

Nechako Valley Food Network
Regular Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2010
CNC Room 2-109

**In Attendance: Maryanne Walker, Andrew Beuzer, Heidi Hill, Michelle Roberge, Lisa Burgener
Loraina Stephens**

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

- 1. Assignment of note-taker. Lisa has offered to be the note – taker for the next year.**
- 2. No major decisions were made during March's meeting due to low attendance.**
- 3. Financial Report: \$548.53**

-expenses for purchasing the rights to show the movie Fresh were recouped from the ticket sale

4. Old Business

a. Kamloops Co-op Store

**Action: Lisa to follow up with Darlene re: acquisition of Kamloops Heartland Coop
Feasibility study**

b. Choosing a rep from NVFN for NHCA board

Andrew will attend AGM on Saturday and consider it

c. NVFN Short and Long Term Goals

These were reviewed in great detail and revised to the following:

Short Term Goals:

- a. compilation and publication of a print directory of local producers by the end of May
- b. facilitate the consideration of a centralized location for selling local products year round by connecting local producers with Farmers' Cooperative case studies from other northern BC communities
- c. offer a supportive role to local foods meal initiatives in schools by strengthening the links between the School District and local producers
- d. research the feasibility of a community or inter-agency garden (winter 2010/11)
- e. Maintain and update the bulletin board and website
- f. develop community education/awareness events to raise the profile of local food and to educate about food related issues
- g. continue to support the Farmer's Market by promoting them

Actions Arising from Discussion of Short Term Goals:

Goal A. NHCA needs to develop policy regarding sponsorship of projects before directory committee will solicit printing sponsorship

A: Directory committee to consider the implications of marketing producers in regards to health inspection regulations. Committee and/or NVFN to make a decision about the procedure for duly warning producers about health inspection issues.

Action: Lisa and Michelle to post the contacts names and details for Environmental Health laws (Angela Wheeler and Greg Tone And their boss Greg Thibeault) on the website and the bulletin board.

B. Loraina to request that 'Farmer's Cooperatives across the Bioregion' be put on the agenda for a HEAL teleconference chat. An evening event would be best.

Lisa to circulate Kamloops Feasibility study (if Darlene has it), and Tatyana Bates (Interior Health) contact information (re: Williams Lake Farmers Coop) for producers to consider. NVFN to inform producers about teleconference.

C. Loraina to start ball rolling for a 'assess interest' meeting of stakeholders regarding local foods in school meal programs.

Will work with District to invite parents, staff, and producers to the table for discussion.

Questions to be considered: How supportive are stakeholders of the local foods in school idea? Which model of local foods in schools would people most support . . . Farm to School Salad Bar or other more locally defined suggestions?)

NVFN representatives will attend the meeting and offer support for linking producers with the school programs.

D. Lisa to contact community agencies and individuals interested in the 'community garden or inter-agency garden' idea for Vanderhoof and invite them to the HEAL Teleconference on community gardens April 27th 3 PM – 4:30 Following the event, individuals would have the opportunity to discuss possibilities for Vanderhoof.

If there is interest, Lisa and Loraina will coordinate a tour of the Queensway Interagency garden in PG – a 'Local Food Event.'

Loraina to resend inter-agency best practises manual for purchase (\$10).

6. Committee Reports

a. Producer Directory Report

Budget:

Items based on printing 2,000 copies (plus applicable taxes)

Paper -

Printing – (approx. \$2,000)

Distribution (1,500 mailboxes): aprox \$0.11/mailbox = \$165

Legal:

Loraina to keep connecting with the committee re: health inspection legalities

Committee to make a decision procedure for marketing producers (are they legal?)

Sourcing

Maya and Andrew will help call producers

Design

Michelle will do the design with input from the committee

Production

Free Possibilities: Rio Tinto Alcan, District, NH (not color)

Paid Possibilities: Hemlock, Speedee, Papyrus (NH . . . internal can do price check)

Distribution

All mailboxes in Vanderhoof - 1500

Drop-off retail locations such as: Co-op, Earthen Ware, Ventin's

Handout at trade show/fall fair

Other Items:

Market Safety Manual for Farmer's Market to come out next month

Action: Loraina to forward to Michelle for posting on website : **Vanderhoof Agriculture Strategy**

Bulletin Board not discussed due to lack of time.

NHCA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 17 Vanderhoof Public Library

5:00 PM – 5:45 Meeting

5:45 - ? Potluck dinner for members

Childcare provided by Katimavik (4:45 – 6:00)

No leads to pass on to Lynne Northrup re: burning 5 – 6 dump truck loads of poplar wood.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM