

Teton Valley Food and Farm Coalition Meeting Minutes December 10, 2021, 12-1 PM via Zoom

Attendees: Host Jen Werlin, Abby Grundler, Megan Stark, Brian (MCD), Karlene and Hugh Owens, Rebeca Nolan, Nicole Walker, Julia Tellman, William Walkey, Brad Tyndall, Scott Steen, Julia Scheller, Laura Meadows, Cindy Riegel

Meeting called to order at 12:05 By Jen Werlin

Review of last months meeting: School Gardens presentation by Haley from Mountain Roots gave a presentation on school gardens. Tetonia Elementary existing garden, Victor Elementary new garden this year and Driggs Elementary School Garden were reviewed.

Welcome and Mission statement: Strengthen Teton Valley food systems

Introductions from all attendees

Megan Stark Family Farm, Triangle's presentation: Looking to build/open a USDA meat processing facility to serve local needs. Megan and husband Trevor raise natural beef. This idea was originally planned to take shape within the next 2 years but due to needs the process is beginning now.

Important decisions for plant: Can't grow without a plant. Jones a USDA plant in Eastern Idaho closing. Location away from town/city. Needs for @100-150 head per week with growth to 200-250 per week. Cattle, pigs and sheep can't mix species. Sheep/pig 1 time per week. Beef the remainder of the week. Looking at mid location (Newdale/Teton). Ease for working together/convenient/economical, without partners. Rural location preferred to not discourage town/city growth.

USDA- Who Manages this area in Colorado?

Looked at Rammels in Tetonia: Too small at this time to account for needed growth in the future.

Timeline 12-18 months

Looking to partner with other processors vs compete

Jen Werlin spoke of retro fitting Rammel's as an option. Megan responded that the facility was gone over with a fine tooth comb. The capacity of the building is only ¼ of the need. Since Rammels is USDA it would be smooth sailing. There would be a need for an additional building to enable additional breeds and meet needs. They continue to search for property to build. Square feet needed 7-10K. Jen spoke of the Teton County special use permit. And a letter to be written to the P&Z outlining needs. She can help with economic studies and needs of the community. pz@co.teton.id.us attention Rebeca Nolan. Rebeca said she will need to bring to next meeting with commissioners. No promises but can hear and consider.

Special use permit vs industrial zoning is important for road access, protect towns, plowing and a balance with infrastructure.

Facility: kill and cut- Newdale property still up in the air however there are additional properties to consider. Green energy/recyclable focus. Eliminating waste, incinerators vs dump. Bones to dog food, blood and guts to incinerator.

Scott Slow Foods TV WY- WY Food Coalition meeting. scott@tetonslowfood.org

Jen to send Qualtrics Survey work with Megan for questions

Nicole about supporting dog food needs

Megan Stark Triangle.s.livestock@gmail.com 916-753-4674

Brad Tyndall spoke of available grants, how to, EDA grants

Jen to follow up on list serve

Thank you to all and Happy Holidays

Next meeting 1/26/2021