

Nechako Valley Food Network
General Meeting Minutes, November 17, 2009

Attendance: Susan Armstrong, Karen Scheffers, May Sullivan, Glen Sensenig, Andrew Beuzer, Lisa Burgener, Michelle Roberge

7:05 pm

Welcome and Introduction around the table

Note to remember the minutes for previous meeting

Old Business:

1. **Bulletin Board** theme for December – decided theme would be “ Home Grown Christmas” to be done by Lisa and Katimivik staff
2. **CNC Course Donation-** \$450 donation earmarked for courses which have been cancelled due to low enrollment,
 - membership to the BC Food Systems Network was suggested to be used for the funds, to support the work of this network, enhance communications , be involved in policy development, access to video equipment suggested membership fee is \$100 but it was felt that in view of the limited funds of the Nechacho Valley Food Network a small donation should be considered
 - Agreed to set \$225 aside for education purposes and \$225 for general funds
3. **Procedure Guidelines** – not posted yet, this document will be evolving
4. **Volunteer Hour Tracking System** - it was pointed out that recording of volunteer hours was important to aid in the grant application process, the online form is simple and should be recorded monthly, hours are to include the farmer’s market
5. **BC Food System Network Conference Report** – Susan and Maya expressed how worthwhile attending this annual conference was. They came away with many resources, contacts and ideas. Approximately 150 attended the conference with a good representation from First Nations. The conference was comprised of workshops and information tables. Susan gave more detail on the Food Rescue programs and her plans to access these resources for our area, beginning with Fort St. James. A discussion ensued about the logistics of this venture. Maya focused her presentation on the Farm School program and the educator’s guidebook she brought back. Lisa is to present the Evelyn Dickson PAC. There was a round table on Salmon Fisheries, which was a major theme of the conference. Maya also reviewed the movie ‘Fresh” which has a website with the same name. She found it to be positive and informative. After discussion it was agreed that “Reel Alternatives” be approached to consider including this movie.
6. **Sustainability Workshop and Dinner** – Gratitude expressed for the donations to the dinner it was well received with the leftovers being delivered to Neighbor Link. The event was a good demonstration of what is possible and spotlighted local producers. A discussion about the

difficulty in communication between buyers and local producers and how best to improve this.

7. **Producer Advertising Committee** - Nothing to report as there has been difficulty arranging meetings, and still recruiting committee members
8. **Community Gardens** – Vanderhoof District is doing a survey on possible uses for Riverside Park recommended that a question regarding having a Community Garden in Riverside park be included in the survey- a discussion took place about what type of community garden to have and the issue of vandalism
9. **Sockeye Salmon** – Alexander Mortin is a lead advocate on the negative impacts of fish farms was pleased that a judicial inquiry has been set- see www.adopt-a-fry.org for more details-consider a sub committee to work on this issue – possible sockeye salmon theme for bulletin board

NEW BUSINESS

Farm to School Video conference is to be Friday, Nov 27, as per attachment to agenda on website. Lisa to attend

DoV Agriculture Focus Group – as per attachment to agenda- frustration was expressed over short notice to prepare for the topics of discussion

- Discussion over who could attend the afternoon meeting and what was required of them
- This meeting would have primarily large producers but it was felt that attendance would be worthwhile to gain insight into their perspective
- In addition to this meeting a second meeting would be requested in order to address the focus questions adequately, it was recommended that Lisa, Glen, Michelle, Maya and possibly John or Susan Aebischer would attend and that it would be an evening meeting

Communal extras Market Table at the Farmers Market was discussed briefly as was the role the Community Services clients could play at the Farmers Market next season.

Adjournment 8:50pm