



**Regional Leadership Team Meeting**  
**February 24, 2010**  
**Decorah City Hall, Decorah**  
**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

The NE IA Regional Leadership Team met on February 24, 2010 at the Decorah City Hall at 11 am.  
 Present:

	<b>Allamakee Co.</b>		<b>Chickasaw Co.</b>		<b>Clayton Co.</b>		<b>Fayette Co.</b>		<b>Howard Co.</b>
x	Danielle Bucknell	x	Joanne Tupper	X	McKenzie Johnson	X	Donna Story	X	Laura Schmauss
x	Angie Gibbs	X	Laurie Marzolf	X	Dan Lane	X	Joe Organist	X	Elaine Govern
	Vacant		Vacant		Kristina Walz	X	Nathan Peck		Lauren Obermann
	<b>Postville Team</b>		<b>Winneshiek</b>		<b>Active Living</b>		<b>NIFF Coalition</b>		<b>School</b>
	Adolfo Calderon	X	Rick Edwards	X	Scot Michelson	X	Teresa Wiemerslage	X	Sue Burrack
x	Mary Koopman	X	Brandon Friedlein	X	Lindsay Erdman	X	Eric Nordschow		Vacant
	Vacant		Liz Dovenberg						
	<b>Co-conveners</b>		<b>Administrator</b>		<b>Youth</b>		<b>Community Health</b>		
	Brenda Ranum	X	MJ Smith	X	Lynette Anderson	X	Halesia Johnson		
X	Ann Mansfield					X	Lori Egan		

Others: Ben Lewis, Carolyn Corbin, McKara, Easton Bucknell, Nikki d'Adamo.

**Welcome and Introductions** – What conversation, if begun today, could ripple out in a way that created new and stronger possibilities for FFI?

- Start in elementary schools with discussions around food.
- Open conversations with diverse audiences
- Starmont students wanting to do wellness activities every day.
- People make changes and people can be barriers. Need to identify the stopping points.
- As conversations occur, the simple act of discussion can make the barriers disappear.
- Teaching nutrition to young children create lifelong habits.
- Riceville 6<sup>th</sup> graders are very engaged.
- Ask questions. Why do we have policies? How do we change them? What changes can be made?
- School boards
- Talk with community members about local investment. Build strong community relationships.
- High school teams to be strengthening. Need to continue discussions at colleges.
- Do things for 21 days to become a habit. Need to move beyond.
- City of Decorah is in planning mode. FFI will be presenting at their next planning group meeting.
- Recent conversation with a neighbor who recently starting walking and started feeling better.
- Trained daycare providers on childhood obesity. They are concerned with the nutrition and nutrition at home.
- Keeping the community momentum moving.
- Regional dieticians meeting last Friday. Questions on using local food in hospitals, etc. (Send that info to MJ and post to web).
- Discussions with early childhood educators.

- Policy change is key. Michael Pollan’s message reinforced that. The next step appears to be advocacy.
- Need to start identifying the power structure of the communities. Many times they are the people not easily identified, but get things done.
- Conversations with farmers of all ages to talk about transition.
- Postville community meeting around gardens.
- Nice to see more people getting involved in the county.
- Who can I have conversations with to get people engaged?
- Continue to expand the new county team.
- The parents were raised free-range, why haven’t we passed that on to the next generation?

The Regional Team reviewed and discussed the contracts for county team leaders, work group leaders and partners.

Mansfield shared the budget report to date. Wiemerslage requested some funds for regional communication tools.

Koopman moved to pay \$300 for the iContact email service for Nov 09-Oct 10. H. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Johnson moved to purchase the Adobe Creative Suite 4 software for communications design (estimated \$260). Michelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

Farm to School Webinar, March 12, 2010

Food & Community meeting, Phoenix, April 27-29

National Farm to Cafeteria conference, Detroit, May 17-19. NE IA F2S program presenting.

Plan for evaluation – Nikki d’Adamo presented the Meeting Results Summary (Feb 24, 2010).

- Report lists observations from meetings so far.
- The group went through a reflective activity where they shared an observation or story about how FFI’s success as a chaordic organization and what it might do to build on its success.
  - County meetings survived even though the technology didn’t work. There were enough knowledgeable people around the table.
  - SRTS, Chickasaw Co. SRTS is a federal and state program. The name can be misleading because peOple want to focus only on school. It is about making walkable/bikeable communities.
  - The changes at WKKF caused some sites to stop. NE IA was able to continue forward and adapt to the extensions.
  - School youth teams are all working on projects that are specific to their schools. All work groups, schools and county teams are working toward the same vision, but doing it differently.
  - We survived the transition of planning to implementation.
  - County agendas are structured, but flexible.
  - Sharing of projects and ideas are encouraged and not guarded or protected.
  - “Only out of chaos, will you find a rising star.”
  - End of county meetings—what do you want us to bring back to the next meeting?

## Work Group Updates

- NIFF - Teresa & Eric
  - Working on the process for the Mini-Producer grants. (Revising criteria, contacting local partners).
  - Will be receiving \$3000 from RFSWG
  - Continue to work on the Regional Food Safety grant
  - Buy Fresh Buy Local membership renewal in March
  - Sodexho/Luther continues to work through their local food policies.
  - March 5: Women Adding Value to Agriculture Conference
  - March 18: Driftless Region Local Food System meeting, 10 am- 4 pm, Prairie du Chien.
  - March 23: Selling at Farmers Markets Workshop
  - March 23: Food procurement meeting with school food service
- Farm To School Update – Flannery and Rachel
  - May 17-19: Farm to Cafeteria Conference, Detroit
  - All six pilot schools have completed the Cross age teacher training.
  - Feb 25: Training for teachers of grades 1-3. Lead by Luther College and AEA. 15 teachers registered.
  - Jan 15: Food service director's meeting on use of local foods. Identified local food most interested in.
  - Follow-up meeting on March 23.
  - ServSafe (8 hours) for food service director's. Great engagement tool. 13 participated and are now certified for 5 years.
  - SafeFood training for other staff (2 hours). 28 participated.
  - Working on a preservation workshop this summer with N. Winn school.
  - School garden meetings (Turkey Valley, Postville)
  - Every second grade classroom got a mini-mato plant from Plantpeddler.
- School – Sue
  - Rescheduled School WG meeting for March 9 in Decorah.
  - Let's Move campaign
- Youth - Lynette & youth
  - Engaging Youth Training in Washington DC. Stranded in the snow storm for 2 extra days. Participated in Youth/Adult Partnership training
  - N. Fayette school had a youth team meeting
  - Waukon Find-out meeting scheduled.
- Active Living - Scot, Lindsay & A.L. workgroup
  - Workshop on Feb 2. 45 people attended from 6 pilot schools. Check out the website for photos and notes.
- Community Health - Haleisa & Lori
  - Meeting as large group on March 16 in West Union.
- NE Iowa Funders - MJ Smith
  - Next meeting, April.
  - Applied for funding from all the community foundations
  - Working on the application criteria for the fund.

## County Updates - County Team Leaders

- What went well? What can we improve? Action items? Who else do we need to engage?

- Allamakee - Dani & Mary & Angie Gibbs. Great youth participation at last meeting. City councilman present.
- Chickasaw - Joanne Tupper & Laurie Mazolf. Went well. Glad for help from other Regional Team members.
- Clayton - McKenzie & Dan. One youth and Troy Lentell from Central. Do a mileage club and do a contest between schools in region.
- Fayette - Donna & Joe. N. Fayette team asked for volunteers to help with walk to do a walk to school event with the bus kids.
- Howard - Laura & Elaine. Used a panel discussion for SRTS project and that worked well. Looking at doing a bike safety event in Cresco.
- Winneshiek - Rick & Brandon. Lower turnout (Ash Wednesday).
- Postville - Mary Koopman. Will be focusing on the community and school garden.

#### March County Team meetings

- Focus – Farm to School

#### **Wrap-Up & Items for next month's meeting**

- Coordinate Mar. County team mtg. in your county – Recruit Stakeholders
- County Team/Work Group Leader Teleconference – Wed. Mar 3 @ 9:00 am

#### **Next Regional Leadership Team Meeting:**

- Regional Team Meeting: Wednesday March 24, 2010 11 am – 2 pm
- April meeting is the week of the networking meeting
- Regional Team meeting: May 5? No county team meetings that month.

#### **Reflect: What went well?**

- New lunch vendor was good, keeping variety is important for all. Opening introduction question different ...process revealed need for conversations to continue and that diversity is important. Facilitator location was better. Photo's/videos do help tell a story and add interest while speaker shares.
- It was a great turn out. New members are feeling comfortable enough to share ideas and comments, there seems to be a connection for them.
- Engagement of many people, open communication
- The opportunity to share what is going on in each work group/county team, that provides the opportunity for the regional team to learn more about the differences and plans specific to each WG/county team. I think this is key to the "regional aspect" of the project. The active listening of the participants. The ability for individuals to share their concerns for the process and also the concern/problems that the teams are experiencing related to specific meetings/activities that are occurring in any given county.
- I appreciated the information presented by Flannery and Rachel since we tend to be focused on our part of the process at the moment. Is helpful to see what their programs look like and how their work in interacting with their target audience. I thought it was helpful to understand some of the evaluation process.
- I really like how we are all able to share our ideas and what's going on in our area. I also really enjoyed the meal! Those wraps were delicious!!
- I think the sharing of stories is an important part of this Initiative. It keeps the positive spirit going. Having the work groups, county teams, and pilot schools report helps everyone to understand what is going on and can get ideas for each other.
- The logistically items at the beginning of the meeting were important and covered well and I think the time spent on them was fine. The sharing with a partner activity was very enlightening, I learned a lot from my partner about FFI that I didn't know before. The time started to get short towards the end and I

knew we had to go quickly and skip some things, we were flexible and it worked. It may seem trivial, but I really liked that you sat on the side and were able to communicate better with the whole group. When you are on the end it seems you are so far away. I thought that the discussion was open and honest and people shared really well.

- I thought all went well. I really enjoyed one person saying that listening to other people tell of their activities stimulated the thought process and allowed others to try the same thing. Stealing ideas is encouraged.
- I think hearing a report from each group is essential to keep everyone alert to the activities of the implementation stage. It gives us a insight beyond the written report and we in turn can report that information to the county groups.

#### How might we improve the process for the next meeting?

- We need to move more, either a cardio break, stretch break or switch places or tables with someone else. High level of dialogue...what other ways can we share information..visuals. Introductions at table while a group eats with a record to report back..may save time – about 30 minutes on introductions.
- Continue to encourage stories, even though they seem at times to be time consuming at meetings - they are how people learn and relate. It promotes quality relationships leading to collective thinking. We may have to adjust the agenda like yesterday beginning with time sensitive issues and ending with the stories.
- I know it is hard, but shorten/consolidate the agenda so that there is adequate time to cover all of the topics. It may be beneficial to have more frequent communication via e-mail to update regional team.
- Are we (RT) offering enough help to the county team leaders in terms of ideas and assistance/mentoring to provide them with topics and projects. I think our conveners/visioning team have a well organized and varied series of meeting topics, but would anyone like more feedback from us in order to provide more material/"meat" for their meetings? My question is within those topics is there more the RT people can do to facilitate the county team process and outcomes? We do a great job of sharing information. Do we need to do more?
- Keep the introductions moving. Its nice to hear from everyone but they seem to take up a lot of time. Have the same caterer. I really enjoyed the wraps and cookies! The fresh fruit was nice too.
- I think we are going to have to put time limits on some aspects of the meeting. Maybe run a clock with an alarm to keep us with-in time frames so everyone has their share of time at the meeting. I felt the county team reports got rushed a little because we were running out of time.
- Sometimes I feel like the Vision group or work group leaders discuss things that the county team leaders have no clue about. I think for the county team leaders only 2/3 of the meeting is understood and then the other stuff just goes over their heads. I'm sure they don't understand every part of the F2S program or Safe Routes to school work but are too afraid to stop the whole meeting and ask...what is Cross-age teaching??...so I feel like at some point there should be a meeting that is not quite so full which allows for people to ask detail questions. Right now I think they just ignore the stuff they are unsure of.
- I have attended meetings that had set time limits for each report or activity. The chair would give a three minute warning and everyone adhered to the schedule without complaint of 'not enough time'. It worked there, but they had years of working under that system.
- Because there is so much going on and a lot we need to hear from the work groups as well as the county teams it seems like we are rushing things. We don't really get a chance to have much discussion of various areas we are working in. I would like for us to have more discussion on how we can continue to involve our county teams.