

## 2011 Food Summit Small Group Discussion Notes

### Heading?

- Unified network of local suppliers for: restaurants, catering services (local warehouse – open to public)
- Have solid evidence; good case studies – network to do this
- Land use issues
- Fresh produce into the Food hampers
  - CSA like food vouchers
  - Farmers deliver excess to Food Bank
- Facilitator – “Right to Food”
  - United voice; independent

### Food Policy

- Economic development strategies
  - Training business incubation – food services and processing
  - Conducive by-laws and policies
  - Woolwich Township (case study?)
  - Expand “Foodlink” model
  - Regional Water Quality Initiative (permanent?)
- Food literacy in schools
- Pricing
  - Farm labour
  - Subsidies
  - Affordability
  - Fair pricing for farmers
  - Trade issues
- Land use planning (urban and rural)
  - Diversity in landscapes
  - Conservation
  - Urban sprawl
  - Transportation
- Access to land
  - Markets
  - Gardens
  - Farms
- Monitoring Implementation
- Advocacy Development
- Key projects, issues, priorities
- Priorities?
- Economic Development – increase success of food related businesses – farms, processors, grocers, services, tourism
- Use Woolwich example to learn from, develop policy from there. Study other examples (B.C.)
  - Public consultation
  - Peer –based learning
  - Similar peers/counterparts (e.g. KW to Halifax or Edmonton)

- Colleges and Universities
- Cambridge Social Planning Council
- 25 in 5
- Waterloo Region Catholic School Board
- Waterloo Public School Board
- Waterloo Federation of Agriculture (Mark/Gord)
- SARC – low income advocacy
- LOFT (Martha Gaye Scroggins)
- Put Food in the Budget
- Workforce Planning Board of WWD
- OFA
- CFFO (John Clement)
- NFU-O (Colleen Rose, Joan Braidy)
- Rural/Ag. Development admins/officers – townships/planners/economic development officials
- Tourism (e.g. St. Jacobs Market)
- Gravel Watch
- Rural Water Quality Program (GRCA)
- HHUG
- Linking economic development with food policies at strategic planning level
- Group to monitor food policy implementation
  - Look at other regions to see what they are doing that we could connect with

### **Food Sovereignty**

- Food Skills Map (accessible, one stop place for info)
- Waterloo Region “Rapporteur” (independent of government) \*right to food\*
- Local Organic Food Calendar \*virtual\*
  - Farmers post what is available each week for buying clubs/restaurants etc
  - Database (Foodlink, WRFSR website)
  - Call line
- How much ends up in the farmer’s pocket “Food Sovereignty Report Card”
  - Student project?
- Local distribution/”restaurant carpool”
  - Host a meeting
  - Community-shared distribution
- Neighbourhood Garden with choice of task in the chains from plant to mouth
- Rapporteur – point out damaging policies but have not power
- Food Basket Report
  - Comparison between money spent on food vs. amount farmers get
- Food Hub – electronic database where food producers post what’s available and prices
- Support more food buying clubs

## Urban Agriculture

- Geodesic Domes for year-round food production
- Garden education
  - Curriculum in schools
  - Educate people interested in starting gardens
- Tap into community hubs already in existence
- Get school councillors and trustees on-board
- Schools have large amounts of green space
- Connect with post-secondary institutions to teach gardening and to grow own food for cafeteria (Conestoga College)
- AASHE – post-secondary link to teaching with selling food on campus
- Extension Education – part-time continuing education
- Tax incentive for gardeners – zone agriculture??
- Contact companies selling green roof materials to have them on website to connect them
  - Use these for roof top gardens
  - Bees not permitted in city – not sure?
- Form a working group
- Cultural clubs – contact them to share knowledge
- Match-making services (low key) vs. larger network providing services and education (needs more coordination)
- Guerrilla Gardening
- Community Orchards – needs organization to take care of it, liability, wasps?
- Fruit tree mapping
- Listing wild foods leads to over picking by commercial interests
- Home Gardens
  - Losing these
  - Rolling out of sod by developers
  - Have incentives to developers to provide more options to “the lawn”
  - In Europe – pre-planned allotments in developments
  - Integrate gardens into walkable-liveable communities
  - Convince developers there is a demand for these communities to give them incentive
  - Connecting those without land to those with land
  - Have a policy that a certain percent of land be set aside but the community to decide how it is used
  - Concordia Senior House – gives residents a place to garden
  - How can we connect seniors with knowledge to those that are eager to learn?
  - Garden of the month
  - Encourage all community groups wanting to start a garden to post project on website
- Facilitate institutional buyers can buy from – post all local products
- Waterloo Region Rapporteur – we need a group here (e.g. land use)
- Pilot project to start a network of Community Gardens
- Match-making service to connect people to available lands
- Incorporate gardens into school curriculum
- Roundtable support Region’s countryside line and aggregate extraction
- Look at how land use planning has impacted local food production (and share success)
- Land use that supports urban homesteading – tax incentives for food production

- Network of advocacy from those involved in food groups to participate – develop a feeling of being part of something
- “Ask a Foodie” on the website
- Audit of local markets for local food content – Rapporteur could do?
- Farmer’s Market do an event “Celebrate Local” to bring people together
- Target “Taste Local Taste Fresh” to institutional - speed dating to match buyers and sellers

### **Food Infrastructure**

- Incubate small food processors to keep food local
- GH’s prevented in townships initially
- Farm stores – need to be able to sell food from other farms to be viable
- Procurement policies – advocate, implement, monitor
  - Public Health – Lead
  - Plus community partners – students
  - WR Food Roundtable plus strength of HCP
  - Principal governments, hospitals, schools, businesses
- Increase awareness of local food
  - Foodlink plus other community partners (Seven Shores, other businesses)
- Increase promotion of local food
  - Educate about the quality, health benefits, environmental benefits, economic benefits
- Local food processing
  - Different models

### **Healthy Food Access**

- Find a way to supply fresh foods to Food Banks/Closets and Churches/Suppers
- More community gardens region wide
- Expand community markets
- Increase number of community markets
- Government grants to support businesses that affect food security
- Teach people how to process fresh in season goods for future security
- Partnership with supply/teaching (Public Health /Nutritionist/Community Gardens Region)

### **Food Co-op (page on its own)**

- Local food stores