**MFCC Spring Forum Notes**

**March 5, 2015**

1. Policy Working Group Announcements (Roe-Ann Tasoulas)
2. Education Working Group Announcements (Karen Balnis)
3. Member Reporting

* **Cornucopia Project (Beate Becker, Kin Schilling):**
  + Started in 2006 to teach children to garden
  + Expanded 3 schools to 8 – all elementary
  + Conval adm are protecting the cornucopia project in schools
  + Cornucopia community garden at Peterborough (built in 2003) – produced 400 lbs for community pantry
  + Community Kitchen partnership – will teach nutrition and cooking to children and adults
  + Film series – Food For Thought – once a month documentary showing on food plus a discussion.
  + Kin created Cornucopia project – goal was to make healthy food available in public schools
    - Want to work with Monadnock Menus and Café Services
    - Also working with Alymer Gibbon to have cooking classes
* **The Community Kitchen (TCK): (Sarah Harpster – Gleaning Coordinator)**
  + Gleaning project started in 2013 – 25,000 lbs of local food, by 2014 – 35,000 lbs local food
  + Partnership with CGC (Westmoreland Garden) to provide educational gardens which can provide food for the Community Kitchen
  + Next Steps: Adding workshops – gardening, preparation, seed to supper, cooking skills, backyard gardening
  + Seven other organizations want their garden produce to go to the Community Kitchen – have about 140 volunteers
  + Farm to Table fundraising Dinner Aug 29th
* **Antioch – CGC (Libby McCann):**
  + Put in over 60 raised beds in different social service organizations
  + Were able to donate 2,000 lbs to TCK from Westmoreland Garden
  + Have 120 local gardeners
  + Launching website for anyone who wants to do gardening
  + Going to Cuba to analyze the food systems in their community
* **Keene Agricultural Commission (Mark Florenz):**
  + Antioch and Keene State helped with volunteers and funding
  + Looking for permanent location for the Keene Farmers Market
  + Goal is to improve gardens and farm land
  + Preparing for Keene’s future zoning changes – will affect local policy and land use
* **Stonewall Farm: (Alan Bettler)**
  + Working on current projects and also to increase education tools and programs
  + 25th year anniversary
  + Expansion projects include adding Sawyer Cheese and Creamery
    - Continuing with yogurt production also
  + New education director at Stonewall
  + Some financial struggles, but are keeping to same values
  + They have new farmers/gardeners volunteering to grow for them
    - CSA will continue this year
* **Monadnock Food Co-op (Jen Risley, Michael Faber, Jay Smeltz)**
  + April will be their 2nd year anniversary
  + Sold 175 local products from local vendors and producers
    - 22% of total sales
  + The MFC Deli buys from Monadnock Menus
  + 35-40% growth – impacts purchases from local farms
    - Picadilly Farms went from $10,000 sales to $20,000 sales
  + Healthy Food For All – 175 people enrolled
    - 10% discount for WIC and SNAP members
  + Compost (90%) kitchen, deli and produce section
    - Customers want all food to be composted – working on ideas and working with composting company
  + Events:
    - TedEx Talk on Saturday – Changing the way we eat
    - March 17th – garden planning workshop
    - March 22nd – CSA fair 1-4 pm
* **Farm Bill Rollout – Farm Service Agency (Kelly Webb)**
  + Loans to farmers
    - Microloans – increased to $50,000
    - Helpful for new farmers
  + Farm Program
    - Disaster assistance - flooding
    - Price support
    - Crop and hay insurance
    - New waived fee for some groups (low-income)
* **Land For Good: (Jim Hafner– Executive Director)**
  + Mission: more farms on more land in NH and more farmland access
  + Providing new resources – website, trainings/workshops, materials, education
  + Provide direct counseling and advising with field agents
  + Grant partnership 🡪 increasing more farm land by matching farmers with conservatory land owners
    - Have mixers/events to match people with similar interests
  + Conservation Law Foundation: land access policy forums
* **Monadnock Menus: (Sara Lovitz)**
  + Program of the Cheshire County Conservation District
  + 2014 was the first full year of operation 🡪 23 individual producers 🡪 bread, cheese, dairy, mushrooms, etc.
  + 2014 Goal: $50,000 sales – had $61,240 sales
  + 2015 Goal: $100,000 sales
    - Increase diversity of options and increase overall usage
* **KSC Dietetic Internship: (Sarah Iske)**
  + Independent Study project = Buying clubs in the Monadnock region - connecting local farmers to community members
  + Working through Monadnock Menus and CCCD
  + Created a “How To” manual on starting a Buying Club – shadowed Vermont Buying Club at BAMS to get ideas
  + Newest project is working to start a Buying Club at Keene Housing for the lower income population
  + Manual and handout available for more information
* **Sustainability Project in Gilsum: (Valerie Piedmont)**
  + Grafting – bringing back trees and accessible trails
  + 2 new board members
  + Model in Gilsum 🡪 how to move back to growing sustainably for future generations
  + Permaculture site
  + Website: [www.emersonbrookforrest.rog](http://www.emersonbrookforrest.rog)
* **UNH Composting Bill: (Mary Jensen)**
  + Vermont passed bill to make composting available
  + NH doesn’t have large scale composting facility
    - Doesn’t accept meat or dairy composting
  + UNH Policy Group – want to pull inability to compost meat and dairy out of the NH composting bill
    - New policy will go before the Senate
* **Peterborough Agricultural Commission: (Andrea Caldwell)**
  + Ordinance passed to diversify farmer income
  + Locally grown dinners
  + Using unused land in Peterborough to grow food for local food banks
* **Hannah Grimes Marketplace: (Denise Meadows)**
  + 18th year being on Main St.
  + 5% increase in sales this year
    - Saw a 28% increase in sales in December
  + Seeing a large increase in buying and shopping local
  + Connecting local artisan members so they can work with each other
    - Local silversmith buying beads from local bead maker
  + Hannah Grimes Center is growing – office space and conference rooms
    - Incubator for business
* **Orchard Hill (Marty Castriotta):**
  + Orchard Hill holds the land in Alstead, NH
    - Includes Orchard Hill School and Orchard Hill Breadworks
    - 1-14 year old pre-school, kindergarten, and after-school programs
    - Summer camps for ages 1-19
  + Classes and education on food tasting, nutrition, and caring for the land
    - Food is front and center in their education – regenerate
  + Have a variety of farms and gardens
    - Village Roots started a vegetable CSA
    - Have a free-range meat CSA
    - Greenhouse
    - Nuts and seeds CSA
    - Permaculture
  + Environmental Justice – include climate changes into their educational lessons
* **Monadnock Buy Local (Jen Risley)**:
  + 150 local businesses
  + Think local first and drive behavior change
  + Provide monthly articles and newsletter
* **NH State Director – Humane Society: (Lindsay Hamrick)**
  + Involved in policies behind farming and the treatment of animals in agriculture
  + Support family farmers who treat animals correctly and raise humanely
  + Works on state legislation – NH is model for animal treatment
* **Sawyers Cheese: (Joseph Sawyer)**
  + Works at a number of farms to teach the art of cheese making
  + Moving onto stonewall farm
  + Teaching young farmers how to learnt the craft – value added products
* **Charlie Daloz**
  + We are not feeding enough people in our valley with our farms
  + Why are we not producing the amount of food we were producing years before?
  + Can we get production up? – wants to gather people interest to discuss ideas
* **Cheshire County Conservation District: (Amanda Littleton)**
  + Double Up Veggie Bucks – working with Keene farmers market for the 3rd year– spend $10, get $10 for fruits and vegetables
  + Looking for new partners
    - Money available to spend on agricultural land and resources
  + Current partners:
    - Monadnock Localvores – scholarship program to send children to farming and foraging camps
    - Monadnock Conservatory – working together to increase farmland conservation
  + Pollinator habitat
    - Education and installing habitat education
    - Current plans to install at Keene State and Franklin Pierce

**Under The Education Bucket Meeting Updates**

(All the organizations from the flipchart paper added)

**Local Farm Listing:**

* Orchard Hill
  + Village Roots CSA (email ellen@theorchardschool.org)
* Stonewall Farm
* Sawyer Cheese @ Stonewall Farm
* Picadilly Farm

**Local Food Purchasing (Group and Family)**:

* Monadnock Menus
* Monadnock Food Co-op
* Keene Farmers Market
* Stonewall Farm CSA and Store
* Keene State Dietetic Internship Buying Clubs
* Monadnock Buy Local
* Orchard Hill Breadworks
* Orchard Hill CSAs

**Resources and Educational Opportunities to Grow Food:**

* Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD)
* Sawyer Cheese (lessons on making cheese)
* Peterborough Agricultural Commission
* Sustainability Project (email - info@emersonbrookforrest.org)
* Land For Good
* Farm Bill Rollout
* The Community Kitchen (Westmoreland Garden)
* CGC
* Cornucopia Project (Education and Community Gardens)
* Stonewall Farm
* Orchard Hill School
* Keene Agricultural Commission

**Cooking Local Food:**

* The Community Kitchen (TCK)
* Cornucopia Project
* Keene State Dietetic Internship Programs
* Orchard Hill School
* UNH Cooperative Extension

**Promoting and Providing Access to Affordable Food**:

* Charlie (How to increase production?)
* Keene Farmers Market
* The Community Kitchen
* Healthy Food For All Program via Monadnock Food Co-op
* CGC (donated food to TCK)
* Keene Agricultural Commission
* Stonewall Farm CSA and Store
* Keene State Dietetic Internship Buying Clubs
* Monadnock Buy Local
* CCCD Double Up Veggie Bucks
* Humane Society State Director (increased market opportunities through policy change)

**Other (Policy, Local Goods)**

* Hannah Grimes Marketplace
* Humane Society State Director
* UNH Composting Bill