**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