

Nechako Valley Food Network
General Meeting Minutes, February 8th 2010
7:11pm
CNC

Attendance: Lisa Burgener, Maya Sullivan, Andrew Beuzer, Maryanne Walker, Paule Monsegu, Denise Dowswell and Darlene.

1. Reviewed January 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". Plus \$18.00 donation from recycled bottles – Total: \$548.53

OLD BUSINESS

1. BC Food Systems Network Membership

Maya will buy an individual membership. She will regularly update the Food Network.

The Mission of the BC Food Systems Network is
to work together to eliminate hunger and create food security for all residents of British Columbia

According to their guide:

Food Security requires a sustainable food system in which:

- a. everyone is able to acquire, in a dignified manner, adequate quantity and quality of personally acceptable food;*
- b. people are able to earn a living wage by growing, producing, processing, handling, retailing, and serving food;*
- c. the quality of land, air and water, the well-being of animals, and the integrity of plants and seeds are maintained and enhanced for future generations; and*
- d. food is recognized as the basis of health and celebrated as central to family, community and cultural integrity*

2. Poultry Producing Letter of Support

- Dr. Brian Radke, Public Health Vet. From Center of Disease Control was contacted
-can reinstate license if conditions are met, will not jeopardize having mobile processing unit in Vanderhoof - need to contact Dana Fehr to find out position of Caribou Central Interior Poultry Producers Association to determine if action is needed or not.

3. NVFN Short and Long-term Goals

Short term goals (by the end of 2010) in order of priority:

- a. Publication of local producers (to be completed at the end of May)
-District of Vanderhoof to print? Distribute with local 'updater' ?
- b. Investigate possibilities for a centralized location for selling of local products year round.
-obtain, distribute, and review Heartlands Coop Feasibility Study (circulate for 1 month)

Action Item: Darlene to ask Diane to pick-up the feasibility study

- if enough interest after review, organize a videoconference
- other retail outlets in community to become known for selling local ??

c. Pilot Farm to School Salad Bar in Vanderhoof (to be launched in Fall 2010)

d. Research feasibility of a community garden.

-Who will use it, what form will it take (inter-agency or individual plots), where should it be located, how can it be sustainable

-if determined viable, aim to launch the garden in Spring 2011

e. Maintain the Bulletin Board and website updates

f. Develop a community education/awareness event to raise the profile of local food and to educate about food related issues once every three months.

g. Continue to support the Farmer's Market Society by promoting them

Long Term Goals

-these were not discussed due to lack of time

Food Security and Sustainability in Northern BC (report)

Institute for Sustainable Agriculture: Dr. Kent Mullinix (presenter)

- 5 – 10 units of energy to produce 1 unit of food energy (in the current industrialized food system)

- intensive agriculture movement . . . grow close to where people live because now only 15 – 20 % of the population is involved in growing

In Richmond – starting a 'farm school' - intensive agriculture – growing to make \$\$