

Livelihood/Commerce Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of February 7, 2007, 4:00 pm, Cronig's Market

Present – Members of the Core: John Abrams (Chair), Jim Athearn, Steve Bernier, Sherm Goldstein, Linda Sibley, Sean Welch

Present – MVC Staff: Mark London

Present – Member of the Work Group: Harriet Bernstein

1. Synthesis Template, Bold Ideas, and Low-Hanging Fruit

John Abrams reported that the Process Committee met with the Chairs and Liaisons of the five active Work Groups. There was agreement with the proposed approach discussed at the last meeting, namely 1) prepare a summary of draft goals, objectives, and other materials using a standard template, which was modified at the meeting, and 2) identify bold ideas and low-hanging fruit and flesh them out. The Steering Committee endorsed this approach. John distributed an updated summary of the Livelihood and Commerce material using the format. After the last meeting, Sherm started writing up the idea of off-season eco-tourism.

The aim is to get the material in an advanced state by the end of the spring, so it can be shared with the general public over the summer. We will likely suspend regular meetings during the summer, since people will be busy with other responsibilities. We would likely hold a few larger forums, similar to the ones held last summer.

At the next regular meeting, the Core will give a first review John's draft of the summary. To prepare for that meeting, Core group members should also review the minutes of last summer's forum and the Synopsis of Past Plans. (Mark will send out copies.) The aim is to collect material to be shared with the whole Work Group. The winnowing down and the wordsmithing will take place later.

After that meeting, the summary will be put up on the website and we will ask for comment from the whole Work Group. We will hold a meeting with the whole work group in about a month's time, with breakout tables on each of the five sub-topics.

There will be a meeting of the Process Committee and Work Group Chairs on March 7 to look at the status of the preparation of the summaries and identification of bold ideas and low-hanging fruit.

2. Economic Studies

The Leakage Study is underway. Michael Shuman will come to the Island to discuss his draft conclusions on March 19 or 20.

The group that had been asked to flesh out the studies – Caroline Fenske, Sandy Ray, Nancy Gardella, Mark London, and Christine Flynn – suggested pulling together readily available material over the next six weeks including gleaming available and needed studies from meetings on several economic sectors.

There was a discussion of the general process. There is a desire to move ahead quickly with a few key creative ideas. However, this is a public process and it is important that the livelihood and commerce proposals be broadly reflective of the Work Group and community, not just a small group. It may be frustrating to have to structure our work so it can be coordinated within the overall complex planning effort; however, this is essential to the overall success.

There was a discussion of the process of selecting a consultant. We want to move ahead as quickly as possible. However, we must follow a public selection method, not only for legal reasons, but also because a public responsibility to follow an impartial, open process.

It was agreed to simultaneously begin the process of selecting a consultant who could work with the Work Group on an on-going basis to advise on orientations and priorities, to synthesize the key information into a document, and, at the same time, to research selected missing information. It was agreed to keep the mandate broad and make the selection based on qualifications rather than a specific proposal to complete a specific scope of work. There are also funding issues to be settled.

3. Upcoming Meetings

There will be a small group meeting on Wednesday, February 14 at 3:30pm to discuss bold ideas and low-hanging fruit.

There will also be a small group meeting next Wednesday jointly with representatives of the Natural Environment Work Group and farmers, to discuss farming.

It was agreed that in the future, the Core group would meet on alternate Wednesday's at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the L&C Core is Wednesday, February 21, at 3:30 p.m. at Cronig's