

## Northwest Food Security Partnership

Meeting #2- July 17<sup>th</sup> 2018, 9:30 am to 11:00 pm

1. Margo and Denise will be taking notes
2. *Present:* Mike Dewar, Denise Gagnon, Margo Peill, Laurie Gallant (Chair), Limwel Ramada, Rabia Ahmed. *Regrets:* Kevin Pegg, Kevin Koch, John Stevenson, Curt Gesch, Jane Dickson, Jeannie Boyce.
3. Chairperson addressed best practices for phone conferencing, adding on closing ritual as a check in at end of each meeting.
4. No additional agenda points were added.
5. Administration:
  - i. Revised terms of reference posted on our website based on points discussed at last meeting. Positions added include: community coordinators, outreach and media coordinator. The purpose of working group was tightened up with new wording, the addition of youth to membership composition, the addition of three sub committees - Admin, Outreach, Pilot Projects - Root Cellar. ***It was decided to circulate the new revisions for one week for comments and if there are no objections to move forward with this version as the final draft.***
  - ii. Nominations for directors so we can formally incorporate the group: Chairperson asked for any new thoughts. Agreement this is still a good move. A representative from the Regional District was discussed as a role. Laurie noted that we have the Google form for officially nominating directors. Mike advised that as a rep for the District of Kitimat he will be a non-voting member. It was discussed that government representation may follow this lead, and based on participation so far, this seems to be the case. We had previously thought to specifically approach local government and request a representative. ***It was decided that at this time, formally requesting government appointments is not the best use of our limited resources - perhaps when we are ready to develop the plan it will make more sense. For now, it is helpful to have them as advisors. UPDATE: Laurie will put the nomination form on the website and ask core group to complete the form so we know who are voting members are and who are non-voting members are.***
  - iii. Constitution and Bylaws - Laurie recommended we defer this to the Admin Subcommittee and made a proposal that we consider merging our group with the Music and Agritourism Society of the Hazeltons (MASH) if that Board is willing since they have administered our finances for the last 2 years and have overlapping membership and mandate. The chairperson explained a little bit about what MASH does and how the NW Food Security Partnership would fit in within the structure. It was proposed that the idea of a merge would be put to a vote after MASH board accepts this idea and makes a written proposal of how this could work. ***Action item: Present both options and attach the membership***



***nomination form and give two weeks for people to think over and respond. Based on the responses, we will decide how to proceed. Margo, Denise and Laurie will sit on the administration subcommittee. Laurie will call the first meeting in August, after the results are in.***

- iv. Name of Group: Denise distributed a survey and received no response. Laurie noted that she did not know about survey until it was already closed so the problem could be how it was distributed - too passive - need to invite specific members of our group and also do paid advertising to reach potential new members. ***It was decided we could try again and also add the naming into the form and on the response for the merging? This item was deferred to the admin subcommittee.***
  - v. Job descriptions. This was deferred to the admin subcommittee.
  - vi. Fundraising. This was deferred to the admin subcommittee. UPDATE: Laurie has spoken with Community Futures and they have specialized staff to help non-profits with grant writing! Sarah Fitzmaurice from Nadina CFDC will read over our reports and meeting notes and talk to her counterpart at 16/37 CFDC to come up with a plan for how they can best help us. She was particularly keen on funding projects that will create local jobs.
6. Communication and Outreach Strategy. A draft has been sent to some of the members of the working group. The Communication Strategy would be foundational to forming the group and contains wording and strategies for how we engage people and present ourselves. The focus was on how to distribute the final report and how to engage through social media platforms. The communication plan also includes a budget. This will help to tie in actions to the overall communications goals and strategies. Denise noted that it looks really good and she will examine it in greater detail. ***The communication plan has been deferred to the Outreach subcommittee which includes Laurie, Margot, Denise, and anybody else who wants to join.***
- i. Pilot project: Social media - Laurie made a post about how to preserve garlic scapes with a key message of stretching our food dollars and not wasting food (household food security). This was boosted with a paid ad and got a lot of traction, with many people sharing recipes and the post. She concluded that people want practical ideas of what to do and a reinforcement of why we need to do it so future posts can be designed using these lessons.
  - ii. Pilot Project: Workshops at the Hazelton Hootenanny that Laurie is organizing on her farm August 17-19. We have an opportunity to do two workshops: 1. Grow your own Green (Sprouts) and 2: Zombie Apocalypse- good new/bad news, 10 years to prepare for food security long term. Thoughts: integrating Emergency Support Services? At least three facilitators needed to pull off the workshop. Chairperson asked for a volunteer from the group to help put on the workshop. It was asked if there were fundraising opportunities. The sprouting workshop could be used as a fundraiser and potentially the zombie workshop could ask for



donations. General support for both these ideas and was deferred to the Outreach subcommittee.

- iii. Pilot project for engaging local government: Laurie proposed that we move forward even with our identity in flux since it is an election year and she is considering running for local council. With support of this group, she will develop a presentation format and content and present to the District of New Hazelton on the Forum final report. ***Agreement for Laurie to do the presentation and then we can see about presenting to other local government bodies.***
- iv. Needs assessment survey: At the last meeting we talked about doing a survey in the context of the root cellar pilot project and other specific initiatives and how it would be useful to have Community Coordinators to identify gaps and partners for food system initiatives. It was decided that it was not a high priority for the summer compared to other action items and will be deferred until October. ***We will start to design in October and hope to distribute in November. This will help us with the overall food security strategy and help prioritize how we use our resources. UPDATE: This survey will be undertaken once new funding has been secured and we can also check to see if there are other organizations willing to partner with us to make it happen e.g. CFDC, NHA, Province of BC Emergency Preparedness.***

7. Food asset mapping: Rabia has been inputting information points into the [maphub.net](http://maphub.net) software. There have been ten assets from Prince George added to the map and this took about 2 hours, some of which was learning curve and most of which was tracking down information on the assets so they could be plotted and added to the legend accurately. It is estimated that it will take another 13 hours to input the remaining information collected at the Forum. **Next steps: Rabia will look into the sharing capacity for who may be able to add and edit in this software. Laurie suggested we break down the work into two stages 1. Collect information on points to be mapped and 2. Mapping using the software. There is a volunteer who will be connected to do some work in Terrace. Plotting for the Hazeltons will be done next so it can be ready for the council meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We set a target date of August 10<sup>th</sup>.** Paul Sametz added most of the points to the map so we can ask him to clarify some of the notes where shorthand was used.

Rabia left the call, Mike left the call and Limwel joined.

## 8. Infrastructure pilot projects

- i. Commercial Root Cellar- Chairperson highlighted some of the discussion points from last meeting on the root cellar for the conceptual design. This would act as the model for the other communities. Limwel and Laurie will be spearheading the Root Cellar subcommittee and will talk to an engineer for developing a design. The pilot would be in Kitwanga Limwel's is based. ***Note: Can we get more information on this farm - is it a First Nations project? Are there other partners and funders involved with this farm already?*** The prize money from the Innovation Challenge will go towards the subcommittee's work. Laurie and Limwel will plot a timeline and present to the group. It will be up to the subcommittee to work on funding but it is expected that the host



farm will contribute to the costs. Actions items for the subcommittee are: 1. Prototype design with the engineer. 2. Apply for NHA Imagine grant. UPDATE: Laurie and Limwell met after this meeting and called Bulkley Valley Engineering for further consultation. Limwell visited the Soaring Spirits Root Cellar and took photos. Laurie did some research and found some helpful publications and has a draft Needs Assessment questionnaire ready for the conceptual design. All this will be circulated next week in a report.

- ii. Other ideas for practical infrastructure pilot projects: dehydrating and vacuum sealing. Hazelton Hops will do a proposal for the using the vacuum sealing. A business model will be developed to ensure the project is sustainable. Dryers for grains were suggested by John Stevenson, Min. of Ag. who is organizing a grains workshop with SFI. Potential partner for infrastructure sharing is Smithers Farmers institute. They already have some equipment of what members can rent out listed on their website. Potentially we could help to develop that inventory - we will follow up with Megan D'Arcy and Bryan Swansburg who participated in our Forum.

9. Announcements/ Resources: New opportunities and connections

- i. Laurie reported on the Food Security Community of Practice call. There were 12 people on the call from around the province. Laurie will send out an email with information and notes on the tools that the group is using. They are developing a tool kit for food security and leveraging municipal government elections. Laurie will inform when the next meeting is so people can be a part of it. ***We are invited to provide into into the Elections Toolkit. It would be great for us to develop questions to ask our local candidates and potentially organize an All Candidates Forum just on Food Security. Elections are mid-October so we would need to do our work early September, if resources allow.***
  - ii. Min of Ag - John Stevenson is organizing a grains workshop with SFI. This is for annual grains and he is looking for input on course format and content. Laurie suggested to him we talk to Rural Routes to Climate Change in Alberta who just put on a Perennial Grains workshop. ***Our group can send a more formal email with ideas - not sure of timelines, will report back.***
  - iii. RDBN update: Debbie Evans had to cancel root cellar workshops due to lack of time to organize them. It was proposed that we invite her to work with us to organize workshops - this would increase her capacity to get things done. ***Laurie will send her a message about this partnership opportunity and there would need to be funding attached.***
  - iv. Long term Food Security Initiatives originally circulated by John Stevenson is now officially public. Laurie contacted BC Emergency Program to confirm and they sent her a link to the website. This has been posted to our facebook page and contains some chapters on creating a new group and fundraising for the new group.
5. Claire Deboer's Report. This is a Policy Scan on what official community plans say with respect to food security. ***The group will read over the report and provide any***



***feedback on the report.*** This may be helpful for our Elections strategy. Thank you Claire for your contribution!

- vi. NHA Northern Food Security Strategy webinar presentation next Tuesday July 24 at 11 am. Some members will attend and report back on the presentation. This should be very helpful for our Northwest Food Security Strategy work and the funding proposals to support that project. ***Laurie will forward invitation.***
7. Closing ritual - another pilot project! Laurie defined this as giving everybody a chance to voice anything they wanted to say before we end the call on any of the topics covered, and to share how they are feeling about the call and our group in general. This was done on the Community of Practice call and worked very well.  
Denise: It was excellent, nice to move through the agenda efficiently. Working on connecting all the information in communities and formulating a plan is great. Revisiting a facilitator wage is needed asap. Denise proposed for the outreach subcommittee meeting to meet on Monday to discuss workshops. Laurie: Second what Denise is saying and she will spend some time on this hopefully before Monday so we have a starting point for discussion. There is a limit to how much we volunteer as we need enough time to earn a living as well. If we can be paid, then we can spend more time working on food security. Limwel: It is excellent! Sincere appreciation for Laurie's leadership. Margo: Maybe alternate the note taker, so she can contribute more. There are many things on the agenda, but really appreciate how people are following through on their action items.
8. Adjourn at 11. Next meeting: September - August we take a break and let subcommittees make some progress.