

**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Willits Economic Localization
July 31, 2006**

Attendees: Jason Bradford, Marc Grail, Suzie Gruber, Spring Senerchia, Liam UiCearbhaill, Brian Weller, Tim Gregory, Richard Jergenson, Annie Weller

Facilitator: Richard Jergenson

Financial Report

Spring gave an update on the WELL finances. WELL took in money from Elder Talk, Post Carbon Institute and money from the REDI direct appeal letter. We have \$1238 in the bank.

WELL Endorsement of Cities for Climate Protection and Energy Task Force

Jason relayed Mendocino County's effort to create this endorsement. Point Arena and Fort Bragg have already signed on. It would cost the City of Willits \$300 to join for the remainder of 2006, with the annual cost being \$600. For this price, they will get a software package that will help Willits complete an inventory and join the network of 650 cities around the world that have endorsed this. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Resource Committee will consider this on August 17th and it will be an agenda item for the Willits City Council on August 23rd.

Jason requested that we endorse this effort at both the city and county level by encouraging both Willits and Mendocino County to join this effort and we add something to the next newsletter telling WELL folks what they can do to support it. **The proposal passed unanimously.**

Brian proposed that we use this opportunity to begin publishing the WELL newsletter in the Willits News on a regular basis. Jason and Brian will work with the Willits News to get the newsletter published. **The proposal passed unanimously.**

Liaison Committee Empowerment

Spring asked on behalf of Mary Zellachild to contact other economic localization groups. Spring raised the issue that she wants a consistent WELL message broadcast to other groups. Liam stated that he thinks that it is premature to contact other groups until the Governance document is ratified. Discussion ensued. Consensus was that someone from the Liaison Committee should come to the Steering Committee to detail their intentions, but that if they just want to make some initial exploratory calls, this is fine.

Update on Harvest Festival

Spring gave an update on planning this event. Mary Zellachild has agreed to chair the organization of this event and planning is proceeding well.

Medea Benjamin Event in the WELL Newsletter?

Code Pink has requested that this event be put in the newsletter. Spring asked for guidance since this is not necessarily related to economic localization. Discussion ensued. It was proposed that this announcement not be placed in the newsletter and that WELL open a dialogue with Code

Pink to explore the relationship between economic localization and their efforts. The proposal passed unanimously.

Spring's Maternity Leave

Spring sent out a proposal on how to cover her maternity leave and requested that we discuss it. She provided two options. Brian noted that Post Carbon agreed to help WELL cover Spring's maternity leave. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed unanimously that the same person should cover for Spring for both WELL and REDI assuming REDI agrees to this approach. The committee agreed unanimously that the position will be advertised as a part-time, temporary position in the WELL newsletter which will be posted in the Willits News.

Sol Fest Presentation

Marc conveyed the content & structure for the Sol Fest presentation and that it is not a WELL presentation. Liam noted that Al Rosen wants to videotape the talk.

August 28th Steering Committee Meeting

Marc detailed the content of this meeting, indicating that it is a time to reflect on what worked and what did not for this group and appreciate each other for everyone's effort. It is a non-business meeting in which this group can create completion before the new Coordinating Committee begins. A list was generated of people who have participated in the Steering Committee consistently in the past.

Film Series

RJ stated that he met with Deborah Frank regarding using the space at the Little Lake Health Clinic for the film series for free. The space will hold about 30 people and we would have to be finished by 8:45PM. There is good technical equipment. The team is still intending to generate a long-term schedule.

Mike Thompson Barbeque

Spring asked on behalf of Freddie whether or not anyone from WELL is attending Mike's barbeque on August 18th. The cost is \$20. Brian proposed that we send a note to Mike stating that WELL will be represented at the barbeque, updating him on WELL's progress and that WELL would like his support in getting funding to become a model economic localization.

Sumo's Obituary

Spring relayed that Sumo's memorial service is August 19th and asked if WELL would reflect on his contributions to WELL. Liam proposed that WELL contribute to GULP in memoriam because he feels Sumo was instrumental in help WELL get started. Liam also stated that he is willing to go and speak on behalf of WELL. Tim proposed that the donation be given to KMEC since Sumo was a DJ and support that effort heavily. The committee agreed to donate \$50 to either KMEC or charity of his family's choice. Liam will compose a poem reflecting on Sumo's life.

Jason Bradford will facilitate at the next meeting on August 14, 2006.