Steering Committee #2

December 9, 2020

Welcome

Participants: Dan Wire, Brooke Rudicel, Kenn Zimmerman, Jain Young, Joelle Neff, Tara Lee, Lindsey Bluhm, Tim Bomba, Chad Shaw, Chris Knipstein, Don Rekeweg, Art Franke, Julie Good, Greg Lake, John Mischler, Julie Knudson, Kylee Bennett, Lauren Conklin, Jessica Merkling, Janel Myer, Nicole Nelson, Kate Sanders, Courtney Taylor, Scott Thompson, Terri Thiesen, Tom Miller, Sandy Voglewede, James Wolff, Leigh Rowan

Survey Results

* Goals: Narrowing the audience, starting on education

Define Target Audience

* We must include urban and small farms
* John asked for definition of small farms, Greg answered

Education

* Collaboration with Purdue
  + James/Terri:
    - Urban Agriculture Certification is all online and will no longer be kept current.
    - Purdue Extension is taking the content form UAC and making smaller classes
      * Beginner Farmer (10 hours over 6 days, $50)
      * Urban Farmer (10-12 hours)
      * Community Garden (10-12 hours)
      * Rainscaping, etc.
    - Terri estimates the prices will be going up to $75 to $150 dollars
  + Julie asked what is needed?
  + James
    - They are limited capacity for marketing as well as large enough, socially distanced spaces.
    - They want to continue to work with Allen County Development Foundation re: land parcels for future use.
  + Terri mentions their staff is stretched thin and it is about managing priorities.
* Collaboration Goshen College (Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center)
  + John said they have fully accredited courses during the summer months
  + They have an upcoming incubator farm program; they have all of the tools necessary.
* Discussion:
  + Leigh: Education good and knowledge is key
  + Chris: Mentoring would be helpful
  + Sharon: We can pay for speakers
  + Julie: On-site training with virtual component would be beneficial
    - Jain: they have had similar programs for food safety
  + Nicole: We would like to collaborate for future events
  + Greg: Mentoring program being started with The Nature Conservancy (Stephanie Singer) and Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative
  + Greg: Centrally located website with all the contributing organizations event information could be helpful
    - Terri: This is a lot of work
    - Nicole: NILFG has tried to do this, difficult to accomplish
  + Julie: A communications committee could be helpful
    - Agreement from many members
  + Kenn: Internships
    - Purdue Extension? Partnerships?
  + John: Demo plot for urban and rural
* Farmer’s Market, Small Farms/Urban Farms
  + Leigh: Scholarships for new entries into the farmer’s market when they attend educational events.
* Trailer Exploration:
  + Greg has reached out to four places
  + Julie asked for clarification of the trailer audience
    - Modular, displays changed based on the audience
  + Mobile Displays? Hands-on? Direct behavioral changes?
    - Contribution from other agencies (i.e., Indiana Tech could sponsor a module, e.g.: library)
  + Leigh brought up many questions about feasibility of the trailer
    - Amenities, size, towing capacity
  + Kate: How similar is this to the NRCS trailer?
    - Results are not meant to be walked through, this trailer is
  + Jain mentioned a rainscapes display (Jackie)
* Timeline
  + Sharon shared the timeline regards to the grant
  + Events are flexible, should be shared with the group
* Sub-Group Suggestions
  + Educational
    - Trailer Curriculum/Modules
    - Workshops Curriculum
  + Technical Assistance
    - Consulting (Short Term)
    - Mentoring (Long Term)
  + Communications

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55pm