

## WELL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, May 9, 2011

Present: CC members Kimbal, Jane, Pete, Madge, Bill, Holly; guests Pat Norris, Annie Waters, and Richard Jergensen

Notes: Madge

1. **Report on Now & Then Film Series** from Annie & RJ: The late Henry Dakin (a friend of RJ's and great fan of WELL) bequeathed \$1,000 to WELL earmarked for the Film Series through the Washington Research Institute. This will be used primarily to buy new films. The Series, co-managed by Annie, RJ, and Marilyn Boosinger, has been drawing good audiences, donating films to Main St. music for further outreach, and are now invited to begin film showings in Ukiah as well. They're doing a 3-night mini-fest this month, along with a seed exchange May 19 and discussion on radiation on May 20. Madge will send an acknowledgment letter to the Institute. Annie & RJ will let us know how they'd like the \$1,000 disbursed to them.

Several other film ideas were mentioned, e.g. Power of Community and inviting John & Susan Bradley (of Laytonville – recently returned from 2 weeks in Cuba) to speak. It's suggested WELL's excess stock of DVDs be used as prizes at events.

2. **Power Down group:** RJ reports that this new group of mostly young people meets for potlucks on Sundays 7pm, focused on reducing energy use. RJ will attend and mentor; others are welcome. WELL could help publicize.

### 3. **Main Focus: Discussion of Goals for 2011**

a. **Organizational:** Kimbal recently worked on office upkeep. Madge wants to tackle computer files; Peter offers to help (yay!). For membership renewals, two mailings per year continue, but there's always attrition. What can we offer to entice and engage members?

Kimbal & Madge will develop checklist for procedures (e.g. events).

b. **Outreach/Communications:** Contra dance is happening 5/21. Tabling at events continues. (Should we have sign-ups at our general meetings?) Jennifer is doing great on the newsletter. Harry continues website updates; Laura updates facebook. Madge has offered power point at high school. We should generate more positive articles for TWN.

Holly & Bill are researching future guest speakers, e.g. Michele Long re: shop local; Michael Rupert; &/or local experts on ending corp. personhood.

On back-burner are pub night and "man-on-the-street" survey.

Peter is eager to create a TT-style "open space" – which we could dub "community invitation or visioning" as more descriptive and enticing. We set a date of July 30 or 31. Location could be Grange, park, or community center. Peter, Jane & others will invite many groups to attend and co-sponsor (not just WELL). Transition Town has about \$1,300 funds available. It will include music

& food, followed by brief presentations, then seeking input (“what are your passions for the community?”), dividing into interest groups, then reconvening.

c. **Emergency Preparedness:** Keith Rutledge’s idea of us putting together meetings with all involved agencies is beyond our person-power, but we think a WELL event (Oct. 23) informing the public about these issues is worthwhile. Jane is point-person; will try to get Tom Alman as main speaker plus other key people. Also could enlist help from Marilyn Boosinger and Pat.

d. **Food Issues:** Mason continues fabulous work on Brooktrails, WISC and other garden projects. Annie is doing summer cooking classes. Michael Foley is still working on farmer training project.

Antonia’s need for funding of Brookside Farm staffing needs high priority. (We need a solution for the short-term crisis, but also a way to assure long-term sustainability.) Holly will work on convening a meeting of key people, including Patty, Cyndee, Kimbal, Peter, etc.

Madge & Kimbal will meet on developing plans for the Aug. 28 walking garden tour.

e. **Transportation:** These items will all be addressed at the June 26 forum. It’s suggested we include a bike parade through town.

f. **Health:** Forum last year wasn’t well attended but still valuable. For now, include a group on this at the Community Invitation. Consider another forum next year. Pat and Diane Smalley are great assets!

g. **Local Business:** “Made in Mendo” site, incubating start-ups, and re-purposing waste stream are all on back-burner. We’d like to have more frequent swap meets – maybe at the Farmers Market – but no leader on this yet.

Reskilling is another important item for future (and at “open space”)

h. **Natural Resources:** Water and energy were “covered” at our Jan. community meeting. David Partch continues to lead Willits Water Wisdom group.

**Final Thoughts:** Consider adding two more CC members (meanwhile, invite someone!). Bring in other volunteers for projects. Keep offering our organization strengths to others as momentum for transition grows. It would be nice to have a downtown WELL office.