

## **MINUTES -- 22 APR 2005 FARM TO SCHOOL & POLICY MEETING**

10-11:30 AM, Durango 9R Admin Bldg Conf Room

Present: Kim Cotta, Bill Manning, Trent Taylor, Jeanne Trupiano, Bliss Bruen, Jim Judge, Jan Blanchard, Kay James, Pamela Beckert, Shari Fitzgerald, Chris Barker, Diane Doney, Wendy Rice, Katrina Blair, Michael Trowbridge, Jerry Zink, Jim Dyer

Introductions were made.

### **FOOD & AGR POLICY:**

Jim Dyer opened the Food & Ag Policy discussion with an overview of federal, regional, state, and local policy efforts. Local issues that were mentioned included the proposed County Land Use Code (Pam & Chris agreed to work with the Policy committee on this to propose items that would encourage local production & marketing), and the new Durango sales tax rebate related to food expenditures for low income families (opens the door for possible low income assistance programs directed at local food, eg., vouchers for produce at the farmers markets). Our local policy committee will be working to identify issues for consideration by the larger group: Jim J, Bliss, Tom Riesing, Christie Berven, Jim D.

### **FARM TO SCHOOL:**

LA BOCA: Chris, Katrina, and Shari gave an overview of the Community Food Project proposal that they submitted to USDA including community and school gardens, wild foods, greenhouses, a CSA at La Boca, a food assessment, and therapeutic and education programs. The partners formed a coalition, the Growing partners consisting of: La Boca, SUCAP, the Garden Project, Turtle Lake, and SW Marketing Network (liaison to the Farm to School Group). Contact Chris for more details. We should know in June if the project is funded -- either way, the process has identified the many existing food-related projects that are ongoing in this area, and a plan of action for collaboration.

9R DISTRICT: Kim and Diane gave an excellent overview of the status of food procurement procedures, constraints, and opportunities at 9R. Some of the issues discussed included: kids eating habits, costs, federal competitive foods policies, shipping costs, commodity foods, parents willingness to pay more for better meals, and the cheap food policy in this country.

Aware that we were only skimming the surface of this topic, and the need for the group to understand it, we decided that a small group (see below) would work with Kim and Diane to try to get the main points down on paper.

Kim indicated that she has already decided on the commodities for next year, but that they do have the opportunity to purchase other foods.

Kim would like a list of what local foods would be available (see group below).

IGNACIO: Jan mentioned that the Ignacio schools are very interested in a Farm to School program.

**NUTRITION TASK FORCE:** Wendy gave an overview of the Task Force Activities. She pointed out that they consider the whole county, not just 9R. Much of the Task Force's work involves better items in vending machines, and they have made good progress. She will make a book on "Best Practices"/case studies available to the group. The content of school meals, the low rate of participation at DHS, making the cafeteria more appealing, and the student's stated desires for better food were discussed.

All are invited to the Nutrition Task Force meetings. They tend to be the Third Thursday of each month, but Wendy will send out meeting announcements to all.

**STATE FOOD & NUTRITION STANDARDS:** Bliss gave a brief overview of the need and opportunity, and will follow-up in greater depth at a later meeting.

**FARM to SCHOOL CONFERENCE:** Jim asked who might want to go to the Natl Farm to School Conference in Ohio in June -- with scholarship assistance from the SW Marketing Network. (Chris and Jim D plan to go and report back.)

**NEXT STEPS:** We have several committees that will work on their respective issues between meetings and report to the larger group at those meetings:

**9R PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE** (to develop materials to explain procedures, constraints, and opportunities for the whole group -- start with 9R, then identify unique situations in the other districts): Pam, Kay, Kim, Diane, Jim D

**LOCAL PRODUCTS COMMITTEE** (develop a list of available products for Kim): Trent, Bill, Kay, Jerry

**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE:** Michael Rendon, Jan, Jim D.

**NUTRITION** (participate in the Nutrition Task force with Wendy Rice): Jeanne, Bliss

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Katrina, Shari, Chris, Bliss

**FOOD & AGR POLICY COMMITTEE:** Bliss, Jim J, Tom Riesing, Christie Berven, Jim D