

WA Farm to School Network
Garden and Farm-based Educators Community of Practice
 Quarterly Call
 Agenda and Minutes
 March 28, 2018

(Apologies for any mistakes and typos in the minutes – they were taken in real time and were typed quickly. Please let Sharon Siehl know if there are any errors that need attention. Thank you! sharonsiehl@tilthalliance.org)

Here’s the call-in info that should work from just a standard phone:

1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 122 915 497

- **Introductions:** your name, program, and location

Attendees and contact info:

WSU Spokane County Extension Food Sense	lvananrooy@wsu.edu	Lori van Anrooy
Common Threads (Bellingham)	madeline@commonthreads.org	Madeline Rosenvinge
Kindering Child Care (Bellevue)	anna.freeman@kinding.org	Anna Freeman
Carnation Farms	MarthaM@carnationfarms.org	Martha Marino
Viva Farms (Skagit Co)	steve@vivafarms.org	Steve Crider
WSU Snohomish County SNAP-Ed	torissa.sorenson@wsu.edu	Tori Sorenson
School Garden Advocates (Snohomish Co.)	kathyjoraley@gmail.com	Kathy Raley
GRuB (Olympia)	mallorie@goodgrub.org	Mallorie Shellmer
Lower Columbia School Gardens (Kelso/Longview)	ian@lcschoolgardens.org	Ian Thompson
Farm to School Coupeville	zbarchaim@coupeville.k12.wa.us	Zvi Bar-Chaim
WSDA Farm to School	ciberle@agr.wa.gov	Chris Iberle
Oak Harbor School District	jcrimmins@ohsd.net	Jodi Crimmins
Tilth Alliance	sharonsiehl@tilthalliance.org	Sharon Siehl
Tilth Alliance	marenneldam@tilthalliance.org	Maren Neldam
Tilth Alliance	melissaspear@tilthalliance.org	Melissa Spear (ED)

- **Report back** from Northwest Youth and Garden Network Annual Winter Gathering (Mar. 1) -- Mallorie Shellmer, GRuB

5th annual gathering – 40 people attended

Newer network , held in Salem OR at Marion Polk Youth Share Youth Farm, some folks from WA and mostly in OR

Networking on where the movement is in the region, accomplishments, struggles

Mostly people from non-profits, or garden educators new projects or expansion

Evaluation and funding are common struggles

How do we honor the land that is stolen from Indigenous people? How do we partner with tribes to better honor this? Action item on acknowledgement statements.

Good group of people, working with middle and high school students

Next steps: who is going to be leading the gathering next year, alternating hosts in the region.

Smaller group conversations, breakout sessions, farm tour, sharing updates about the work. 50/50 mix of people who are partnered with a school, vs running a farm or non-profit.

- **Report back** from School Learning Garden Network Winter Workshop -- Sharon Siehl, Tilth Alliance

5th annual SLGN Winter Workshop – 115 people attended from around the Puget Sound.

Held at Pathfinder K-8 School in West Seattle.

Keynote Speaker – Jessica Levine, Middle School Science teacher and outdoor education

10 breakout sessions with 9 total topics, ranging from outdoor classroom management, History of Place and equitable outdoor education, youth leaders and middle school teacher panels, metaphysics of flowers, Pathfinder School garden tour, asset mapping, environmental justice, native plants and indigenous culture in school gardens.

Lunch was provided thanks to donation from Chipotle, local outreach tables (including WA Farm to School)

Participant feedback reported that 53% were completely satisfied and 42% were very satisfied with the overall event.

Similar to NYGN, we opened the day honoring the Coast Salish Peoples, Lands and Waters. But we need to think more broadly about how to move the conversation farther than that.

Other areas to work on: creating a more

- **Question:** Are there any other regional/local Garden/Farm Networks that are meeting?
 - Possibly a group on Whidby Island?
 - Is there a model that could be developed to encourage more local/regional groups to meet?
- Mar. 2 Whidby School Garden workshop – day long event with different workshops, Common Threads might have attended
- Medeline from Common Threads – Laura wanted to mention the Americorps mega-team members in Coupeville, Oxbow, Lower Columbia, Bellingham, they come together

as a group every once in a while. If you're interested in hosting an AmeriCorps member to let Laura know right away if you want someone this year. Just opened up AmeriCorps applications. Still time to become a host.

- Steve Krieder with Viva – BFRDP work farm to school work – school garden practitioner gathering late April or early May – food service personnel,
- Will include school garden and curriculum, open to different people, seed companies, Readers to Eaters, wide range of things ¾ day, teachers get clock hours from Skagit valley college
- Better to have on weekday or weekend? If for teachers and clock hours, Saturday would be better.
 - GruB hosts 3-day instituted, half were teachers/administrators, Weds-Fri after testing. One day trainings on Saturdays. Mixed success on either day.
- OR F2S Summit, usually at Salem, School on Thurs, F2S focus on Fri, hundreds of people show up. Jan/Feb is easier for people to get away. Suggestions around Sept/or other times of years.
- Kathy – school garden advocates – kick off party in the spring, invite media, politicians, community members, do others do this kind events?
 - Find events that match with what teachers are doing, match with what they're doing

- **Garden & Farm CoP Meeting structure and goals -- discussion**
 - **Follow up from CoP calls -**
 - ie: beginning to gather information and assign tasks -- last Dec. meeting several groups offered to share resources around garden program sustainability. How do we follow up?
 - **Areas of interest** -- What is do want to focus on? What is missing from this list?
 - Here are some from the WA F2S Launch in 2018:
 - *Culturally relevant foods and curriculum
 - * Cooking from the garden with younger kids
 - * Tap into state funding and funding ideas
 - * Cross-state and district collaboration (Walla Walla and Bellingham)
 - * Food in science curriculum
 - * Alternative revenue models
 - * Working with farms & supporting them and younger farms
 - * Make schools an appealing market and institutions
 - * Getting through grant submissions
 - * Social studies curriculum and food justice
 - New areas in to include?
 - Inclusivity and cultural awareness
 - Professional Development
 - Partnership and relationship development

Goals for this group – areas of discussion -- accountability – what would be useful to this group? how do we share the work?

- Follow up – list/organization/email who is on this call Google doc?
 - Chris can share emails, specifically who are on this call (see top of meeting notes)
- Come up with an elevator pitch, so that we can share with other community members
 - Chris has ¼ sheet flyer that we can work from
- Chris - Neighborhood level garden organizing – fact sheets around school gardens, partner with communities, work with schools? Street level building hyperlocal organizing how-to
 - Bubble diagram/map to figure out stakeholders and community members – figuring out everyone who is involved
 - Internet search for these kinds of models
 - PNW resource list – Kathy will take this action item –
- Sustainability, inclusivity,
 - I like hearing what’s going on. This group has the easiest access to young people.
 - What does youth involvement look like in this Network?
 - Came up at a network coordination call – conference calls are not interesting for kids.
 - Is there is a survey or activity we could send out to young people? How could we do this?
 - What would an advisory team look like for this option?
 - Rooted in Community is a national network – out of Pittsburgh, Youth Food Bill of Rights. What do you want to see from your food system. Less pesticides, healthier options, less liquor stores. What do they want their school lunches to look like. Depends on who you work with. GruB could do a lot more than that, could have larger conversations.
 - Possibly develop a few questions to ask
 - Work with middle schoolers – develop youth empowerment and food justice models. Getting their input to turn it around and drive the work.
 - What would it look like in different communities? Some amount of uniformity, or
- NGSS alignment would be nice, administrators
- Madeline – some of Americorps memebbers went to NGSS Summit, might be able to put together
- LifeLabs, Growing Classroom. Has organized this work, don’t want to reinvent the wheels.
- Follow up: Look at the list in the agenda, send 2-3 top interests from the list to Sharon sharonsiehl@tilthalliance.org

- **Question:** Does anyone have food lessons (specifically) that are aligned with NGSS? (submitted by Jade Angster at Montlake ES, Seattle)

- Email was sent to the listserv with more information.

- **Announcements and questions**

- Update from Network Coordination team: work on proposals for some Network Gathering. Regional meetings, a retreat – check your email for these regional WA F2S coordination groups.