



Farmshed meeting, May 21 @ The Other Side

A reminder that we are on **GREEN** alert: the season of arugula, garlic scapes, ramps, spinach, etc.

Members present: Maria Rose, Andrea Millard, Amy Taft, Chris Malek, Nick Hylla, Jasia Steinmetz

- 1 Introductions and general chit chat: update from the education meeting and discussion group, welcome new participant, Amy Taft, who will be starting a clothing business on the Square this season.
- 2 Discussion of the name: In an effort to move forward with identifying ourselves and obtaining nonprofit status. We agreed on the name Central Rivers Farmshed and acknowledged that each community area (currently Stevens Point, Waupaca and Wausau but could include WI Rapids, Marshfield, etc.) would identify their own projects and direction. The Central Rivers Farmshed would be the umbrella group for outreach, membership and funding. To become a “official” organization, we need to establish the by-laws and elect officers. Jasia volunteered to work on the bylaws and Nick will look at the paperwork. We will bring this to the next all-farmshed meeting.
- 3 Nick reported on the Future of Farming conference and talked about Steve Stevenson’s presentation of farmers in the middle. These are the farmers who are small to middle sized and are not large enough to compete in the commodity market but have not moved into the fresh market or value-added market. Chris agreed that these are the farmers that we would need to target if we want to meet consumer demand and create a stronger local farmshed.
- 4 Nick suggested the following areas of concentration: Connectivity to producer and consumer; Partnership within the community; and Capacity building of producers and retailers.
- 5 This led to a plethora of ideas:
- 6 We prioritized the list to the following: website development, formalization of the group, and capacity building.
 - ✿ **Website development**
 - ✿ Nick will update
 - ✿ Maria will develop a template for profiles of producers and retailers. Chris Malek will be the first prototype. Phil from the Other Side will be the first retailer.
 - ✿ **Formalization of the group**
 - ✿ Jasia will wordsmith the by-laws
 - ✿ Nick will forward the paperwork to Jasia
 - ✿ We need to find a lawyer who will work pro bono to give their legal expertise approval (suggestions?)
 - ✿ **Capacity building**
 - ✿ Chris will have a farm tour sponsored by CR Farmshed
 - ✿ We will support the Harvest festival at the Farmer’s market and try to enhance
 - ✿ Create partnerships/grass roots development discussion: how can we tap into the social justice committees of religious groups? Can we participate in county fairs? MREA fair? Etc. No concrete ideas but lots of talk of what needs to happen to spread the foodshed.
 - ✿ Can we meet with the mayor to have a local food proclamation?
 - ✿ Nick will look into the conversion of food stamp benefits into farm market coupons to see if we can support low income populations in buying more from farmers.
- 7 We suggested meeting as a full group on June 4th to formalize our structure and gather the subcommittees. Phil said we could meet at the Other Side.