

**Wahkiakum Community Network**  
Regular Public Board Meeting  
Monday, February 4, 2008, 7:00 PM  
River Street Meeting Room

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Tawater at 7:00 PM at the River Street meeting room. In attendance were: Bill Tawater, Karen Fleming, Kassy Burdick, Anne Snyder, Suzi Mackey, Susan Schillios, Chris Holmes, Steve McClain, Colleen Theisen, Michanne Sealund, Abby Burns, Lisa Ridout, Linda Hartung, Jennifer Leach, Tammy Peterson (PR Coordinator), Lia Sealund (Director), Lee Tischer (guest – Wahkiakum School District board of directors), Tony Boyce (guest – Wahkiakum School District board of directors), Bob Garrett (guest – Wahkiakum School District Superintendent). A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

Previous Regular Board Meeting minutes were reviewed; *Chris moved to approve; Suzi seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Executive Committee** – Minutes were not provided for Executive Meetings dated January 18, 2008; minutes will be provided at next board meeting. Bill gave a summary of meeting. Tammy Peterson participated in an interview conducted by the hiring committee and received positive reference checks. *Tammy was recommended by the hiring committee to be the Network's PR Coordinator. The Executive Committee seconded the recommendation and offered Tammy the position at 35 hours per month.* Tammy began working with Lia January 29<sup>th</sup> with an orientation. Tammy will be focusing primarily on Sustainability Plan elements such as membership support, public education, public event planning, sub-committee work and legislative communication improvements. Tammy will attend all regular board meetings and Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Government meetings representing the Network.

**Guest Input, Public Comment** – Lia met with Bob Garrett in January to discuss the Community Norms Initiative by requesting Wahkiakum School District adopt a policy to eliminate youth involvement or participation in adult only, alcohol available events. The Network identified two events where they believed no general public under 21 are allowed to attend, but that groups of students are participating for either community service or a sports team fundraiser. One event was the Chamber of Commerce fundraiser Crab and Oyster Feed. This is held in the spring and has the FFA assisting by setting/cleaning up and serving the oysters to participants throughout the night. This is a FFA community service. The other event is the Ducks Unlimited held in the fall. This private event has football players setting up the event and the cheerleaders interacting with participants during the event to sell raffle tickets as a fundraiser. Both events serve alcohol.

After meeting with Bob to discuss the request of the Network, Bob suggested members of the school board of directors should meet with the Network to discuss this further. Tonight Lia provided a summary of activity leading to the development of the Community Norms Initiative as well as a one-page summary of the initiative. Tonight's conversation was extensive, receiving input over the course of 1 ½ hours. Bob indicated that he saw a difference in the two events, with youth directly involved with participants in the Duck's Unlimited, but limited interaction with the Crab and Oyster Feed participants. However, he pointed out that there is a raffle at the Crab and Oyster Feed as well, but with less student participation.

Lisa commented that if the event requires participants to be 21, everyone should be 21 only, and not allow youth to have a special exception because they are students earning money or doing community service. Bob suggested polling the youth participants to see their view of the event. Lia commented that youth were the original source of information, but the Network coupled that with adult feedback and Healthy Youth Summit feedback. The approach to changing this policy is a small, but important element to changing community norms. Asking if the youth are okay with the event should not be the basis for deciding if the policy should be developed.

Bob gave some history of how the youth began involvement in the Crab and Oyster Feed over 10 years ago, and while he questioned their involvement then, he has come to accept it as tradition. Bob oversees this event as part of his superintendent duties. He commented that if the advisor feels the event is not a positive environment that they should not be participating in it. It was noted by Lia that when she spoke to the advisor of the cheerleaders

involved in the Ducks Unlimited event to request that Michanne not participate in November, 07 the adviser commented she was against allowing her own kids at the event, and did not penalize Michanne for abstaining from fundraising at the event, but still requested the other youth attend. Michanne clarified that she has not perceived attending this event has ever been a choice, but instead it has been presented as mandatory participation to the youth.

Chris explained that this in itself is a community norm, accepting something that has always been, but what has been accepted in the past may not necessarily work now to reduce the risk of substance abuse. Jennifer offered a handout of the scientific approach to reducing community norms by reducing public events where alcohol is prominent and developing public policy to reduce youth access to substances like alcohol. Developing a policy to remove youth from these events is a scientific environmental approach to reducing risk factors in youth lives. She also inquired with the Longview School District superintendent to assess their policy on this type of event participation, finding that Longview has a no-participation policy in events where alcohol is served.

Bob commented that feels that just because alcohol is present, there could still be positive role modeling at these events, and didn't necessarily feel that just because there is alcohol served, it should be the basis for removing youth from these events. He stated that he worried that if they were removed, the Crab and Oyster Feed may cease to happen, costing the community to loose the financial benefit of the fundraiser. Colleen commented that it may not necessarily require a policy development, but an informed decision may be a better approach. Steve mentioned that control or choice should fall to the parents. Suzi agreed, but in the past parents have not been informed that these events offered alcohol to adults. *Lee suggested that the school board draft a parent information letter, requiring a student's parent to sign off permission to work at these events as a first step to addressing this issue. Tony offered to meet with the Network again to continue the discussion so we can come up with an amicable solution.*

The school board was thanked for attending the board meeting. *Bill offered to follow up by checking the liquor licenses of both events to determine if the license stipulates participant ages at the event and an acceptable level of participation by the youth. Lia suggested having the item placed on the next board meeting agenda for continued discussion and to develop a cohesive Network approach. .*

**Membership** – The Executive Committee compiled nominations for 2008 chair positions for sub-committees. Nominations included Kassy Burdick – Allocations Chair; Carole Lewis – Public Relations Chair; Linda Hartung – Planning Chair; and Carrie Kennedy – Membership Chair. *Karen moved to approve nominations for the 2008 chair positions; Chris and Steve seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Presentations** – Carrie's presentation on Community Organizing was tabled for April's board meeting; she was unable to attend the board meeting due to multiple obligations tonight.

**Public Relations/Planning** – Chris suggested the development of a Town Hall sub-committee meeting to begin planning the next town hall due the end of March. Chris will set the meeting and inform the committee. The theme of the town hall will be "A Call To Action" to follow up on the efforts of the Community Norms Initiative, and will be a workshop type event. The Network has received a \$500 stipend to host this event.

**Administrative** – Lia gave a summary of the meeting held February 1<sup>st</sup> to begin development of the next Drug Free Community Grant. Sylvie, Lia, Anne, Beth, Carrie and Chris were present for that meeting and will meet again February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lia informed the board that the application to the IRS to change the tax status of the Network to a 501(c)3 has been approved; in addition, the Network's submitted a grant proposal (\$5000) for the Skate Park project to Wahkiakum Community Foundation has been denied. The notification indicated that the match was not sufficient and it appeared to not be a community-based project. The Network was encouraged to apply next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9: 00 PM  
Minutes submitted by Lia Sealund, Director