

## **Willits Economic Localization Steering Committee Meeting**

8/1/05

Members present: Ree Slocum, facilitator, Spring Senerchia, Kristin Bradford, Jason Bradford, Richard Jergensen, Tim Gregory, Diane Smalley, Patrick Burnstad.

Meeting began at 7:10.

### **Agenda: (actual order numbers in parentheses, below)**

Report on the Working Groups.

New items:

1. sc meeting process
2. role of sc
3. citywide speaker series
4. WillitsFest
5. WELL barnraising/larger group projects
6. Recruit from each working groups
7. Purchase media group
8. Calendar

1. Ree: Mind shift - getting help from the group and expand our effort.

### **PROPOSAL**

**For the next four meetings, the steering committee use the following decision making process:**

**We make proposals that benefit the WELL.**

**We elicit the wisdom of the group to find anything to add or subtract from the proposal.**

**We restate the proposal to address all concerns and additions.**

**We ask for a decision.**

**Thumb up means 'I support the proposal'**

**Thumb to the side means 'I can live with the proposal, but I need to make the following comment...'**

**Thumb down means 'I don't support the proposal, because...'**

**80% or more thumbs up, the decision is to pass the proposal.**

**We hear *and record* the reasons why any members don't support the proposal (thumb down).**

**Come back to it at the 5th meeting without discussion.**

**100% consensus.**

2. The role of the steering committee

Ree: some of the people have made decisions without the sc to represent the WELL

Spring: how do you feel confident that our decisions represent all when numbers of people present are lower than usual. Doing outside work would help us to be a more effective group.

Tim: maybe the role of sc should come from the larger group. mural.

Sumo SC = steering, attendance, commitment, agreements.

Jason: EC could have maybe handled the Media group glitch.

**diane, richard, annie, ree, larry, mair, jason (7) 5/9/05**

## **Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, continued 8/1/05**

Diane: thoughts on the purpose of the steering committee: Each of the WELL work groups: food, **WELL** water, shelter, energy, wellness and social organization; has a member that attends the sc meetings.

**Proposal: That person reports on the progress of the working group. 100% consensus** (If you will miss a meeting, make it known, stay in touch and begin to attend meetings again.)

We steer the plans for the group meetings. This may include presentations by persons in our trade area that have experience to further our working groups.

We make proposals that further the WELL. We have a basic understanding of our values such that we are able to reach consensus. We hear from everyone. We complete our interactions so that we all move forward together.

We work on grants that may be available for training and programs that further the WELL.

We have effectively facilitated meetings that respect the time of those who attend.

Kristin: develop the purpose of the EC - Jason and Diane will meet on this Fri, 8/5, 9 am.

### 3. Jason - Citywide speaker series "joint statement"

Allen Falleri invited Jason and service groups: Patty Bruder NCO, Cyndee Logan WAG, Margie Handley, Mike Aplet, Madelein Holcamp, Lynn Kennelly COC. EF Shumacher workshop

10,000 toward educational events about developing a sustainable local economy. Could fund speaker series.

Joint statement in the paper, go before City Council with a proclamation.

Has to come from the city we all have to support the city in leading the charge. Represent the city as a whole, they set the rules.

Jason read his statement.

Joint Statement towards a Sustainable, Healthy Willits

Willits is a great place to live for many reasons--a strong sense of community, creative talent of all kinds, and surrounding natural beauty, to name just a few. We want to protect and enhance these attributes and head-off emerging threats by turning them into opportunities for positive change.

Economic, demographic and environmental trends concern many in our community. The growing gap between rich and poor strains social services, such as health care, and lowers the overall quality of life. Out sourcing of jobs has eroded the diversity of the economy, making it difficult for locals to purchase a home and for our youth to find long-term employment. Therefore, most high-school graduates leave town and don't return, causing the fragmentation of families and friendships. Issues such as climate change and fossil fuel depletion have many concerned about the security of essential goods, such as food. Nearly all of the basics we depend upon are shipped here from elsewhere.

In light of these facts, we believe responsible action can be summarized by the term "economic localization." Quite simply, this means that what we consume here in Willits we also produce here in Willits. It harnesses the great American value of self- and community-reliance that is so evident here. Localization doesn't mean we make everything ourselves--it should emphasize the essentials. Trade perfume, but not potatoes, for example. A focus on localizing food and energy production would be the logical start.

Local food and energy systems would require us to tap into the vast wealth of knowledge and ingenuity in our area. We need to create a diverse set of new businesses that serve our common needs. In doing so, our youth would find ample niches to vent their creativity. Our rural landscape would be enhanced by farms that grow a thriving, varied set of crops, from potatoes and grains to summer and fall vegetables. Renewable energy and nonpolluting transportation systems would give us a quieter, less expensive, and more dependable set of services, while providing an array of interesting employment.

The key to making this transition will be harnessing and developing our human and financial capital.

Fortunately, our natural resource base, as in forests, fields, rivers and aquifers, is ample and can be enhanced if understood and managed wisely. In the coming months, a series of events, news articles, **WELL Steering**

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reports and community forums will bring more attention to the topics mentioned here. We call upon the people of Willits to learn about why and how we can reorganize our economy, and then add your ideas towards creating a place that is even more beautiful, healthy and secure. The organizations signed below are committed to this exciting and ultimately rewarding process.

Signed by:

Tim private property v. commons, make an umbrella for both forms of management of resources. Look past the 10K. think long term.

Ree: sounds like a 'have to'. We can have our own speakers. Our we losing our identity?

How do different levels of social groups stack up - We are leaders and this is what we think. We need your input. Authority figures say it - people respond.

Will reach everyone - huge zone of influence. Have groups add to it.

Spring: how would we handle a larger group; how would groups remain autonomous? Is WELL ready. If there is a rep of WELL at speaker mtgs, it'll be ok

Ree: it needs its own SC - speaker series.

Michael Shuman - Going Local

If the city wants to come to our party with 10K what is going to happen - co-opted

Peter Calthorpe, Sym VanderRyn - high priced by the city, we continue to have our local speakers.

Each group is taking it to their boards for approval.

Looking for additions and subtractions by 8/8/05. If there are substantial changes from other groups, bring back to the SC. If none, go through EC.

### 4. WillitsFest

Kristin: **Proposal: All working groups of WELL participate in WillitsFest and each group have a sign saying what their name is, purpose is and actions are.** Have a coordinated WELL presentation.

Petty cash could cover sign ups.

Energy, Wellness, Food, Social are enrolled. Media, Water working on it. Shelter could build a booth.

Good fundraiser to sell food.

Put artists on the task.

### 5. WELL Group Projects

Diane: (Bottom up) We begin to have monthly barn raising groups, one person who is a contact person for it - Social Organization - put out a request for barns needing raising - e.g. Brian & Candice. (doesn't need SC sanction.)

Sumo: (Top down) SC encouraging eco-village, or such. See Grange for insurance. May have to be a more formal group to apply.

Ree: insurance?

6. Need to recruit for the shelter and someone to come to SC - Spring will do reconnaissance.

7. Purchase of Media equipment. 10K surplus at City. Richard suggests that we purchase a power point projector w/overhead video cam, screen, and system for presentations. Could be used for video series. Big screen reaches people with a deeper impact. \$4K would cover state of the art.

Sumo: Fundraising goal?

Need a checklist for speakers sponsors with contact names and phone numbers.

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### 8. Calendar

8/8 General Plan

8/15 Work Groups

8/22 Speaker - CCE

8/29 SC

9/5 off

9/12 Work Groups

9/19 SC

9/26 ? Speaker Jason

Ernest Callenbach/Jan Lundberg [culturechange.org](http://culturechange.org)

### 9. Announcements

Sumo going to Sebastopol economic localization meeting with Heinberg and Sebastopol mayor.

Mill Valley starting up soon.

Richard the archivist has a book with all the documentation of WELL will make copies.

Car share had its first meeting.

### 10. Determine next meeting's facilitator - Sumo and food preparers Sumo & Jason.

Chamber of Commerce - Richard will report.

Signage/booth for WillitsFest,

Meeting closed at 9:25.

**Minutes by Diane Smalley**