

Willits Economic Localization Steering Committee Meeting 2-21-05

Members present: Jason Bradford, Jenny Burnstad, Larry Desmond, David Drell, AJ Barrett, Laura Liska, Spring Senerchia, Ree Slocum, Diane Smalley, Annie Weller, George Cottrell, Brian Weller, Kristin Bradford, Lanny Cotler

Meeting began at 7:16.

Agenda:

Recap Heinberg - Fear & Hope

Name

Governance

Proposed change of structure for larger meetings and steering committee

Treasurer's report : approx. \$700.

1. Recap Heinberg event of 2/17- Fear & Hope

Jason: Richard was amazed by the size of the group. "Maybe I should move to Mendo", Heinberg.

Annie: Fear message was strong - concerned about people getting that message. Helps to have places to get involved with familiar faces. Not in resignation - motivated to act. Feels some time stress.

AJ: Went through changes, shock to denial. Noticed that there was emphasis on invasion of Iran, questions from audience about the governments ability to seize land, FEMA. Need to address these questions. Felt hopeful because of comments such as "This transcends political parties. History of industrial revolution - long buildup." Struggle: life is out of balance, manic, not enough time to pause, poor sleep. Steering committee's job is to bring balance, music, energy, hope.

Diane: Hope is a longing for an outcome over which we have no agency, -Derek Jensen There's no enemy/opposition!! No Monsanto!! We have some agency in this issue. Don't focus on the mistakes of the culture, step out of the larger economy to create our own economy here in Willits.

Jenny: Rick Page is the director of FEMA in Ukiah - give him a copy of End of Suburbia. This issue gives hope. Challenge is to promote the issue as a hopeful one, rather than scaring people away. It is about being prepared.

Ree: Everyone will go through their own process depending on what we are exposed to. WELL provides a great deal of hope. To reach across party lines, keep the national politics out of it. If you want people to join you, have more fun.

Spring: Shocked by the update of numbers. We need to realize that this is 'Transition'.

Brian: Fear is a natural response to a perceived threat. Deal with fear separate from the "threat". As new people come in, have a place for them to express their feelings.

Jason: Studying this issue causes one to question their security. He has been studying this issue long enough to have gone through the e stages of grief and is now at acceptance. Doing something about it will make the crash less severe. Not numb but dispassionate.

Laura: 'Hitting bottom' is when you realize that you don't know anything and don't know whose voice is right. This is the place for finding faith and working on your own life. Animals live in a dream all their lives - why don't we make it a good dream? (Anthroposophic)

David: Fear is the motivator - transform it into positive work and community. Whether peak oil hits in 2 years or 5. Mainstream is beginning to cover the subject. It's what we've always want to do.

George: Desire is the other side of the fear 'coin'. Lead the fearful to desire, where we have agency, can be pro-active. We are becoming a public entity.

Laura: Let's lead by example. Kristin's coworker is picking up on it.

David: It was the choir at the talk. Our responsibility is to set up the template, get lifeboats built. Others will see it later. Don't have to spend energy bringing them along.

Brian: Outreach is important. Plans to enroll in the local school.

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2. Governance:

Brian: We have an 'Ad Hocracy'. As rules emerge, they stand until they don't work. Not laissez-faire.

Jason: We do need a style of decision making, for example: we need to buy a power point projector. How do we decide to spend the money?

DECISION MAKING 'RULES' EMERGING:

- Make a distinction between what Steering Committee decides and what ought to be put to the larger group for deciding.
- Let's develop decision making styles that can be part of a tool kit.
- Propose using consensus.
- Need training for consensus to work well.
- Consensus does not mean all in agreement
- Use a style that has a history. "80% consensus" is similar to what we are saying.
- Whoever shows up makes the decisions - no 'quorum' idea.
- Rotate facilitator role.
- Facilitator is picked at the end of each meeting so they can receive agenda items for the next meeting. Agenda items need to be reported to and gathered by the facilitator.
- By the Thursday prior to Steering Committee meeting, post agenda.
- Facilitator posts agenda and proposals on web site to let the community know when the meetings are, that they are open to all and what the agenda is.
- Time for comments from public.
- Feedback for facilitator at the end so that all can learn how to facilitate.
- Proposals should be written out so we can see it in advance and/or brought to the meeting.
- Have time limits on agenda items.
- Times for agenda items suggested to the facilitator by the person making the proposal/agenda item. If time runs out before decision is reached, adding time can be proposed, if it passes, discussion continues, if it doesn't pass, the item is shelved.
- Use a white board or flip charts to note agenda items, time limits, announcements.
- When money is spent - have a firm proposal based on research with actual money amounts. In a businesslike fashion.
- Any time we make a decision about money - let greater community know, so there is feedback process.
- When a vote is taken, thumb up means 'I support the proposal', thumb to the side means 'I need more information before I can support the proposal', thumb down means 'I don't support the proposal, because...' - hear from thumbs to side and down. All are heard this way.
- Nontoxic pens for dry erase board. Flip charts better?

Proposal: type this up and decide next time. **Supported.**

3. Proposal: Purchase a Power Point Projector

Explanation - We have speakers coming such as Ann Hancock - global footprint - 3/14; proposed Film series; Jason, Brian and others may need power point projector. Expected cost is \$500. A sliding scale donation at events of \$5-10 could help pay for it. Has asked around but haven't found one. MEC has one that we can borrow in an emergency. Bulbs are expensive which makes people reluctant to loan them out.

AJ: **Proposal:** \$500 to purchase. **Discussion:**

Laura: Is there a better use of our money?

Ree: Are there any other needs that cost money? Buy it locally?

Brian: This is an outreach tool, gives more access, generates funds. Should approve due to the short time frame.

David: When money is spent, we should have a firm proposal based on research with actual money amounts in a more businesslike fashion. Urgency for this item isn't clear.

Jason: **Proposal:** Do price/availability research and email written proposal to Steering Committee **WELL** members. **Supported**

4. Name

Some community members have given feedback that Willits Economic Localization is too hard to say. Make it spell WELL

Proposal: Use the name WELL or WELLL. **80% support.**

Use the word local instead. Don't dumb it down. Is it just about economy?

Willits

Energy Ecology Environment

Localization Local Like Life

Livelihood Link Linkage

It is about the Source.

Economy - redefining, re-creating, reframing remodeling. Economy is about following natural law, akin to the concept of dharma; getting re-connected to natural cycles. Elegance = many variables from the simplest elements. Economics, environment, equity = a system that works. It's about an alternative to global economics! We need a byline that also explains it.

Proposal: To accept the acronym WELL and bring recommended word use and possible bylines to the next Steering Committee meeting. **Full consensus!**

5. Change of meeting structure

Jason: **Proposal:** Suggest three new groupings for the Community meetings which are 1) Projects group, 2) Research group that would accept questions (finish inventory), 3) Outreach/Media group.

Laura: Felt like "Jason's group"; come to find out Jason wants to open up leadership. The inventory process feels like homework, not fun, so people are not coming back. She proposed changes reflected in above groupings.

Annie: Chomping at the bit happening organically, e.g., City council proposal this week for solarizing the town. Came out of Energy group.

David: If we can persevere, inventory gives us a reality check for the magnitude of the infrastructure we are proposing to replace. Projects subcommittees should be allowed. Helps our efforts to be based on honest facts. Inventory never stops.

Brian: Got to give people their heads.

Spring: If the projects are not centrally controlled, they need to be connected. Even though they may be great, separate ideas limp along. The job of WELL is to connect. Create network before we begin action groups.

Lanny: Tie together inventory, ideas & implementation.

Jason: Options close as time passes and resources are used up. Inventory needs to go far enough to show people where we are. When oil runs out, time will be of the essence - no time to plan, just do.

Brian: **Mission needs to be compatible with vision and inventory.**

Vision: shared future we create, collective picture that emerges.

Inventory: current reality

Mission: specific-what-by-when, defined by groups.

People have different styles - such as pioneers, base camp, thinkers,

AJ: One comment was "The problem is going to be getting along, being community." Spring is here, gardens should begin. Hold questions as you garden - answers will come.

Annie: Many questions will be answered intuitively.

George: As research continues it will inform the process.

Ree: Remember the Mystery: people who act will come up with ideas we can't think of .

David: Energy group has basically completed inventory, thanks to Brian Corzilius.

Brian: Pinpoint key researchers who keep in touch with the action groups.

Jason: Know who people are in groups who can find cross-group answers.

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Laura: Group feedback/visioning/purpose, more reporting, group visioning.

Lanny: Make reports interesting!!

Diane: Suggestion for next Community meeting: Groups can identify and present glitches/obstacles they have encountered, needs from the greater group - more of a discussion.

Jason, Laura, Spring, Brian, Lanny, David, will work on format for the next Community meeting.

Next facilitator: David, 459-2643. Laura will be the email liaison.

Agenda items, next meeting

Treasurer report at big meeting

Are all the subgroups represented?

Later agenda item: Use of REDI house.

Meeting closed at 9:51.

Minutes by Diane Smalley