

Willits Economic Localization Steering Committee Meeting
WELL Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, continued
8-29-05

Members present: Sumo, facilitator, Tim Gregory, Diane Smalley, Richard Jergenson, Spring Senerchia, Ann Weller, Brian Weller, Jason Bradford, Kristin Bradford, Ree Slocum

Meeting began at 7:20.

Sumo: 12150 Pine Ave in Potter Valley - invited to his farm - he uses no digging.

Agenda:

New items:

SolFest report

Money

Each groups inventory status

Steering Committee

Executive Committee

Speakers for October

Joint Statement/City/practical support/funds for speakers/media outreach

I. SolFest report - presentation by Jason, Kristin, Ann & Brian

Richard: good representation, attentive audience.

Starter Kit needed.

Next time: summarize the template for meetings, list of speakers.

Brian: invited to speak at Green festival. Marin sust want input on 10/19 suggested John Jeavons and Steven Decatur. Brian went to CELL. Garberville contacted.

livabilityproject.org from SF

Post carbon institute - offering help to create a video

Spring: we need to continue to develop our own WELL

Tim: gift economy - can't buy enthusiasm. meetings are validating when he is of use. money economy is going to be changing - consensual fiction. happy with being a conceptual group.

Sumo: Proposal? committee to look at money

Ree: combine a media packet with speakers - outreach.

Annie: need to get ready to buy some things and pay for professionals.

II. SC/EC purposes.

Send out email to SC group and solicit additions deletion for next meeting 9/19.

Don't focus on time but quality.

Trying to do strategic planning on a thing that's already in motion.

(inserted 12/11/05)

Proposed Executive Committee roles, by Jason and Diane:

History: 5/9/05 Annie made a proposal: Create an executive committee of seven people for low level decisions. The committee is contacted by phone or email, four yes votes (including the proposer) with no nonsupport is considered a passage. Report all decisions to the next Steering Committee meeting to the consent agenda. The SC needs to ultimately approve the items.

Executive Committee member are:

Jason Bradford, Annie Weller, Diane Smalley, Richard Jergeson, Lanny Cotler, Ree Slocum, Spring?

Roles for people on the Executive Committee to fill:

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1. Be available on email and phone for:

I time sensitive decisions

I consent agenda decisions

I basic administrative yes or no

I approve funding below a certain amount - \$100/200?

(all of which go on for report and approval by the Steering Committee)

2. Study, design and rotate facilitation of the group meetings

I consider deviations from the normal WELL group meeting format

I rotate or recruit moderators for large meetings

I encourage and allow for diversity in the manifestation of the project

3. EC members are spokespeople - needs work, this one...

I have one of the Archive books to draw on

I collect information for and meet with reporters

I oversee messages and style of written material about the WELL

4. Term of commitment: rotate or renew every 6 months: November and May, at SC meeting.

5. Create a location and position for an excellent and enthusiastic, paid office manager. REDI is collaborating with us on this. We need to decide on some directions and operating structures for the office.

III. Inventory, Brian W.

Needs to be done by researchers

It will become part of our 'manual' - an example of a thorough inventory of each work group. How to do an inventory step by step. Put that into a civics program at a High School - they will take on an annual inventory process. Benefits town, they learn outreach, the town, etc. Ongoing, changing project. More people are losing a say in the decisions.

Inventory is not working in the groups. Need to find a researcher. e.g., the Water survey was going to cost \$1M.

Shuman - inventory of what you import.

Proposal: revisit the inventory and see if the groups are willing to hand over what they can do or say they won't do it. Next week: feature this in groups at the WELL meeting, assess your inventory, and ask for commitment from people in each group to in the next 10 days - hand over to SC rep. 100% consensus.

Tim: How does WELL deal with money into post peak oil?

IV. City report

Ron O. is planning a field tour of watershed looking for potential microhydro and wind potential.

City approved edited statement by Jason.

Committee has \$10K to spend on whatever - speakers, etc.

Brian suggested to Allan Falleri to fund the creation of a media pack - helps City and us.

Proposal that the City and WELL split the cost of an outreach packet. Look for people to do it.

Pass the proposal out in advance.

City already had a Conference call to BALLE network (Mill Valley) for outreach. Localization network. \$500 network. They set up a going local campaign for your city.

1) City outreach 2) Outreach in general. 2 different things.

Table to next SC: to decide how \$ is spent. Announce at the next large meeting.

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(Howard Latovsky owns 20 acres on Commercial ready to build greenhouses growing say, wheat grass, is there \$ behind it.)

V. Proposal: Retreat for Saturday 9/4, at Weller's home. 24378 Birch Drive, arrive 9:30, meeting at 10 am. 80% Consensus. All but Diane can attend.

Agree with each other in public.

Brian's email with questions:

Hi fellow adhoc-ers!

I want to propose a special meeting for our steering group. I feel it is time to dig deeper into what we are doing and explore our core values and our various perceptions of WELL . Much of our time is spent keeping it all going and as important as this is, there is, I feel, a missing dimension to our work together.

We do need to address the opportunity side of the recent citywide meeting to promote a speaker series on 'building sustainable communities'.

There may also be many other questions to explore.

What is/should be our relationship with the city?

How do we outreach into the rest of the community?

What is the best balance between the organic growth of WELL and a planned direction(s)?

Should we be formalizing WELL?

How do we raise funds if at all?

Should we be outreaching beyond Willits?

Do we need professional legal/accounting help?

Are we really clear about the governance of WELL?

Do we need our own full/part time staff?

How do we continue the 'values conversation' into the community at large?

Jason has focused on the peak oil issue. Others have diluted the outreach focus. It's divisive and what others don't want to hear. The message should be 'here's what is, here's what we ought to do.' Many disagree with the 'is' but agree with the 'ought.'

Who will facilitate and write agenda? 2 sessions. 2 facilitators. Kristin & Annie willing to facilitate.

am: Why are we here? open discussion/formalization/relationship with money; brian's Q's, SC/EC purposes.

focused strategic planning/financial

immediate/future/philosophical - won't resolve everything

Brian acknowledged that storming happened. disrespect leads to distraction.

VI. We purged the SC email list of those who are no longer attending meetings.

VII. Determine next meeting's facilitator and food preparers. 5 min.

Meeting closed at 9:40.