

Education & Mentoring Working Group Meeting

January 4, 2009, 2-5 pm

Inquire Within – 516 Oak St, Sandpoint, ID

Many thanks to Heather & Alma for the use of their gathering room!

In Attendance: Debra, Cricket, Dennis, Janet, Mark, Becky, Sarah (w/daughter River), Core Group
Advisors: Karen & Suzan

OARR meeting format:

Outcome: To adopt a mission statement and to begin focus on working projects.

Agenda:

1. Review Summary of STI Steering committee notes – Debra
2. Report from Karen – Overview of how we fit together as STI
3. Discuss & adopt our mission statement
4. Create Projects Lists (near future possibilities)

Roles:

Facilitator – Debra; Note Takers – Dennis, Becky, Debra's charts; Contact person – Cricket

Rules:

1. Respect all ideas, people and time
 - a. No one dominate. Ask group's permission for more time, if needed
2. Exercise flexibility; keep an open mind
3. Follow through on commitments
 - a. If unable to, let group know so other arrangements can be made
4. Keep ideas in central location (STI website & google group)

1. Highlights from 12/8/08 core/steering committee meeting – Debra's report

The representatives from the work groups met as a core circle group to explore the role of STI Core Circle and to share information about what has transpired so far in each group. Richard Kuhnel facilitated the process by posing 4 Questions. Discussion began.

Key Points: (taken from Core Mtg. Notes by Berta Kuhnel-organized by topic)

STI Overall Structure:

1. *Overall Vision guiding thread of STI:*
 - a. To create a Sustainable, Resilient and Vibrant Community
 - b. To develop a Community Sustainability Plan
 - c. To work inclusively throughout the community
 - d. To develop effective projects
2. *STI, Inc:* Will become a 501 C- process just beginning
3. *Core Circle* - facilitators of the process
 - a. (not the leaders – each working group has its own leaders etc)
 - b. representative functions as the communicator for their group
 - c. brings groups concerns to the mtg
 - d. takes mtg info to the group (mtg notes will be sent to representatives)
4. *Core Administrative*
 - a. Could be developed as working teams/groups ie: IT, Group Facilitation, Funding, Legal
5. *Each working group self organizing, self directed*
 - a. Has its own focus, leaders, decision making systems
 - b. Comes up with criteria to measure success
 - c. Finds its own answers, research areas of info needed
6. *Requirements for working groups to provide for best functioning of the whole*
 - a. Maintain notes which are sent to STI
 - b. Has a representative at the core circle mtg
 - c. Has a contact for interested people to get in touch with

- d. Maintain mtg schedule, provide for website calendar
- 7. *Community Area of Scope*
 - a. Initial focus is Sandpoint
 - b. Create working model
 - c. Infrastructure needs and resources
 - d. Each community has different resources and needs they can work within
 - e. Some infrastructure obviously goes across the board
 - f. Overall concerns to be considered
 - g. People outside of city limits not recognizing STI includes them
 - h. Possibly write article
- 8. *Working group/organization, dynamics & needs*
 - a. Each group is working on how it will work together
 - b. Group facilitation pieces done at various meetings so far
 - c. Groups discussed need for facilitation training to make groups as successful as possible
 - d. Encourage each person to find personal motivation for being involved- "vote with your feet"
 - e. Ways to involve new people
 - f. Maintain balance of process and action. We want to have our work visible in the community through the projects.
- 9. *Decision Making Discussion*
 - a. "Turn Over" potential makes it hard for group consensus
 - b. At some point define a core working group that carries the work forward
 - c. Involvement of others comes in the form of project interaction, etc
 - d. Vote
 - e. Consensus
 - i. Don't agree but won't sabotage
 - ii. Discuss all aspects of an issue; develop solution each person can live with
 - iii. Table it to be re-looked at later for reconsideration
 - f. Enough room for all - manifest through various projects
 - i. Maintain inclusiveness
 - ii. Some personalities may not be able to work together
 - iii. Could work towards a common goal
 - 1. Implement in different projects
 - iv. People vote with their feet- see where they show up to be involved
 - v. Non-ownership of ideas
 - 1. As soon as it is brought to the table, belongs to the group
- 10. *Needs expressed – inter-group crossover, etc*
 - a. Energy Group Requests
 - i. Energy reduction consideration from all groups
 - ii. Quota of energy needs for each group
 - iii. Type of transportation being considered and its energy needs
 - b. Waste & Energy
 - i. Waste equals the potential resources for energy
 - ii. Suggest waste group come up with name that reflects value of raw material
 - c. Food Group Requests
 - i. Communication with Education group
 - ii. Education needs regarding food systems
- 11. *Key needs to act on or consider:*
 - a. IT working group
 - b. Facilitation training
 - c. Funding working group
 - d. Could use a list of meeting spaces, that work well
- 12. *Possible workshops*
 - a. Financial Permaculture (Jun)

b. Group Facilitation

13. References mentioned to look at:

- a. Going Local - Michael Schman - book on local economy
- b. Solaris.com - Living Mandala.com - financial permaculture

2. **STI Model Overview:** Karen presented a visual model of the relationships of working groups to core group and the whole community. She also talked about STI sponsoring a mini-re-launch in May around some events/projects such as a timber framing house construction by Colin Beggs. She also suggested that a role of the education group would be to tie the other groups together with learning projects that they may want and need.

Karen's Model for STI Working Groups

1. Original Initiating Group's Agreement:

NOTE: STI working groups to continue steps c. & d.

- a. Create a Legal Framework (501C)
 - b. Raise Awareness
 - i. Climate change & peak oil
 - c. Build Coalition
 - i. Network with local groups & politicians
 - d. Unleashing
 - i. November '08 at Panida
- *NOTE: After unleashing, initiating group planned to disband. At present, a need is still there for an administrative team with specific areas of responsibilities and/or core support group made up of the initiating group and working group representatives*

2. **STI Working Group Model** – visually -> spider web circular design

NOTE: Sarah volunteered to design an artistic rendition of the graphics model

- a. 3 E's to help sustain working groups – *creates cone shape or pie wedge*
 - i. Equity (social, justice issues) – top arc
 - ii. ECOnomics – one long side
 - iii. Environment – other long side

Also: 3 P's Metaphor ~ people, planet, profit
- iv. Each working group represents a cone or wedge
- b. 11 working groups - creating spider web circle; medicine wheel concept
 - i. Current discussion for an addition of an Administrative working group
 - ii. Mutual sides sharing similarities & projects; all groups related
 - iii. Each working group funnels info to the center core group and information goes out beyond the web.
 - 1. Metaphor – reaching out to community/bringing back info from community; giving/receiving, inhale/exhale.... the natural movement of energy in nature – dynamic, not static state
 - iv. Projects ultimately lead to the creation of a local Energy Descent Action Plan
- c. Center core group – initial core group & working group reps
 - i. Primary function is to disperse info so we can work together on similar projects to maximize efficiency
 - ii. Secure funding for large collective projects through fundraising, grants & non-profit status
 - iii. Not interested in creating a veto power bureaucracy

NOTE: Richard & Karen are planning a 2 day training session for all those interested.

3. We achieved a **Mission Statement** with a *consensus!*

To empower the greater Sandpoint community through life-long education to create a more sustainable, resilient and vibrant living environment.

Our process:

Looked at three statements:

- To assist the greater Sandpoint community in educating itself regarding sustainability through organizing a resource base, promoting research and development programs and facilitating life skill presentations.
- We are organizing a human base to assist the greater Sandpoint community in educating itself regarding sustainability. We facilitate sustainable life skill practices by integrating existing resources and promoting research and development programs.
- To empower the greater Sandpoint community through research, resources and education to create a more sustainable, resilient, and vibrant living environment that is less dependent on fossil fuels.

Discussion on third statement:

- add “life-long” to imply more than either life-skills training or formal education
- terms “research, resources” not necessary - can lead to misunderstanding
- mention of fossil fuels—implied in overall STI goals around energy independence and reducing carbon footprint.

Final discussion around the inclusion of Energy Descent Action Plan as part of the mission statement; agreement that it is a primary motivating factor and part of the stated STI process for moving towards sustainability, however (a) it is implied in the overall statement of STI goals and (b) it might not be our ultimate goal, e.g., 20-30 years from now.

4. **Proposed Project Ideas:**

- *Post Local Programs Resource List* - from Becky (on website)
- *Transition/education through vocabulary* – with Dennis
 - Collect words
 - Define words
 - Create games to teach & learn through various modalities: (computer, board, art...)
- *Story of Stuff* - shown in schools with discussions among students – with Janet
- *Intersection Event Projects* (village convergence at intersections) – (ie) Portland’s Village Convergence - build community gathering space model – use here in Sandpoint in May (planting gardens, community building, natural building project) For more info on Intersection event, go to: <http://www.cityrepair.org/wiki.php>
- *Food Group Collaborations* for May Events - Janet will talk to Shelby (food group) for requested support by Education Group. Possible collaborations:
 - *Eat Locally Campaign* – create project that plants seeds of how to farm and eat locally year-round.
 - *Plant Gardens* during May events

- *Others?* Food Group ideas
- Possibly combine the following two in collaboration with Waste group
 - *Zero Waste Challenge* (ie) carry bags for garbage refuse for visual impact of how much garbage each one produces for month of May
 - *Leave No Trace workshop* with Dennison Webb & friend - see <http://www.Int.org/> for more information
- Monthly beginning in Feb - *show a movie and/or invite a speaker* at the Library or Community Center with discussion and potluck following
 - *Farm Film Festival* concept for this spring

5. Upcoming Events of Interest

- Jan 18, 1-5 pm, **Festival of Breads** Free: Make it and Bake it Bread Making Class with a variety of bread demonstrations. Sandpoint Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2255 Pine Street; RSVP Mary 255-2497 or Rhonda 263-4421
- Jan 31st, 10 am, Library: **Flow forms** – way of working with water – Chris Hecht – sponsored by Bio Dynamics
- **Hydrogen Fuel Cell workshop** – January – contact Shelby for more info/check website
- Feb 5th (Thurs) at noon, February Friends at the Library with Jim Payne – **Local Voluntary Organizations** – has been compiling a book that lists groups, especially focuses on groups not part of any governmental entity.
- May 2009, week time frame: **Timber framing house construction** by Colin Beggs – up to 14 people to build home with pieces fitting together (can be taken apart & pieced back together at another location)

6. Next Steps:

1. Intro to the STI Education Group: What does the community want to learn and know about sustainability?
2. Planning meeting to discuss logistics of film/discussion events. (1/17/09 – 1-2:30 pm)
 - a. Debra will check on availability of Community Hall
 - b. Cricket will check on availability of Library
3. Invite Dennis Webb to join our group/next meeting so that he can share more about Leave No Trace for STI-EDU May sponsored event
4. Collaborate with the Food and Waste groups for May Events

Film Planning/Task Meeting: **Sat, Jan 17, 1-2:30 pm** at *Inquire Within, 516 Oak St. Sdpt*

STI-EDU Regular Meeting: **Sat, Feb 7, 1-4 pm** at *Inquire Within, 516 Oak St. Sdpt*

Open Email from Karen:

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for the welcoming and productive meeting yesterday. Your progress at getting organized around mission and scheduling future meetings were great - it certainly makes it easier for me to plan.

I thought that the emerging ideas in the meeting were very interesting because it is clear that the Education group is going to be called upon to do many things both in the larger community and offer assistance. I think it is a very good sign that other groups have already asked for assistance.

We didn't have time to discuss it yesterday but in the model I presented, I briefly touched on increasing Awareness and Building Coalitions. When I discussed it, I realized that I made it seem as if this was the work of the core group and after the unleashing these aspects were sort of discarded in the model. This couldn't be farther from the truth - increasing awareness and building coalitions are vital components of any group's work. So, I would like to clarify this point.

I am hoping that EDU group will connect with schools and other existing like-minded groups who are offering classes in the community so we can continue to build awareness and coalitions. Using the existing resources will make the EDU group's job easier because it will build on established resources - like school programs and curricula and it will build an audience for the work of STI because it taps into groups e.g, PTA and other programs like senior projects in the high school. Coordinating EDU's work with Gail's work in the food group will have a HUGE impact.

So, I am hoping that this outreach and coalition building will be on the next agenda and will become part of the schedule. The young people (for whom we are working) are really receptive to these ideas and they want to get involved. EDU is the most direct channel we have to the youth and I know that great things are going to evolve.

Many thanks for your good works and dreams.

Karen

Updated Contact List
(next page)

STI EDUCATION & MENTORING WORKING GROUP CONTACT LIST

January 8, 2009

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(f) = friend/resource of group (cgf) core group friend (cg) also member of core group

Please let Cricket Windsong know if you'd like to be added/removed from this list.