

Nechako Valley Food Network
General Meeting Minutes, January 11th 2010
7:00pm
CNC, Room 2-109

Attendance: Lisa Burgener, Michelle Roberge, Maya Sullivan, Pete Rodseth, Andrew Beuzer, Karen Scheffers, Maryanne and Carol Walker, Jazmin

1. Reviewed November minutes
2. Financial Report : 225/450 aside for education, other half for general funds. 80.53 cents after all expenses paid from Harvest Dinner. Considered as “admin fee”

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Fresh Movie:** Will be showing at the film fest. **Saturday, February 20th 6:30 PM \$10/person.** Need to roundup a projector. If college does not have one, Ministry of Forestry has one. Cost the theatre 400 dollars to play movie.. hoping NVFN members will bring friends to help break even. \$117 to order movie and resources (done). Maya to find projector. DVD of movie also . . . could be donated to VP Library.
2. **Farm To School Video Conf:** Farm to School Salad bar. Not all veggies. Meat Stews, fruits, baking etc too. Approximately 3 dollars/plate, so pay farmers a fair price for their work. In winter, veggies are 'as local as possible' BC grown. \$2,500 for a complete salad bar kit. Northern Health has two salad bar kits to loan to schools for 'pilot' testing programs. Salad bar might only be offered one or two days a week to start. Top down policy changes at School District level encourage buying local food for hot lunch programs (see work in PG SD # 57). Have older students (grade 6/7) trained in Level 1 Food Safe, so they can assist in the kitchen. Recommendation: Bring it up at all PAC's, pilot test in one school first, having a centralized store to purchase locally grown foods would make the program more feasible to do without a 'coordinator'.
3. **District Of Vanderhoof Large & Small –Scale Agri Focus Group:** Michelle went to small group, lead by the man writing the report. Talked about what they have in Vanderhoof as far as small scale agriculture and what they want to have in future.

Large Scale Agrigulture meeting:

- taxation --- lose farm status if you produce value added products on the farm
- difficult to transport heavy machinery/farm equipment on the highways
- kill capacity/processing capacity
- selling to retail - - - takes prime cuts . . .now how to market the hamburger, stew meat, etc.
- whether we sell locally or not, our local prices are determined by the international market.
- cattlemen are going out of business . . . possible water shortage in future here
- Farm Advocate recommended

Small Scale Agriculture:

Issues: Kill capacity and cooler/processing capacity

Creating a Food Security plan and charter for Municipal Council to ratify . . . which would allow them to take specific actions in order to encourage local food/food security

Farm Advocate worker (recommendation from District?)

possibility of a Farmer's Cooperative retail store??

4. **Sockeye Salmon** – Discussion/Committee formation: No updates

Producer Ad Committee: Brainstorming ideas

Bulletin Board: January/February: Fresh/Action Theme

March: Salmon Theme

New Business

1. NVFN Short & Long Term Goals: (initial discussion)

- Decided it would be a good idea to set goals for this year to sort out what we're trying to accomplish.
- Form posted on the website and distributed
- Will compile and bring up at next meeting.

2. Agro Forestry Workshop:

Agroforestry workshop series, hosted by Resources North and FORREX, Dec. 2 &3, 2009

UNBC, Prince George

The objective of the workshop was to present diversification options for communities impacted by Mountain Pine Beetle.

- Two day workshop with approximately 30 people in attendance. There was significant representation by First Nations (Nad'leh, Saik'uz and Nak'azdli bands). There were also agriculture folks from Burns Lake, Hazelton, Fort St. James
- Presentations were made by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands staff on everything from product funding to assistance in marketing along with providing extensive resource sources. (see attached)
- Four very diverse case studies were presented. The owners/managers explained how they diversified their agricultural operations and lessons they learned along the way.
- It was good to see what products the local First Nations peoples are developing ie birch syrup and
- Much frustration was expressed over the fact that non-timber forest products fall between the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forest and Range jurisdiction resulting in poor regulation, unresolved land claims and lack of tenures for anything but timber extraction.
- Examples of Agrioforestry: manure to fertilize aspen crops, open pine stands with huckleberries, tapping of white birch trees that serve as a riparian zone, Christmas tree/greens production on range land

See the attachment for a list of resources from this workshop

Communal Extras Table at Farmers Market

- Bring this up with the Farmer's Market Society closer to Market time

3. BC Food Systems Network Membership

- Mentioned at Novembers meeting. Suggested \$100 fee to join for society. Could we ask to pay only \$50 since we are a new group?
- Recommended that NVFN joins because use of high quality recording equipment would be granted and because by joining, they strengthen the BC Food Systems Network Membership.
- Suggested we wait until we know a. if we make the funds back for buying Fresh

b. if we can determine other ways to raise money (membership fees) c. Maya might purchase an individual membership. More discussion required.

4. Website Links and Relationship Requests

- Michelle got a request, wonders if she needs agreement from full group.
- Group has decided that she can accept at her own discretion.

5. Poultry Producing Lobbying Request

- Fehr's beef was seized.
- Had a temporary processing license for poultry. This license was revoked.
- Want to draft a letter to lobby for still having the Mobile Docking Unit for poultry in Vanderhoof.
- Suggested to contact BC Centre for Disease Control re: specifics.
- Lisa will research and then draft letter if appropriate. Will send it out for review and feedback . . . then, revise and bring for signing at the movie Fresh.

6. Farmers Cooperative Store

- Heartland Farmers' Cooperative . . . Kamloops. Lisa willing to set up a videoconference re: their process if producers are interested. Will discuss more when establish goals next NVFN meeting.
- So, far four – five producers are interested in this concept (Word of Mouth)

7. Upcoming Grants

- See NVFN website for details. (HEAL and Evergreen)

8. Appoint New Meeting Facilitator for Feb-June 2010

Maryanne Walker volunteered. Thanks Maryanne!

Next Meeting: February 8th, 7 – 9 PM CNC