

## WELL Coordinating Committee, Aug. 8, 2011

Present: CC members Peter, Jane, Madge, Kimbal, Bill, Holly, Laura; guests Pat Norris, Mason Giem, Cate Oliver, Ukiah & Callie

Facilitator: Jane; Notes: Madge

1. Mason and Cate's Report: Grange Grains is going well; just bought 8,000 pounds of local red winter wheat from Ukiah (an 84-acre mostly grape farm near old Masonite plant)! Grains can be bought at Mariposa Market, pancake breakfasts, or by arrangement with Stella Bonnet.

Wedn. potlucks at WISC garden are also going nicely. Brooktrails community garden is having a flea market next weekend. On Aug. 27, the Senior Center garden is hosting a "taste of gardens" event. Brookside School farm is having a tomato tasting at the Shakespeare tent on Sept. 21.

Cate announces her "value-added" workshop on 8/23 9:30-2:00 at the Grange, mostly on how to set up small enterprise, marketing, etc. She plans to also do a class on canning soon.

Cate is also promoting an effort for people to pledge 10% of their food budget to be spent on local food. This spurred discussion of the Local First campaign (10% of all purchases to be local), Hometown Celebrations, and the need to help Chamber of Commerce not get burnt out on this.

Cate, Mason and other Willits-ians attended recent BALLE conference and felt inspired. Other towns such as Bellingham could be a model for Willits; e.g. businesses pay for staff to promote "buy local" campaigns. BALLE may have folks from SF up here this Fall for a "slow money" forum – investing locally. WELL hasn't focused much on local businesses, but it's an important part of our mission. Perhaps we could convene a meeting with Patti, Lynn K., Pete Swanton, etc. Discussion should continue!

2. Minutes: Minutes of past meetings are all approved.

3. Transition Town Report (July 30 Event): Peter was pleased with the event – good music, food, much new interest, about 50 names signed up (and about 8 new WELL memberships). Break-out groups included health, reskilling, transport/energy, food security, land trust. Mason will follow up on reskilling group, hopes to plan future "not-so-simple-living" workshop day. Diane S. also will follow up on health ideas. Land trust group has had further meetings. It was felt that the event format was inclusive: speeches short, lots of participation.

Peter notes that he is looking for a new point person for next TT event (hopefully in Nov.), as leadership needs to rotate. He is also continuing outreach to more groups, such as Chamber, Rotary, churches, etc. He'd like a Willits TT website to include all events of interest; possibly WELL help fund it? There are several national and international TT websites, too diffuse for our use. The only individuals from Willits listed on nat'l TT website are Peter and Annie.

Several CC members find the roles of TT and WELL confusing. How to explain it? TT is a "movement" and network while WELL is an organization; metaphor of civil rights movement, with many groups working on it. TT can reach some who might not want to join WELL.

4. Garden Tour, Aug. 27: There are about 12 gardens confirmed; still may add more. Poster is done (thanks to Marilyn B.); Madge & Annie are sending out PSA's. Gardens will be marked by balloons (Jane will get them that morning). We need to set up 3 refreshment tables, which can also have extra maps, flyers for events and WELL membership forms. We could also have info on local community gardens (WISC, Senior

Center, Brookside, Green Uprising), and perhaps who can help build raised beds, garden supply sources, etc.

Laura will make zuke bread; Jane will do fruit and ice tea; Kimbal will get crackers and cheese. Table volunteers include: Pat, Laura, Jane or Dickey, Ukiah, and ask April and Cindy M.

5. Sept. 25 and Oct. 6 Events: Jane has prospects for some reskilling speakers for Sept. 25, but given that we'll have Nate Downey speak re: water harvesting on Oct. 6 (Peter taking the lead), we decide that's enough events for that time period. Jane will get info to Mason's reskilling group to augment plans for a "not-so-simple-living" workshop day, possibly in early 2012. (Also coordinate with Linda McElwey.)

6. Oct. 23 Emergency Preparedness: Two aspects are community-level prep, including Keith Rutledge's idea of pulling together all affected agencies, and household-level prep, with info on food & water storage, etc. For the Oct. 23 Forum, we'd like Tom Alman, CERT, and maybe Willits and Brooktrails Fire reps, with a prod for agency coordination, but major emphasis on how to be self-sufficient. (Info sheets on what and how much to store, etc. Check [beprepared.com](http://beprepared.com) website.) Jane is lead. Maybe we, Janet Rayner, and Grange could put together an annual breakfast for agencies to get together.

7. Economic Situation: Keep checking in on economic situation. The "collapse" is now getting mainstream coverage. Note: DOW does not reflect reality! Recommendations include investing in hard assets, tools, skills, barter economy, getting our 5 gallon buckets stored. Is there a "survival store" in Santa Rosa? What is WELL's best strategy: any different than we're already doing?

8. Miscellaneous:

a. United Way "day of giving": Peter will forward to local projects that may want to have one-day volunteer events.

b. Radio station. We got nice PR for our \$800 donation. The station plans a fundraiser with Spencer doing a winery tour in Oct.

c. Bradfords potluck on Aug. 5 was great, about 30 people, Lanny did nice intros and good questions. Grange donated the space.

d. Thank you letter has been sent to Washington Research Institute for its \$1,000 donation to film series.

9. Next CC Meeting: Sept. 19, 6pm. We're switching to third Mondays to avoid conflict with CERT. Peter will facilitate.