

WELL COORDINATING COMMITTEE, Dec. 3, 2007

Present: CoCom members Michael Hackleman (facilitating), Madge Strong (minutes-taker), Mary Zellachild, Jason Bradford, Michael Stewart, later part of meeting Tim Gregory, Staff member Liam UiCearbhaill, and WELL members Jane McCabe & Tabitha Atkinson

Minutes of Nov. 12 meeting approved. (Process will be that minutes are considered approved and made available after a 1-week review period after they're sent to CoCom, but will be formally approved at next meeting.)

1. Format for Plenaries: It was suggested and approved that the CoCom will designate a facilitator for each plenary session.

Madge also suggested the idea of beginning plenaries with a song. After some discussion, it was decided to appoint a committee of Jane, Madge & Liam to come up with over-all suggestions for plenary format changes, to be brought to next CoCom meeting. Other ideas to consider: Whether & when a talking stick approach works; Balance of energizing existing members and welcoming newcomers; Plan in advance what reports that will be covered; Comfort and preferences of those who attend; Themes for each plenary (e.g. food, water, energy, emergency planning, etc.).

At the 11/26/07 Plenary Cyndee Logan gave a report. WAG has done a food system study for the past year, finding out about existing issues, with a survey of 1,600 residents plus larger buyers (schools, restaurants, stores).

Now they're proposing a grant that would set up a local food brokerage (connect growers with buyers), look into a year-round farmers' market, and set up a commercial kitchen for processing & preserving locally produced food. (Three possible sites for commercial kitchen are the Grange, WISC, or the Community Center.) After the grant to get this going, they hope it would be self-sustaining. They're also trying to get local food into the schools, include food stamps in the system (need a card reader), establish a buying coop. They also want to promote more local farmers, maybe share machinery, use excess CalTrans land for farming, etc. The grant applications to implement these projects are going to Columbia & Kell Foundations

2. Schedule: Usually plenaries have been scheduled for 4th Monday of each month. In view of holidays and other plans, the following was decided for upcoming plenaries and CoCom meetings:

Dec. 17 noon	CoCom meeting
Jan. 7, 6pm	Plenary
Jan. 14 noon	CoCom meeting
Jan. 28	Possible guest speaker Michael Shuman
TBD	Other CoCom meetings
Feb. 25, 6pm	Plenary

The event committee -- Annie Weller & Liam (& could use one more) -- wants feedback on what events we'd like in '08. Instead of one speaker per month,

plan approx. six events per year (including Earth Day in April, RLNC in May, Farm Tour in Aug., Harvest Fest in Sept), and also support other groups' events. (Note that RLNC this year will be more regionally focused, a one-day event, much less expensive, to encourage more participation close-to-home.) CoCom generally concurred with these ideas.

(Item 3 postponed for Tim's arrival, see below)

4. Facilitator role: There was general concurrence the facilitator should focus on that role, and not try to also be taking notes.

5. Office Improvements: Mary talked about ideas for improving the office: Getting the large fridge out (Michael S. would like it); building shelves there and/or along the east wall (eliminating 2nd door the bathroom), locating a 2nd work station, display space for hand-outs, etc. A committee of Mary, Michael H. and Liam will sketch design ideas to bring to next CoCom meeting. Michael H. has volunteered to build the shelves. (Michael S. also suggested Ikea as a source for good, inexpensive furnishings.)

3. WELL Office Sign: After some discussion, CoCom approved a sign design with the logo, name, and phone # (generally Madge's sketch with the phone # moved to the left side). Madge will get quotes & proceed. Colors will be determined by sign painter & Madge, compatible with existing signs.

The idea of a larger marquee sign will be considered at a later time.

6. CERT Emergency Kits: Office currently is storing several 5-gal buckets of emergency supplies (given to us by Sheriff Alman), with idea of retailing them, which isn't really practical in our office. Liam will ask JD Redhouse (new mercantile store) if they'd like to carry those items. If not, we'll pursue other ideas through newsletter notice.

Jason would like some research to determine how much water, food, energy, etc., a family needs for emergencies, and eventually set up a Coop buying group to supply folks. Could work with Mormon's on this idea.

7. Budget Committee: Meeting later today. Will be on next agenda.

8. CalTrans Grant Status: Proposal goes to City Council on Dec. 12th, with grant application due Jan. 11th. It will be a \$170-200K grant over 2 years, designed to help City meet its goal of 90% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050. It will promote community buy-in with series of focus groups and public workshops, so that policy & implementation will have built-in support. Grant will fund a manager, workshops, studies (incorporating 10 years of prior reports, identify key indicators), etc. WELL would direct the grant (under City's aegis, but with minimum City staff commitment), so it would greatly increase our activities, starting summer of '08. Hiring would abide by City policy, with a preference for local people.

9. Light Railbus R&D Project: Michael H. explains that this kind of umbrella activity is different than other models, so developing an MOU is taking time. (Maybe Freddie can help?) In the meantime, Madge noted that the motion at our previous meeting actually did pass, so Michael can proceed with grant inquiries, subject to later approval of an MOU.

10. Willits Works on Water Grant: This \$323K grant has been received by the City. It will pay ½ of the salary of the new City water conservation staff person, plus funding several pilot projects (gray water, swales, recycling, etc.), developing a public booklet, ushering regulatory changes (City, County & State) to enable water-saving technologies. WELL's part in this grant is doing video documentation (Al Rosen) and doing tours of pilot projects.

13. Strategic Planning: In view of the hour, this was postponed (again).

11. Replacing Kimbal on CoCom: Jane McCabe is interested and well-qualified. She'll submit an application. She (& any other candidates) can be voted on at our next plenary, per Bylaws.

Madge would like us to consider some bylaw changes at a future meeting. Any volunteers for a group to work on this, besides Madge & Liam?

12. Office Manager's Status: After closed-session discussion, CoCom gave Liam a vote of confidence & appreciation for his work, and also authorized paying him for his 40-hour work week, effective in December. (He'd been paid for only 30, volunteering 10 extra hours a week.)

Mary & Madge will be a committee to review & update his job description and prepare a written job evaluation.

Next meeting: Jason will facilitate. All meetings should include a report from Liam.