

NORTHEAST IOWA FUNDERS NETWORK

For sustainable communities



FUNDING PARTNERS

Community Foundation
Of Greater Dubuque

Allamakee County
Community Foundation

Clayton County
Foundation for the Future

Community Foundation
Of Northeast Iowa

Fayette County
Community Foundation

Howard County
Community Foundation

Winneshiek County
Community Foundation

PROJECT MEMBERS

Northeast Iowa
Food and Fitness Initiative

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Minutes - June 4, 9 am Phone Conference

APOLOGIES for phone problems

THANKS everyone for leaning forward to listen and participate!

Actions items for members highlighted in yellow

Our mission

- Learn more about the FFI initiative at the regional and community level
- Understand how each funder's goals fit with the initiative
- Collaborate to support regional policy-focused approaches to meeting initiative goals
- Collaborate to leverage regional and national funding opportunities
- Support grant-making which reflects and leverages the work of the initiative

Roll Call:

1. Members reflected on question: What did I learn from the homework assignment which was to review the NEIFFI Grant Study and the white paper, Moving Ideas and Money, both provided at April meeting.

Allamakee – No representative

Clayton – Roger Halvorson – wide range of projects and involvement

MJ Smith – outdoor/built environment projects in all counties

Fayette – Scot Michelson – excited to know built environment people have already started to work together, and also that people are “getting back outdoors”

Peggy Kittelson – excited to build/share knowledge

Howard – NO representative

Winn. – Tom Ridout – Winn. Co. CF will be presenting to community groups, starting to get the word out. Challenge: Who are we, how do we move forward with message?

Craig Mosher – excited to see regionalization of initiative goals – will support what Luther is trying to do with local foods.

Ann – it is exciting to realize we have a shared vision.

Brenda – even with our short history, we can see many are doing similar work around initiative goals in their communities

Mindy Gress – excited to see the number of initiative-related projects planned and moving forward.

Nancy Van Milligen – excited about the potential effectiveness we gain in working together as funders

2. Ann and Brenda: provided a brief update on status of NEIFFI project.

The Robert Wood Johnson grant (\$90K per year for four years) was described. The Community Health Group will be focusing on measurements of the initiative impact. The Food and Farm Coalition have many community events planned to raise awareness about local foods. The RFA review process (52 in all) was described. Funding of the RFA's will be finalized in July. Brenda's position with Extension will be changing, but she and Ann remain committed to the NEIFFI. The NEIFFI Fall Conference for Community/School/Public Stakeholders – Mon. Oct. 19 at Luther . **Action - Peggy and MJ will join the conference planning team.**

3. The RFI Analysis (a dashboard report only) was introduced. Discussion concerned the regional approach of the requests. **Action – CF members need to look at the requests coming out of their respective counties.** **Action – One immediate need for funding concerns the**

NEIFFI fall conference. Tom invited Ann/Brenda/Scot to formalize a request to the Winn. Co CF board. Tom and Craig will support the request at the Winn. Co CF board meeting.

Action- Nancy and Mindy- If you can identify a regional/national support source for this conference, please report back to Ann/Brenda/Scot.

4. All: Assess needs for education/follow-up

Tom and Roger both brought up the importance of ongoing communication needs. Brenda shared that Kellogg has provided effective frames for messaging. Action – Brenda will share these resources (Frameworks and Pyramid) with MJ and Tom. Using these resources, they will discuss a strategy moving forward with communications about the Funders Network and present it to the group by email.

Website Communications – Action - Look for the Funders Network minutes to be added to the CFGD and the Initiative website.

Action – News releases about NEIFFI activities are being planned for this summer and they also should be emailed to the Funders Network members so the information can be shared with county foundation boards. MJ will share email list with Liz Smith, the Communications Intern doing the news releases

5. Other – Action - Mark your calendar for the NEIFFI Fall Conference – Oct. 19 at Luther

Action - Plan to attend a NEIFFI county tour

6. Set next meeting date for a phone conference

Action – Mark your calendar for Thurs. Sept. 3 9 am.

Thanks to all for contributing to this momentum.

*What did **you** learn today from our networking?*