

North Central Washington Community Success Summit Notes

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. November 17, 2010 Lake Chelan Winery

Participants: See attached list.

Sponsors:

Cascadia Conservation District www.cascadiacd.org

Icicle Fund www.iciclefund.org

Key Bank www.key.com

NCW Business Loan Fund www.ncwloanfund.org

The Nature Conservancy www.nature.org

The Wenatchee World www.wenworld.com

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service www.fws.gov/wafwo/CWFO_index.html

Washington State Department of Ecology www.ecy.wa.gov

Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited www.tu.org/conservation/western-water-project/washington

John & Kaye Thoren

Chuck & Nancy Warner

Host: Lake Chelan Winery www.lakechelanwinery.com

Catering: www.healthygourmet.com

Agenda:

9:00 Welcome

9:30 Gathering Our Voice, “Foodways & Byways of NCW”

10:00 Regional Success Sampler

10:30 Break

10:45 Local Success Sampler

Lunch Healthy Gourmet - Sing back to order by Julie Ashmore, “Alive & Ready”

1:00 Building Community From the Ground Up

2:30 Break

2:45 Putting the Pieces Together

4:00 Adjourn to Wine Tasting

Outcomes for Today:

- Connect People and Ideas
- Report on Last Year’s Goals
- Identify 5 Key Elements of Sustainability
- Identify 3 Shared Goals for 2011

2009 Goals:

- Convene Regional Food Coalition
- Organize Summit to Match Funders With Organizations Needing Funding
- Develop IRIS as Portal for “All Things Sustainable”
- Create Unified Land Use Vision
- Network Recycling Community

Gathering Our Voice – Foodways & Byways Audio Slide Show

Themes illustrated so far include self-reliance, supporting neighbors, and sharing. Suggestions include adding stories about food consumption, water and watershed management, along with those about food production, gathering and marketing. Avoid idealizing the past and integrate the use of technology in future systems. Keep the question about what music people associate with food production. See www.gatheringourvoice.org to view the audio slide show and for more information about how to volunteer and also to contribute to the challenge grant for the project.

Success Sampler

One theme that emerged from all stories includes the importance of individual and community commitment from regional to the local level. This commitment is critical to build the support base for local businesses, such as recycling, and other actions that involve adapting to change and making something new seem like something familiar and accepted.

Building Community From the Ground Up – What do these models have in common?

Building on legacy of self reliance, survival
Being a good listener
Little capital, lots of time - sustainable regional energy
Meeting and doing and producing tangible outcomes
Balance of social interaction and internal business
Working at multiple scales, e.g., local success impacts tied to global vision
Effective and meaningful communication
Passing on generational knowledge
Breaking down barriers and building bridges
Focusing on agreements, not disagreements
Identifying common ground, e.g., “don’t let perfect be the enemy of good”
Forming partnerships instead of going it alone
Multigenerational collaboration
Being open to contributions of all abilities and resources
Gumption, passion, and trust - small group of people can make a huge difference
Hope, not fear
Sense of community and belonging, feeling of security
Extending sense of community to the environment
Food, music and neighborhood sharing

Elements of Sustainability

A pooled list of elements was solicited from Summit participants and then grouped into categories by facilitators and other volunteers as follows:

Heart (overarches everything)

- Happiness, contentment
- Positive vision of the future, hope that we have the ability to effect change
- Trust, social well-being
- Attitude and gumption - focus on what can be done, rather than what can’t
- Gratitude, compassion, appreciation

Personal commitment & contribution
Fun, celebration and beauty
Fostering a “new normal” way of acting

Healthy Natural Systems

Care of earth and natural resources
Enhancing environment
Protected water resources
Healthy natural systems
Environmental stewardship
Stewardship across natural resources and community
Healthy viable natural resources
Protect shared resources, public land from further development
Provide access and enjoyment to generate interest in protecting

Meeting basic needs

Well-fed neighbors
Security
Sense of community
Increase access to local foods
Use technology to connect past successes to our future security

Educated Communities

Educated communities
Enlivened and learning organizations
Learning communities
Connect younger generations directly with grandparents & elders
Broaden educational programs to include whole communities, not just schools

Cultural & Political Diversity & Collaboration

Community buy-in
Collaboration & partnerships
Cooperation & collaboration
Bridging barriers, common goals
Equal access and use of resources
Communication network, portal
Shared responsibility
Common elements that bridge politics
Listening and acceptance

Strong, resilient, compatible economy

Compatible economics with local sustainable community health
Local and community-driven
Developing renewable energy sources (compost, wind, hydropower, biomass)
Strong local economy
Diversify local farm offerings, farmer’s markets
Pragmatism and resiliency
Decrease demand for resource intensive products from outside our region

Five Top Priority Elements of Sustainability

Using poker chips to symbolize their own investment of time and resources in the coming year participants ranked the elements of sustainability for action:

1. Healthy Natural Systems (43 chips)
2. Meeting Basic Needs (33)
3. Cultural and Political Diversity and Collaboration (25)
4. Educated Communities (18)
5. Strong, Resilient, Compatible Economy (17)

Priority Goals for 2011:

Healthy Natural Systems

Host Shrub Steppe Restoration Workshop – Work with the Shrub Steppe Partnership in SCW and The Nature Conservancy to conduct 2011 workshop designed to help implement the Arid Lands Initiative.

Action team leads & co-leads: Chuck Warner, Julie Connelly, Nancy Warner
Contributors:

Host NCW Conservation Success Summit – Build on partnerships and results of the Shrub Steppe Restoration Workshop to design a broader Summit in 2012 that will link conservation successes across habitat types and land use to jobs for local community members in restoring healthy ecosystems. Explore potential for setting up regional restoration council to help set priorities for mitigation funds.

Action team leads & co-leads: IRIS , NCW RC&D, EDD, TU, Conservation Districts, Land Trusts, Okanogan Highlands Alliance, Wenatchee Valley College
Contributors: private landowners, business owners, conservation groups,

Meeting Basic Needs

NCW Food Coalition – Continue the process initiated in 2010 including integration with the “Foodways & Byways” project of Gathering Our Voice.

Action team members: Existing and additional Food Coalition participants
Contributors:

Cultural & Political Diversity & Collaboration

Design web portal - Work with regional committee to assess existing platforms and projects and to design phased development. Use WebEx and other communication tools as much as possible to connect people with design process.

Action team members: Julie Ashmore, Maureen Sheimo, Kristi Laguzza Boosman, Nancy Bolomey, Nancy Warner
Contributors: Michael Pilarski

Wrap-Up & Next Steps

Participant list will be provided to all who attended along with a link to a survey which will be used to evaluate the success of the Summit. Notes, short success stories and updates will be posted on www.irisncw.org along with a link to the draft “Foodways & Byways” program. All are asked to review the priority action team lists and let Nancy know of their interest in joining any of them. The Summit adjourned at 4:00 with the option of winetasting with Ray Sandidge Jr.