



Willits Economic Localization

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes February 12, 2007

Attendees: Jason Bradford, Marc Grail, Ron Greystar, Suzie Gruber, Freddie Long, Rachel Olivieri, Ron Orenstein, Liam UiCearbhaill, Brian Weller, Mary Zellachild

Facilitator: Jason Bradford

Check In

Additions to the Agenda

Subcommittee Reports

WELL Job Salary, Application Process, Etc. - Suzie

Suzie proposed that the WELL post the Operational Facilitator position in the newsletter and in the Willits News this week & next. She also proposed that candidates be interviewed the week of 2/26/07 and that the start date be 3/15/07. She also proposed that the employee receive 6 paid national holidays (New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day). The employee will then train with Suzie for 2 weeks. Freddie proposed that Suzie's proposal be accepted. The proposal passed unanimously. Freddie proposed that Suzie be paid \$15/hour retroactive to 2/1/07. The proposal passed unanimously. Freddie then proposed that Liam be paid \$15/hour for the 10 hours he worked while Suzie was on vacation last week. The proposal passed unanimously.

Suzie stated that Freddie & Jason agreed to participate in the interviews. Suzie stated she would participate if she does not apply. Spring Senerchia & Ann Weller were also suggested. Jason proposed that this interview team be accepted. The proposal passed unanimously.

January Financials - Suzie

Suzie stated that WELL spent \$883 in January mostly on Suzie's payroll. WELL took in \$80. Liam stated that by the next CC meeting the WELL books will be split from the REDI books so that we can review budget versus actuals when we review the financial report each month.

WELL Election Update - Suzie

Suzie stated that she has not received any candidate statements for the upcoming CC election. She also stated that she wants to leave the CC for

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Willits Economic Localization

personal reasons. Brian agreed to remain on the CC rather than standing for election at the next meeting.

Marc indicated that we need to create a proposal to bring before the plenary if we do not have enough CC candidates. Suzie proposed that we draft a proposal in anticipation of a lack of candidates.

Envelope from Richard Jergenson - Jason

Richard left an envelope containing a document for the CC to read. It included the following proposals to the CC:

1. Reduce the number of CC members from 10 to 5 or 6
2. Establish a 3 year term limit for CC members including time spent on the Steering Committee
3. Establish a residency criteria for WELL members
4. Establish that all agreements made by previous Coordinating Committees are non-binding to the next Coordinating Committee
5. Reframe how the organization conducts its outreach

He stated that he feels that WELL has become lost in procedure.

Marc proposed that we thank RJ for his input and nominate him to be on the Governance review team that will occur later this year. Discussion ensued. Mary suggested that we can reduce the number of CC members to five or six at the plenary meeting in March. Liam stated that this is possible according to the Governance document. Freddie agreed to thank RJ.

Liam looked at the Governance document and noted that it states that seven CC members are considered a quorum, so if we only get two candidates, we can still have a quorum according to the current Governance document. More discussion ensued.

Brian noted that he wants to understand the issues underneath RJ's concerns since Brian believes that many WELL members share his concerns.

WELL/REDI Office - Suzie

Suzie reported that Janet Orth stated that REDI is unsure of their space needs. Janet encouraged WELL to look for other space. Suzie proposed that the Admin team create a list of space requirements and search for alternative space. The proposal passed unanimously.

Mendocino College Cooperative Work Experience Program - Jason

Jason explained that Rachel Adair is enrolled in Mendocino College's Cooperative Work Experience program and is working at Brookside Farm. Jason will mentor her and she will use WELL's office for Brookside Farm work. Suzie

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Willits Economic Localization

stated that Mendocino College requested that we sign a Memorandum of Agreement with Mendocino College to enable this program. She also stated that the agreement is a general agreement not specific to Rachel so there is opportunity for WELL to expand this collaboration.

RLNC Update – Brian

Brian stated that Mendo Vision needs to be separate and not aligned with a particular group. Consequently, RLNC will be RLNC Reloaded where the people that attended last year will discuss progress over the last year including learnings and challenges. Brian reported that preliminary invitations have gone out and approximately 17 people have indicated so far that they want to attend. He also stated that we have invited Mike Thompson to attend as the keynote speaker. We have not received a response yet.

Brian noted that Annie has spoken with the Freys about food. They have provided a preliminary budget of \$80 per person for the weekend using as much organic and local food as possible. He also reviewed beverage ideas being continued.

Brian indicated that he is reviewing the volunteer list to determine how many people we need. He also stated that Freddie is working on entertainment.

Suzie requested that a budget be generated for this event. Marc asked what help Brian needs for this. Brian stated that he would like to have a meeting this week for planning. Jason, Liam, Marc & Suzie agreed to attend. Freddie agreed to help with the budget.

Structure Recommendation – Liam & Freddie

Liam proposed that WELL write a proposal that WELL and Earthmind join as a 501c3 whose specific structure will be determined in the next few months. The proposal would be presented to the plenary. Freddie stated that Michael Kisslinger recommended that WELL consult a business law attorney to learn what structure will work for WELL. She stated it does not have to be a non-profit attorney. We need to understand what structure will work for WELL in order to cover liability issues. Freddie emphasized that in an unincorporated association all members are liable for the debts of the organization.

Jason asked about the issues that Cyndee Logan raised at the February 5th plenary. Freddie indicated that since WAG is a program of NCO, NCO covers WAG's liability issues. She also stated that WELL must be a program of Earthmind and receive a rider on Earthmind's liability insurance in order to have liability coverage if WELL remains sponsored by Earthmind.

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Willits Economic Localization

Brian emphasized the need for WELL to provide linkages among organizations within Willits that are already addressing aspects of localization. Suzie stated that it would be great to have an RLNC-like event just for Willits where we bring local community groups together. Liam stated a corporate structure would support WELL being that networking force in a way that WELL facilitates connections rather than taking control of any particular activity.

Freddie asked again if WELL should pursue becoming a 501c3 and should WELL get advice from an attorney. Brian will search for an appropriate attorney so we can gain additional information about what corporate structure best supports WELL.

Liam suggested that given that we still need to gather information, that WELL create a proposal to the plenary that WELL & Earthmind join over three months as a single 501c3 corporation. Discussion ensued. Liam suggested that the proposal be that WELL become a program of Earthmind in order to solve liability issues and that there be a three month process to merge the two organizations into a 501c3, seeking legal counsel to ensure that the corporate structure chosen supports WELL's activities. The proposal passed unanimously. Brian and Suzie will draft the proposal which will be published in this week's newsletter.

Marc suggested that someone take ownership of the March plenary.

In Kind Contributions – Freddie

Freddie recommended that WELL begin recording in-kind contributions on WELL's financial statements in order to more accurately reflect the level of support and activity of WELL. It is a generally accepted accounting practice to reflect pro-bono professional services as contributions if the services provided are a necessary part of an organization's activities and if the provider is in business to provide such services. Brian proposed that we create a form to collect the information. Freddie said she would create something. Brian agreed to help Freddie with the form. The proposal passed unanimously. Marc proposed that the form be expanded as a tool for recognizing members who put in a lot of time.

Plenary Format – Freddie & Rachel

Rachel emphasized the need for additional publicity for plenary events. She suggested that food would draw more people and that we should have a social hour for the first 30 minutes of each plenary. She proposed that an open mic format would give the community an opportunity to speak. Suzie suggested that the social time overlap with Brian and Jason's intro to WELL. Freddie stated that she and Rachel would like to bring a proposal to the next CC meeting for the structure of the March 19th plenary. Liam proposed that we assign Rachel and

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Willits Economic Localization

Freddie to create a proposal. The proposal passed unanimously. Jason suggested that we budget some money for the food since we will get donations back.

Jason also stated that we should have food for the Feb 19th event. Brian suggested that we ask for donations from local food providers for events. Jason proposed that we spend \$75 for the Feb.19th event. The proposal passed unanimously. Freddie agreed to take responsibility for the food.

Research Team & Guidelines for Sustainability – Jason

Jason suggested that we need a vetted set of standards for what defines “sustainable.” He stated that the Research team could propose these criteria. This would enable us to review activities both within WELL and within the Willits community based on these criteria. Liam suggested that the Research team draft a white paper. Brian indicated that these guidelines would help us create a vision of what sustainable future might look like. Discussion ensued. Jason suggested that we work from the general to the specific so that it relates to Willits directly. He indicated that the criteria could set targets. Marc illuminated the distinction between Brian’s vision and Jason’s vision. Jason wants to create a scientific white paper on sustainability while Brian wants to enroll the community in defining sustainability.

Check-Out

Next Meeting — February 26, 2007
Facilitator – Freddie Long