SHAPE UP KITTITAS COUNTY—Food Access Coalition
Thursday, May 14th, 2009
10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
WSU Extension Conference Room
MEETING MINUTES

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Food Access Coalition for Kittitas County Mission Statement:
To advocate for all people of Kittitas County to have consistent access to healthy food and an understanding of nutrition by promoting and developing local programs and partnerships.

ATTENDEES

Robin Read Ochoa, Shape Up
Colleen Donovan, Heifer
Denise Horton, community
Kayla Shelton, CWU Nutrition Science
Frank Schuchman, Upper County

Updates

- Robin's updates
  - Shape Up reimbursed the community garden for about $200 worth of new tools. Some other needs the community garden has are building cold frames, greenhouse, arbor/meeting area, info kiosk.
  - On June 17th in Tacoma there is a free workshop on Food Policy Councils and Community Food Assessments. Colleen is one of the presenters at the workshop. Shape Up staff will be attending and taking a couple of people from the Food Access Coalition. Several others from our community are likely attending as well. The group discussed suggesting to the organizers that the next workshop of this type be held in Ellensburg or Eastern Washington. We also discussed a little bit about what a community food assessment might look like in our community—who would be involved, who would sponsor, who would be the lead, who would be the partners, etc.
  - The health department gets many requests for full time summer internships from CWU students—mostly in the public health program. This year, the health department can't take on the responsibility of creating an internship for a student, but Robin would be willing to be responsible for the administrative duties and minor supervision if the Food Access Coalition could assist with the work plan and activities for the student. Something to think about for the future…
- Denise's updates
  - Denise shared that 4Hers are preparing to work the food bank plots at the community garden this season. They are waiting for Mr. X to till. Robin suggested letting the Food Access Coalition know if there is something we could help with—planting, weeding, harvesting etc. We could form a work party with volunteers.
  - The FISH food bank is in the process of building their kitchen thanks to the amazing support of the Rotary Club and donations from many local businesses. This is very

exciting news! The food bank is looking forward to starting their soup kitchen program and the Food Access Coalition looks forward to seeing where they can help or provide support. Helping with nutrition education, demos, and cooking classes might be a perfect fit for the Nutrition Science Club, according to Kayla.

- Colleen shared about 2 local churches that are serving community meals—First Baptist and United Methodist. She is going to talk to someone at the United Methodist about their meal program and if there is anything the coalition can do to help.
- Frank's updates
    - Frank talked about how the May 5th upper county food access meeting went. Participation was good, although not as many people as hoped. Several great ideas of community projects were proposed and a follow up meeting will be held on June 16th at 6pm.
    - There is a lot of interest in a community garden in Upper County, and possibilities for spaces, but a huge barrier in the lack of water. It's not something that is likely to happen this year, but possibly next year.
    - The other major area of interest is in community education—gardening, composting, cooking, etc. Frank wants to start teaching classes held at the Roslyn Natural Market twice per month on healthy cooking. Other possibilities are doing some local farm tours.
    - The group also had a brief discussion on how the upper county activities will fit in organizationally with the Food Access Coalition. The mission of the coalition covers all of Kittitas County, although there have been few efforts focusing on Upper County. Frank wants to see much of the work happening in Ellensburg duplicated in Upper County. Will the upper county group be a separate group, or a part of the Food Access Coalition? Will their mission be the same? How much will the Food access Coalition be involved in their activities? All questions remain to be answered, but the current thought is that as more happens, the answers will evolve. Everyone agreed that it doesn't matter what eventually happens, so long as it is clear who has what role.

The final piece of the agenda was to discuss the next steps in narrowing down our focus areas. Robin presented a draft email and survey to send out to the FAC list serve requesting that interested parties choose a project in which they would be willing to participate in. The group provided some helpful suggestions and Robin agreed to send out the survey in the next couple of days. The results will be discussed at the next June 11th meeting.

Next meeting
June 11th, Thursday, 10am-11:30am
WSU Extension conference room.