

## NW MI Food and Farming Network Business Meeting Minutes

9/21

**In attendance:** *Paula Martin* of Groundwork Center, *Wendy Wieland* of MSU Extension, *Rod Robinson* as Agri-business Task Force leader, *Amanda Kik* of Crosshatch, *Michelle Smith* of MSU Extension, *Brian Bourdages* of Tamarack Holdings, *Donna Norkoli* of District Health Department #10, *Sam Plotkin* of Leelanau Conservancy, *Elise Crafts* of Networks Northwest, *Molly Thomas* of Crosshatch, *Tasha Lapinski* of Baker College, *Val Stone* of Northwest Food Coalition/Goodwill/Salvation Army, *Rachel Salinas* of Baker College, *Maddy Baroli* Americorps VISTA for FFN, *Bill Palladino* of Taste the Local Difference, *Tricia Phelps* of Taste the Local Difference, *Emma Beauchamp* of Taste the Local Difference, *Stephanie Mathewson* of Oryana, *Hans Voss* of Groundwork, *Vic Lane* of Leelanau Conservancy, *Laura Rigan* of Grand Traverse Conservation District

### Grant Updates:

- ❖ TLD & Groundwork
  - Wrapping up year 1 of **Building Healthy Communities Program**, secured funding for year 2
    - Working with variety of retail sites, community mental health clubs and hospitals
  
- ❖ Crosshatch
  - **USDA Risk Management Agency Grant for Farmer Education**
    - Partners= Grow Benzie, Larry Dyer, NCMC, Fiber guild
  - Potential for ERME (Extension Risk Management Education) grant
  
- ❖ District Health Department
  - Secured funding through the **MI Health Endowment Fund** for child nutrition, health and wellness programming
  - Looking at **MI Health Impact Fund**, would love to collaborate rather than compete for grant funding
  
- ❖ Grand Traverse Conservation District
  - Applying for grant through **Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)** for Food Safety Education
  
- ❖ Leelanau Conservancy
  - Received \$8 Million through **NRCS- Regional Conservation Partnership Program** to create conservation easements on agricultural land, and protect water quality by improving road stream crossings
  
- ❖ Local Food Alliance
  - **Petoskey Harbor Springs Community Foundation** pledged \$75,000 over 3 years for the Northern Farms Foodshed Project, and fundraising for a Groundwork staff member placed in Petoskey

### Policy Updates:

- ❖ Leelanau Conservancy
  - NRCS- Working with soil conservationists on updating soil survey
- ❖ Please send Maddy updates/news regarding policy items!
  - Email ----> [foodandfarmingnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:foodandfarmingnetwork@gmail.com)

### **Task Force Updates:**

- ❖ *Local Food Sales*- TF Leader=Tricia Phelps
  - Want to grow base of data collection for annual report
  - Researching different Point of Sale systems for tracking local food sales
  - Offering certification for events that are using 20% or more local- popular!
- ❖ *Farm to Institution*- TF Leader= Kelly Lively (Maddy reporting)
  - Working on Farm to Cafeteria inventory, who has adopted programs
  - Senior centers, hospitals, and schools
- ❖ *Agri-business Generation*- TF Leader= Rod Robinson
  - Working on three areas: Food Safety education, Access to Capital, Infrastructure
    - Scott Smith w/ LFA in Petoskey working on infrastructure list.
    - Sharron May - SET (Strengthen Economies Together) working on economic development strategies packet
  - Little hard data on how local food benefits the local economy, mostly big pic
  - Working to stretch geographic area
- ❖ *Farmland Resources*- TF Leader= Brian Bourdages
  - Developing Farmland Investment Program
    - Triple bottom line, conscious investing, private dollars for properties at risk for development, convert into functional fruit farms
  - Developing Farmer to Farmer land access web platform
    - In partnership with Tamarack Holdings and MSU Hort Station
    - Check out Iroquois Valley website, similar concept  
[iroquoisvalleyfarms.com](http://iroquoisvalleyfarms.com)
- ❖ *Food Access*- TF Leader= Meghan McDermott (Maddy reporting)
  - Working on food resource booklet with seed grant money, draft by summit
  - Potential for FFN study session @ Father Fred

### **Updates on FFN Mini-Grants:**

Lots of collaboration and action!

- ❖ Crosshatch and BARC starting to accept Short's Brewing Co. food waste to do composting ed programs
- ❖ Farmer to Farmer got \$2,000 to develop web platform
- ❖ DDA/Grow Benzie actively doing food demos at Sara Hardy Market every other week
- ❖ Susan Conklin offering tons of fresh local foods at Good Neighbor Food Pantry
- ❖ Jim Austin w/ YMCA teaching about nutrition and offering local foods at summer camps

## General Updates:

- ❖ NMC Extended Education Class- Miller, Baker, Noodle Maker on October 12th
  - Visit GT Culinary Oils and Flours processing facility, and eat Gaijin ramen!
  - Whole foods systems approach, details and registration info [HERE](#)
- ❖ Good Food Summit @ Kellogg Center, MSU, October 28th
- ❖ Apple Crunch Event Oct. 13th- Bite into a MI apple and share with friends!
- ❖ Crosshatch/MSU Mock Food Safety Audit w/ Phil Tocco, Sept. 27
- ❖ Small Farm Conference Jan. 28- Look out for sponsor sign up!
- ❖ Empty Bowls Food Rescue Event Nov. 6- Take home a beautiful bowl
- ❖ Harvest Haiku Contest running from Oct. 1-Nov. 15
- ❖ Crosshatch Garlic Auction Oct. 15
- ❖ Crosshatch has upcoming job opportunities, including an Americorps VISTA position

**[Keep in touch with all these fabulous events on the FFN online calendar @ <https://foodandfarmingnetwork.org/calendar/>]**

***Thanks for an inspiring meeting, everyone!***