 people from chapter need to attend. Contact Teresa if interested.
- Dec 14: Regional Food System Working Group Meeting – Volunteers for NIFF Coalition Update. No volunteers at this time.

JANUARY

- TBD – Marketing Workshop, sponsored by Regional Food System Working Group (6-7 NIFF members may attend)

FEBRUARY

- Feb 8-9: Women Adding Value to Agriculture Conference, The Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah

MARCH

- March 22: Blazing a Trail, Part III. Organic agriculture conference, NICC Center, Cresco.

Assessments

- **Asset Mapping** – Committee (Eric, Mary, Craig and Mark) gave an update. Teresa showed the Google map created by the RC&D intern. The rest of the asset map could be done this way. Teresa will check with the intern or her office help. Grocery stores and processors need to be added. Once the information is ready, the webcast will be created.
- **Economic Impact Analysis** – Craig reported that he, Angie Tagtow and Dave Swenson are working on this information and it will be ready by Dec 1.

- **Barriers/Challenges/Policy Survey** – A short update was presented on the results of this survey. The committee will work at putting it in a final form. (Teresa, Eric, Mark) The group talked about an educational program addressing the barriers. Brenda will talk to Jane Schadle about contacting the Food Service Association to find out the message that institutions are hearing from them.

Schools and restaurants will also have the opportunity to learn more at a conference scheduled for 2008 by Luther College. They would like to facilitate discussions with institutions to think about the use of local food.

- **Producer/Processor Focus Group** – A Small Meat Processor Focus Group is set for Tuesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 pm. 4-5 processors are expected.
- **Base-Line Survey** – Complete – Teresa is working on the webcast

Education

- **Request:** Set meeting date to begin discussion on “Creating the NE Iowa Story for Building a Local Food System” & Timeline (Committee: Brenda, Eric, Mary, Judy Issacson, Angie Tagtow, Linda Long, others???. The group discussed the possibility of having the Kellogg TAP team take the NIFF members through a similar exercise as the FFI Regional team. This exercise would realign our efforts and help us define our core values. Brenda will check into this possibility. For now, all NIFF members are asked to hold Dec 6 and 7 for these discussions.
- **Request:** RFSWG received **\$1,000 for our NIFF Coalition to use toward “building local leadership capacity”**. Is there a speaker we could bring in to the region? Money should be spent prior to end of March 2008. If we host the Kellogg workshop, the funding could be used for that.
- **Request:** The Leopold Center and Practical Farmers of Iowa are working together to help establish a Fruit and Vegetable Working Group. This would function similarly to the Regional Food Systems Working Group. They would like to invite key fruit and vegetable growers from our region to participate in the group and help define ways to address constraints to increasing production and sales in the state. Producer names were shared as nominations.

Budget – funds must be spent by March 30, 2008

- \$ available for Honorarium/Speaker Fees/Consultants: \$2,250 plus \$2,000 for Angie Tagtow’s expertise (\$1K from NIFF funds and 1K from Alces Grant to RFSWG)
- \$ available for food, room rental fees: \$200
- & available for postage: \$201.85
- \$ available for printing: \$962.60

Another Proposal to RFSWG was submitted for \$9K-\$10K in assistance for April 08 – March 09.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Submitted by Teresa Wiemerslage.