

WELL NEWSLETTER – July 19, 2006

Our numbness, our silence, our lack of outrage, could mean we end up the only species to have minutely monitored our own extinction. What a measly epitaph that would make: "they saw it coming but hadn't the wit to stop it happening."

- Sara Parkin (1991)

This is the moment to get involved!

Calendar of WELL Events

**Saturday, July 22 – Special Meeting: “The Future of WELL”
9:40am – 4:30pm – Willits City Council Chambers**

This all day meeting will culminate in the adoption of WELL’s Membership and Governance structures and the Strategic Plan. Subcommittees have been working hard on drafts, which will be widely available by mid-June. Please come to this meeting to give your feedback, work on incorporating changes, and, to VOTE on accepting these documents. This is the culmination of months of work and visioning.

I have again attached all three documents for your convenience.

Please – print out these documents, read them carefully, take notes. There are also copies available in the office for anyone who is interested. You may give your feedback prior to the meeting by contacting WELL (contact information is at the bottom of the newsletter) or, you may come to the meeting and give your input directly. However, **it is critical that you take the time to absorb the voluminous amount of information in these documents – PRIOR to the meeting and that you make your comments in writing. Also – we will take a straw poll early on in the day – please come with clarity about whether you can accept the document as is or what specific changes you’d like to see.**

Schedule:

9:30 – 10am – arrive, settle in, tea and coffee available

10am – Introduction to the days work (**we will begin promptly at 10**)

10:15am – Presentation of Membership document, clarifying questions, straw poll, written comments

10:45am – Presentation of Governance document, clarifying questions, straw poll, written comments

11:15am – Presentation of Strategic Plan document, clarifying questions, straw poll, written comments

noon – Lunch break

1pm – Break out groups for each of the three documents (each person attends one group) These groups work together to incorporate all the written comments submitted and agree upon a final draft to be ratified.

2:30pm – Short break, then reassemble as large group

2:45pm – Membership document re-presented, vote to ratify
3:15pm – Governance document re-presented, vote to ratify
3:45pm – Strategic Plan document re-presented, vote to ratify
4:15pm – Closing
4:30pm – End

The day will be facilitated by Marc Grail and Spring Senerchia. The break-out sessions will each have facilitators and members of the committee who drafted the document will be available to answer questions.

It would be helpful to know who plans to attend – just so we can get an idea of the size of our group. If you plan to come, please let us know using the contact information at the bottom of the newsletter. **It is critical that you bring your comments and suggested edits in writing.**

Saturday, July 22 – PARTY
6-10 pm, at the Bradford home – 284 Redwood Ave.

Join us to celebrate this day's hard work and all of WELL's progress. This is a potluck. Please bring a favorite dish, incorporating as much locally grown food as possible.

Saturday, July 29
10am – Noon, 130 Tuttle Lane, Willits
Free class at the demonstration Medicine Chest Garden, with special guest, KC Chamberlain who will regale us with the wonder of lavender. We will tincture some fresh lavender also. Bring a chair and a sunhat.

August 3 (and 10) – Class: Build a Model
6-9pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.
Join inventor, renewable energy expert and model builder Phil Jergenson for this two part class. Participants will explore materials, scale, construction and techniques for model building. Land models (contour models) and building models will both be covered. The class will include construction of a model of the REDI site which includes three buildings. Hands-on. Pre-registration required. Donation requested. Call: Phil for details and registration: 459.1256.

August 6 – Willits Wellness Network Monthly Meeting
Noon – 2pm, 130 Tuttle Lane or 475 E. Valley
An opportunity for health care providers to connect, for all those interested in promoting the localization of community, public, social, mental, environmental and natural health, the sourcing of natural remedies and medical supplies, health education, etc. Call Diane: 456.9514, for more information.

August 7 – Special Plenary Meeting

6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.

The first part of this meeting will include hand-outs with statements from each of the candidates running for election to WELL's first Coordinating Committee as well as a discussion of the process for this election (to be held September 11). See the Governance Document for more details.

The second part of the evening will be an inspiring presentation by the six community members who recently attended the BALLE (Business Alliance for Living, Local) conference in Vermont. These people are on fire and full of ideas for our town. Don't miss it.

**August 9 – Workshop: Energy Audits
6-8pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.**

Please note: the date of this class is different than noted on the poster. This is the correct date.

Learn to perform an Energy Audit on your own home. Study an audit and see the building it refers to. Pre-registration required, donation requested. Contact George: 459.1256

**August 10 (and 3) – Class: Build a Model
6-9pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.**

Join inventor, renewable energy expert and model builder Phil Jergenson for this two part class. Participants will explore materials, scale, construction and techniques for model building. Land models (contour models) and building models will both be covered. The class will include construction of a model of the REDI site which includes three buildings. Hands-on. Pre-registration required. Donation requested. Call: Phil for details and registration: 459.1256.

**August 21 – Speaker Event: Chuck Henderson presents CONICS
6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.**

Come watch slides and hear about CONICS, a non-linear, zero waste building technique.

**August 17 – Film: “Ecological Design”
7pm, Location TBA**

This is a classic film with footage of Buckminster Fuller, and other early architects of sustainable housing, including a fantastic segment showing *closed system* housing in a geodesic dome.

The opening sequences of *Ecological Design: Inventing the Future* contrast the ecologically-conscious value system - and living shelters - of nature-based peoples with the materialistic basis of industrial society and its resultant urban sprawl.

Fuller's ideas and inventions spawned a design revolution whose impact continues to grow along with popular awareness of the need for sustainable living

systems.

SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$5.

September 4 – Labor Day Picnic

Noontime, Willits City Park

Bring a picnic and your family to this informal, summertime gathering.

September 10 - Willits Wellness Network Monthly Meeting

Noon – 2pm, 130 Tuttle Lane or 475 E. Valley

An opportunity for health care providers to connect, for all those interested in promoting the localization of community, public, social, mental, environmental and natural health, the sourcing of natural remedies and medical supplies, health education, etc. Call Diane: 456.9514, for more information.

September 11 – Coordinating Committee elections

6:30pm, Willits Community Center

Come VOTE, or be voted for, WELL's first Coordinating Committee! See the Governance Document for more details.

September 25: Speaker Event: Garden & Farm Panel

6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.

Other Events

Regional Radio Network to Discuss Local Self-Reliance

Wednesday, July 19, 7 - 9 p.m.

The Seven Rivers Radio Network, a group of four community radio stations covering an area from northern Sonoma County to Brookings, OR and inland to Hoopa Valley, will expand its reach to include Sacramento and the Sierra foothills when it broadcasts a special program on the growing "localization" movement.

The network, consisting of founding station KIDE in Hoopa, KHSU at Humboldt State University (Arcata), KMUD in Garberville and **KZYX&Z in Mendocino County**, will be joined by KVMR in Nevada City for the program. The topic at hand will be the burgeoning localization movement in northern California, which aims to develop more self-reliant and diverse economies. Localization responds to several critical environmental and social issues simultaneously, including geological and geopolitical threats to energy supplies, outsourcing of jobs, climate change, the slow erosion of community cohesion, and the need for people to feel a sense of belonging to place. We will hear from localization groups that have formed in Laytonville, Ukiah, **Willits**, Anderson Valley, the Mendocino coast, Garberville and Grass Valley. Issues explored by these groups include developing fossil-fuel free local food and energy systems, energy efficient transportation, land-use and urban planning, and sustainable building

methods. Guests from groups in all of these areas will participate in the program, with each guest speaking from the studio in his or her respective local area.

The program will be a technical benchmark for the network as well. Not only will all five stations simulcast the program, they will also each take turns originating content in real time, as well as fielding calls from listeners in all five areas.

Tune in: Wednesday, July 19, 7-9pm KZYX&Z 91.7FM, 90.5FM, 88.1FM

“An Inconvenient Truth”

There have been a lot of good reviews of Al Gore’s film, which relates to topics that concern WELL. The Noyo has held this movie over due to sold out shows last week. There will be three showings per day. Call the Noyo Theater – 459.6696 - for prices and times.

To learn more about the film, go the website: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

On **Wednesday, July 18**, WELL participants will again moderate **a discussion of the film**, directly following the 7:10pm screening, in the theater. Everyone is welcome to participate. Thanks to the Noyo staff for this special opportunity to respond to the facts, images and feelings in this ground breaking film.

Audiences everywhere respond to **An Inconvenient Truth** with spontaneous applause and standing ovations.

That’s because An Inconvenient Truth gives voice to a crisis that impacts us all: **global warming**. The facts are chilling and galvanizing individuals. **Reversing global warming is not a political issue**. It’s a practical and realistic proposal. It’s our civic responsibility. If we, our children, and our children’s children want to continue living on Earth, it’s an imperative.

Bring your self, a friend, especially young people.

Jason wrote an article about his experience studying climate change and how that has led him to his current work with WELL. It is worth the time reading. Within the hour you will be able to find it on the front page of our website: www.willitseconomiclocalization.org

Food Justice

Anna Lappe is a national bestselling author and renowned public speaker on food politics, globalization and social change. Her first book, *Hope’s Edge*, co-written with her mother Frances Moore Lappe, chronicled courageous social movements around the world addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty. Anna’s second book, *Grub: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen*, offers readers ideas and hands-on tools and menus to create healthy lives for themselves and their community.

Anna will discuss the social, political and economic impact of our food choices, will offer inspired solutions and reasons for eating local, sustainable food, and will celebrate Grub heroes-- from farmers to community food justice advocates.

Friday, July 21, 7pm at the Fort Bragg Town Hall. Free; donation requested.

Cuban Economic Localization

If you missed this video in Willits, here's another chance to catch it: CELL-- Coast Economic Localization Link-- presents a Town Hall meeting on August 4th, 1st Friday. They will be showing a video called "**The Power of Community-- How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.**" They will have a discussion about the film and what can be done here on the coast to address the issues.

This film documents Cuba's emergency transition to local organic agriculture, renewable energy, and large-scale mass transit. The transition occurred following the Soviet collapse in 1990, when their massive subsidies of imported oil and food to Cuba were halted. In this documentary, ordinary Cubans talk about the immediate hardships they faced. Their GDP dropped by more than one third, transportation nearly stopped and food became scarce.

Cuba's experience provides a living model for how the rest of the world can respond to the coming world oil production peak and irreversible decline some oil experts say will occur this decade.

August 4, 7pm at the Fort Bragg Town Hall. Free; donation requested.

Past Events

Elder Talk

On July 10, the large meeting hall at Little Lake Grange was full of people enjoying tales of the past. Elder Talk, co-produced by WELL and the Grange was the first of a series of talks by our local elders about what life used to be like in our valleys. Claudia Reed's article on July 14 relates some of the highlights.

You can read that article here: http://www.willitsnews.com/localnews/ci_4047753

We hope to host another evening of similar stories in October.

Jason wrote the following piece to answer a question we've been hearing around town -- "What does WELL have to do with the Grange?"

Willits Economic Localization (WELL) would like to thank the Little Lake Grange and the audience who attended the recent Elders Speak event. What a wonderful evening we had together, learning from the wisdom of those who've witnessed decades of change in the Willits area.

This was not the first joint event of the Grange and WELL, and it won't be the last. Why are WELL and the Grange working together?

WELL envisions a future in which we produce more of what we consume right here in Little Lake Valley. Instead of importing essentially all our food, for example, we would have thriving farms and the range of trades that support a local food system, such as processors, distributors, and retailers. This vision is expressed in the Joint Statement for a Sustainable Healthy Willits, signed now by representatives of 15 local organizations, which reads in part:

Local food and energy systems would require us to tap into the vast wealth of knowledge and ingenuity in our area. We can create many new businesses that serve our common needs. In doing so, our youth would find many avenues to express their creativity, which benefits all of Willits. Our rural landscape would be enhanced by thriving farms that grow livestock and crops, from potatoes and grains to summer and fall vegetables. Renewable energy and non-polluting transportation systems would give us a quieter, less expensive, and more dependable set of services, while providing an array of interesting employment.

WELL works in partnership with existing institutions to help foster the creation of a sustainable, local economy. The Little Lake Grange, by being an historically agrarian organization, is a natural ally in the community. We need to be mutually supportive of each other, as individuals and organizations, to build an even livelier and secure town.

The Grange Hall is a former school building and a treasured place for classrooms, small businesses, meetings, Sunday breakfasts, and celebrations. It deserves our support as it needs significant renovation and WELL is planning joint fund raising events to help. Consider joining WELL or the Grange if you care about local agriculture and the historic community hall that the Grange owns.

More events like Elders Speak and manifesting the vision of a local food system require further participation by people like you. To learn more contact Spring at 459-1256.

RLNC Video

If you missed the Regional Localization Networking Conference, you don't have to wait until WELL produces RLNC reloaded. Check out the well done and comprehensive RLNC video.

RLNC Conference Videos are here!

The video of the Regional Localization Network Conference sponsored by Willits Economic Localization (WELL) last April is now ready! The 3-DVD set includes presenters, plenary sessions, Q&A, and report-backs from working groups, and really captures the electrifying spirit of the event. It's a very rich way to extend this information to members who didn't attend. Other localization groups will find valuable information for their own organizational work and outreach.

The 3-DVD set is \$37 postpaid. Individual DVDs are \$17 postpaid, 2 DVDs are \$27 postpaid. Please send your order and a check or money order to Yuba Gals Independent Media, 15504 Lone Bobcat Way, Nevada City, California 95959. Or you can e-mail your order and pay via Paypal to account janaia2004[at]yubagals.com (replace [at] with @). For more info, contact Janaia at this e-mail address, or phone 530-265-4244.

Disk 1

1 Introduction

Lanny Cotler, WELL

2 Keynote: "Staring Down Scarcity"

David Schaller, Sustainable Development Coordinator, _Environmental Protection Agency

3 Sharing Economic _Localization Best Practices

Jason Bradford, WELL

4 Alliance for a Post-Petroleum Local Economy

Janaia Donaldson, APPLE

5 Visioning Economic _Localization

Annie Weller, WELL

6 Poem: "The Warning"

Liam UiCearbhail, WELL

Disk 2

7 Global Cafe: Promoting Economic Localization in _Communities and Regions Brian Weller & Jason Bradford, WELL

8 The Powerdown Project

Wesley Caddell and Amber Mamakos, New College of California

9 Biomimicry Exercise: Creative Problem Solving on Economic Localization Issues Brian Weller & Jason Bradford, WELL 10 Listening to the Earth Steve Heckerth, Coastal Economic Localization Links (CELL)

11 Complementary Currencies

Annette Riggs, Sebastopol Economic Forum

Disk 3

12 Creating Our E.L. Future

Celine Rich, Executive Director

Julian Darley, Director

Laura Bonenfant, Communications Director Post Carbon Institute, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

13 Poem

Jahn Ballard, _Sebastopol Economic Forum

14 Organization Building

Brian Weller, WELL

FOOD News

Mendocino Organics

Adam Gaska and Julie Schleuder offer locally raised chicken, turkey and lamb at reasonable prices. Their small scale operation is a model of economic localization. If you eat poultry or meat, please consider supporting their efforts. I have attached their Summer Newsletter which is very informative and inspiring, whether or not you plan to buy food from them.

Get Involved

WELL is a volunteer based organization. Our staff time pales in comparison with the dedicated efforts of all of you. Now that we are bringing our governance work to a close, we need volunteers to fill many of the roles we have created. If we are able to find steady and committed people to help, what we can accomplish in

the next year is impressive. Take a look at the Governance Document to see which Team you might like to join. Reading the Strategic Plan will give you an idea of what each Team will be working on in the next year.

Meanwhile, WELL would love to be involved with the county wide Local Food events in October. We need a couple volunteers to work with Mary to get this going. Please consider volunteering some time – this will be a rewarding project. The Grange is offering to collaborate on a wonderful Mini Harvest Festival.

Fundraising

WELL always needs more money – to cover office overhead and to use as seed money for projects.

REDI has board members willing and eager to collaborate with WELL members to produce a Halloween dance party to be held at the Little Lake Grange. We need a couple energetic, enthusiastic volunteers who love community and celebrations to help work out the details for this event. If this is to happen, we need to begin planning now. Please call the office or send me an email if you are willing to help with this.

Important Liaison Team Forming Now

Keeping tabs on our local government bodies and communicating WELL's opinions to them is vital to accomplishing WELL's goals. In recognition of this we have formed a Liaison Team (as described in the Draft Governance Document) in advance of the July 22 Future of WELL meeting.

Mary Zellachild and Ralph Pisciotta have committed to this effort and we would like a few more volunteers as well. What we want is a group who can commit to this effort, and plan and coordinate strategy to be certain that we are communicating effectively. This committee will pay attention to all of the issues that arise, and coordinate with the governing body of WELL so that they can truthfully represent themselves as being the Voice of WELL to our local governments.

If you'd like to help with this, please contact Mary Zellachild - **459-3963** or maryzel@saber.net - or Liam UiCearbhaill – macamergin@yahoo.com

C'mon Home to Eat, Eat Local Month

Mary Zellachild sent this in and is offering to help spear head this effort. PLEASE contact her to help so we can join this effort.

We have received a letter from Sara McCamant of the Anderson Valley Local Foodshed, saying they are hoping the rest of the county will join them in organizing a county wide "C'mon Home to Eat, Eat Local Month" this October.

Anderson Valley did one last October and it was a great success. It would be a good way for us to start to get the issues and ideas around local food out there.

Some of the things they organized last year: A pledge for people to eat local (within 100 miles) that month; worked with local restaurants to highlight what's local on their menus or have a local food special; asked stores to let them put tags on what was grown within 100 miles; taught canning classes, using local restaurants; did outreach with schools; put up local food displays at the farmers market and in stores; printed a local food guide (they'd like to have input from our area); and did radio shows and newspaper articles.

It would be good to make some effort here in Willits to be part of this. It will take a lot of ideas, follow through, and people willing to work on it to make it happen. Sara says it takes about 2 months, which means we would need to start in August.

What We Need to Carry This Out

(The number of activities that will actually happen during the month depends on the response received.)

- A planning committee (at least one other person besides me) to coordinate activities and gather information to be distributed
- Media/Publicity group to distribute information
- A group to help plan a "Local Harvest Festival" – potluck or catered meal with local foods to end the month
- Liaison for school activities
- A liaison for stores and restaurants
- Someone to organize and/or teach harvest processing (canning, drying and/or freezing)

I see the first 3 of these to be the minimum needed for us to do this project. . Anyone who is interested in helping with this, please contact me at **459-3963** or maryzel@saber.net

Office Note:

If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, please let me know and I will gladly oblige.

spring@redinet.org

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