

Meeting Notes: Agriculture
Time: 3:30 pm

May 4, 2009

Meeting Attendees:

Kwodwo Ababio – New Harvest
Bob Leighty – ECBI
Parwinder Grewal - OSU
Cory Skurdal – OSU Extension, Master Gardeners
Susan Shockey – OSU extension (4-H book for agriculture)
(Dwight Smith – Father of Susan Shockey)
Urban Center Representative
Bob Leafy – ECBI Partnership with Kroger and The Ohio State University
Noreen Warmock –Local Matters
Dana Stahlman – Retired commercial beekeeper - COBA
Michael Jones – Exec. Director of Local Matters

- Working with: Ohio Ave., Clinton, Indianola Alternative (2 Pre-schools)
Possible future with elementary school in Linden community
Partner with the Metro School

Ron Hoopes – President of Beekeeping Committee - OSBA
Sandy Gill – Columbus Public Health

Agenda:

- Want to have an opportunity for fresh produce within the inner city
- Get there by teaching a new means of entrepreneurship
- Want fresh produce rather than beer and wine and junk food in our neighborhood stores

Presentation: Urban City Representative (Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D)
Center for Self-reliant Metropolitans

- Building partnerships between the University and cities for an ecological transformation and resilience of metropolitans.
- Encouraging self-reliance and a decrease in the dependency of outside sources.

More people live in cities than rural areas

- Less than 1% of the food is produced from the inner city
- Cities depend on other ecosystems for production

- Millennium Project – Majority of all natural ecosystems are now destroyed to a certain extent

- Replication of the US resource model will increase global human ecological footprint beyond sustainability.

- American lifestyle is leading to new health threats including obesity, diabetes, heart-related ailments, asthma, and depression.

- Specific goals:

- Comprehensive self reliance assessment of major Ohio metropolitans
- Design model communities that meet majority of their demand for food. Energy, water, and other renewable resources from within the metropolitan region
- Train pioneers in an ecosystem approach to food, water, energy, health, and the environment
- Neighborhood revitalization through edible landscaping

Summer research internship program for high school students and undergraduates at all levels:

- Each intern is mentored by a faculty and post-doc/graduate student team
- Interns get paid at competitive wages
- Fill those empty food pantries

Rain garden Design – address the problem of water pollution

Suggestions on proposal: (Susan Shocky)

- Narrative needs to be worked out
- Move quickly because planting season is occurring right now
- Need to have a matrix for program responsibilities – not sure what all of the program responsibilities are
- Need to know a database for program contacts
- Individual resumes
- Community Garden toolkit – gives an idea of self-sustainability and how to keep a budget for up to 3 yrs.

Food Co-ops:

- A lot of elderly are interested in getting food delivered to them at discounted rates

How are beekeepers involved in this initiative?:

- Someone needs to be responsible in taking care of that hive
- Beekeeper will not own the hives, the project will own the hive (in case of a beekeepers decision to move)
- Nucleus Hive – Includes a queen, about half of a hive: You can get pollination and still be able to survive in the winter

- Stimulus money for the project: (Susan Shockie)

- Where are the funds coming from?
- The seeds may be able to be donated

Columbus City Health Dept: Firming up the water

- Fire stations in Linden Area : (South Linden, Weber, Long and Champion)

- When they discharge their engines, also irrigating the gardens.
- Fire station on Weber rd. has already agreed to do that
- Need an official sign off for the city

- Boyce Safford: Dept. of Development

- Runs the mobile tool shed department
- Use the tools to run gardens
- Putting a north market into the south linden area (2490 Cleveland Ave.)

- Suggestion from Rep. Weddington:

- CHP along with Homeport, in partnership with AME to do a community garden. (Look into talking with them concerning opportunity for American Edition)
- Will contact CHP
- Look into stimulus dollars from the state
- Speak to extension center about the land on Mt. Vernon and 17th

- OSU Internship:

- **Program operations** – Two High School interns to help with research
- Interns should be from the community in which they are working in; i.e. Linden community
- Restitution Students

Deadline for the Proposal: Monday May 18, 2009

Next Meeting: Monday May 18, 2009