

# Healthy Active Communities

## Fresh Food Access

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### **Fresh Food Access Group**

Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

10:30 – 11:30am

**AEOA**

702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S. Virginia, MN 55792

First Floor Meeting Room

(accessible from Front Desk Area)

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**Meeting Objective:** Start planning for how we can better integrate and utilize the knowledge, resources, and skills of group participants to collaborate with other Virginia and Range community improvement groups.

### **Proposed Agenda:**

- 10:30am Introduction/Review Agenda
- 1035am Future & Focus – Recharge the Range – Lorrie Janatopoulos
- 10:55am Opportunities for Virginia & Range Community Collaboration
- 11:15am 2018 Vision, Mission, Goals
- 11:25am Future Guest Speakers – Who’s Next
- 11:30am Conclusion/Next Meeting  
**Date: TBD**  
**Northland office Building**  
**Room TBD**

## **Fresh Food Access**

**March 1, 2018**

**AEOA**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Attendees:** Brian Bluhm, Lorrie Janatopoulos, Raymond Jobe

Lorrie Janatopoulos gave an update on past, present, and future of Recharge the Range. Recharge had a strong start; they wanted it to be a grass roots effort. A common challenge between groups is attendance dropped off and a regressing back to working in isolation.

IRRRB is looking at revamping and doing a 'Recharge 2.0' for example.

Recharge is looking at writing a report on the efforts of the Recharge the Range initial movement

More support is needed for group/meeting facilitators and on the ground workers from IRRRB.

Continuing recharge is in the strategic plans for the IRRRB

Limitations of Recharge is the geography and focus on just the core of The Range

Discussion shifted to the combination of the Northland Food Network and the Healthy Food Access group.

David Abaz & Ryan Pesh looking into doing a study/report on economic potential for agriculture on the Iron Range.

- Doing interviews with current and previous farmers.

Lorrie would like to see that the study show an opportunity for folks to get into farming based on the economic potential for the region.

- What are the barriers to developing needed infrastructure and viability?

- In the past Agriculture has not been on the support list for the IRRRB

- Mary Finnegan is very supportive for Agriculture in the Region.

Brian: Northland Food Network group will continue to meet regardless of other food groups meeting. There are 5 sub committees to it. 1) Getting Food to Institutions 2) Producers 3) Access to capital 4) Policy Legislation 5) Regional vision and thinking about adding a 6<sup>th</sup> as Farm to School.

Discussion flowed into discussions of a local food hub.

Minnesota Valley Action Council- Community Action agency out of Mankato has had a very successful food hub.

To meet 30 by 30 goal we will need to breakdown who your target institutions are and what you have to do with them to get them to reach their portion of the goal. Where is the lowest hanging fruit?

Rutabaga Project next step- revision what the neighborhood projects look like. How can we tie in a food skills piece?? Evaluate what is working/what isn't.

Ask Hannah and Betsy for a contact for INAC contact to discuss farm to school as a regional initiative.

Discussion continued with the Food Access Group being a peer learning group in addition to being a reporting out group.

The group returned and finished with the discussion of combining the newly formed Northland Food Network with the food access group as a means of eliminating one regular meeting from all our schedules as the two groups share the same primary vision and mission.

Mission of the Northland Food Network -Supports and fosters shared action towards healthy food access for all.