

**MDI Tomorrow -- Local Food Connections**  
**June 26, 2003**

Attending: Kerri Sands, Zack Steele, Howdy Houghton, Heather Albert-Knopp

**Announcements:**

- Golden Anchor just filled in the road that fishermen have been using. Howdy is working on this, contacting people, etc.
- July 9, 6:00-8:30PM is a larger MDI Tomorrow Meeting, with potluck desserts, discussion and an opportunity for project groups to get input from the larger group. We will do a brief presentation on the Local Food Connections group.

**Summer Projects:**

- There was brief discussion about how to get more people, especially key local foods folks, involved in this group, as well as what projects we could undertake this summer with limited numbers of people participating.
- Those present decided that the most effective use of our time this summer would be to compile information about all of the local foods key people (producers, retailers, etc.) on MDI, as well as the local food history and resources. This could be put together in a brochure/map highlighting local foods producers, etc., could be used to pull more people into our efforts, and also provide important info and perspective for the group as we move forward.
- We identified the following as important pieces of info to gather:
  - What are the local hot spots: i.e. projects that have been tried and failed, past tensions, things to avoid or be aware of as we look to move forward.
  - Who are all of the local food producers? What do they perceive to be their barriers? What are their goals/vision? What is the big picture for them, as well as for vendors, restaurants, etc. (i.e. are they just looking to make a buck, or are they in it to build community/really interested in promoting local, etc.)
  - Who are all of the key people who we should be talking with?
  - Howdy will talk with Elmer Beal and Suzanne Morse regarding their upcoming local food-oriented classes at COA, and what projects they will be taking on, how their students might be able to collaborate, how not to duplicate our efforts.
  - Kerri will bring examples of map/brochure/publications to the next meeting that perhaps we could model a brochure after. (i.e. Hancock County Cultural Directory, etc.)
  - Zack suggested a key respondent survey – asking people who we should talk to about local foods, see which names come up again and again, then ask those people the same questions. We talked about beginning this process at the July 9<sup>th</sup> MDI Tomorrow Public Meeting. Zack will talk with Ron Beard about what questions would be appropriate to have on this sort of small survey.
- Desired outcomes of this project would be:

- inventory/history of local food producers, efforts on MDI, etc. Would be a document or binder that the group could use.
- Brochure/map. Kerri will get examples. Perhaps this could be a COA student project through the Land Use or GIS classes, or we could work with Tora Johnson or Gordon Longworth in the GIS lab, or involve students with Jane Disney's school to put it together
- Local Foods event after Labor Day. Could be either: A) mini-conference or dinner for producers; B) public event or festival or dinner; C) work to connect local foods to an event that's already happening in the community (such as a Chamber of Commerce event, a bean supper, etc.)
- Broadly speaking, we're looking at the following two outcomes for this project: A) it can be part of a process to help us better organize our efforts and bring more people on board; B) It can help get PR for local foods – an outreach tool to consumers.
- Other next steps:
  - Kerri will work on the inventory of local land-based producers this summer. She'll put together the sorts of questions she'll ask people, etc. and email them to Heather.
  - Would Howdy or David be interested in pulling this information together for ocean-based producers?
  - We need to begin envisioning and planning for a fall event, whether it's a forum and local foods supper to pull more people into the process, or something more public-focused.
- **Timeline:**
  - Summer '03: Info-gathering for inventory/brochure/map project; begin planning/organizing fall event/forum
  - Fall '03: Coordinate with COA classes; continue info-gathering; host event (would this be a larger meeting? Mini-conference? Forum? )
  - Winter '03-'04: Work on a specific project for the following summer
  - Spring '04: Publication of brochure project.
  - Fall '04: Larger public event/festival

**Next Meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 4:00PM. Location will be announced.