

Cooperative Planning Team Friday March 19, 2010

Present

- Pam Brown
- Jan Burnikell
- Sharon Deane
- David Parkinson
- Julie Thorne

Regrets

- Giovanni Spezzacatena

1. Ongoing business

1.1. Values and principles

We looked at Brownie's revisions to the International Co-operative Alliance's *Statement on the Cooperative Identity*, which led to a long and detailed conversation about the difference between values and principles, where and how to capture all of the values and principles that we want to see guiding our activities, and how best to accomplish this. For example, we want to include the principle that contributors' labour be properly recognized and remunerated, and the principle that the community always benefit from our activities. It's not clear how to connect those specific principles with the more general ones in the ICA Statement.

Jan suggested that we set aside time at the next potluck meeting for some open-ended discussion of values; that each of us think of the values we want to explicitly enshrine in our documentation; and that David come ready to help define these more clearly (as he will by then have participated in the Malaspina Land Conservancy Society's strategic planning session on March 27, 2010).

1.2. Projects

We discussed the first two projects we intend to carry out: a collective potato patch and some aspects of the Fruit Tree Project.

1.2.1. Potato patch

We talked about what it takes to get this project started. David has looked at some similar cooperative potato patches on Cortes, Lasqueti, and Denman Islands, and contacted one of the coordinators of the Denman project to find out what they do. He will contact the people on Denman as well, since they seem to be very organized.

Among the questions we need to answer are:

- What kind of yield can we expect?
- How many participants do we want to attract?
- How much should it cost to participate?

Julie and Sharon agreed to take the lead on organizing this project. David will organize a meeting with Jonathan van Wiltenburg, who is interested in helping.

1.2.2. Fruit Tree Project

David will organize a meeting with Anne Michaels to continue planning the activities of the Fruit Tree Project. Jan and Brownie are interested in being involved.

1.3. Policies and manuals

We looked at the draft of the members' manual which David had sent out ahead of the meeting. There was consensus that this version was too long and detailed for the average member, and that we need to develop a shorter introductory manual introducing our members to the most basic and important information about our cooperative.

The version that David produced can be developed into a board manual. David will work on this with Jan, who expressed her willingness to help with documentation.

1.4. Offices

We briefly talked about the offices we will need to fill once we're incorporated. These directors/officers will serve for a term of at most three months, until we hold our first general meeting, at which time we will elect directors from among the members.

David indicated that he is willing to serve as secretary, in order to develop a manual of procedures for record-keeping to be used by subsequent secretaries. Keeping records in order will be a very important part of our operations.

1.5. Logo

We talked about a logo for the cooperative. We decided tentatively to let Gianni take care of this, possibly by designing a small set of candidate logos to be voted on by the board.

1.6. Credit union account

We decided to open an account with the First Credit Union once we are incorporated.

2. Next meeting

The next meeting is on Friday April 9 at 5:30 PM at David and Gianni's house.