

Tehama Together  
General Potluck Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 27, 2009 – 6:00 PM

Opened: Lupe Green opened the Tehama Together General Committee Potluck Meeting at 6:35 PM located, at the Red Bluff Recreation Center, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Present: Lupe Green, Orle Jackson, Colleen Sheehan, Chris Pritchard, Ashley Stewartwall, Donna S. Wenz, Nan Renish, Fran McBee, Jerry Swart, Jan Ivanhoff, Rod Green, Frank Roberts, McKayla Pritchard, Katie Roy

Presentation to Chris Pritchard – Founder and Ex Chairperson of Tehama Together:

Newly appointed Chairperson, Lupe Green, presented Chris Pritchard with a plaque commemorating her vision and service to Tehama Together as the founder and first Chairperson for the organization.

Introductions:

Lupe asked everyone to go around the group and introduce themselves and to share what brought them to the meeting in three words or less. Everyone seemed to have a great time trying to express themselves in so few words.

Call for Additional Agenda Items:

Lupe called for any additions to the agenda. There were none and Lupe moved for adoption of the agenda, Chris so moved and Nan Renish seconded. The agenda was adopted and approved.

### Adoption of Minutes for April 29 and May 13, 2009:

Lupe asked the group if they thought the adoption of the minutes should be postponed to an indoor meeting. Secretary, Colleen Sheehan, felt there was no need to postpone them since the minutes had been up on the Tehama Together website for some time. Orle Jackson moved to adopt the General Committee Minutes for April 29 and May 13, 2009. Chris Pritchard seconded the motion and since there was no discussion, the minutes were approved and adopted by the group

### Announcements:

#### Information Cards:

Lupe reminded the group that as her first assignment as chairperson, she had asked everyone to fill out a card with their information and interests. Chris had volunteered to make a permanent card that could be used for the new people who came to the meetings. This would ensure that they would be added to the address list. The information could also be used to identify the skills and interests of the people involved with Tehama Together. She asked those who had not filled out an information card, to fill one out and return it to her at the end of the meeting.

Lupe reminded everyone there was a new slate of officers and there was a list of them in the previous minutes.

### New Business:

#### Summer Schedule:

Lupe went over the summer schedule for Tehama Together and pointed out that the schedule was listed on the agenda. She suggested that knowing the times of the meetings would give people enough notice to adjust their schedules. She said the

Executive Committee had agreed that one of the general meetings during the month should be a potluck. The committee also changed the general meetings to Monday, instead of Wednesday, with the idea to possibly allow more participation from the community. The general meetings meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 PM. An actual location for the general meetings had not been decided yet.

The Executive Committee meets twice a month, the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Business Connections - 1 PM. These meetings are open to everyone.

#### Old Business:

##### Organic Workshop Update:

Lupe gave an update on the organic workshop that was held at her residence. She said the Executive Committee agreed to have Tehama Together be a sponsor for the workshop and as a result of that sponsorship there had been a good deal of interest from the public. Lupe said forty people called to inquire about the workshop, nineteen people paid \$50.00 per person to attend the workshop and sixteen people actually showed up. Jerry Swart, a member of Tehama Together, attended the workshop and Lupe said he was very helpful to the group. Lupe wondered if anyone had seen Jerry's photograph that appeared in the Red Bluff Daily News on Tuesday, along with the announcement for the Tehama Together General Committee potluck meeting

##### Elder Services Coordinating Council:

Vice Chairperson, Orle Jackson, said he had attended a meeting of the Elder Services Coordinating Council last month and the group seemed very interested in Tehama Together. They have

added Tehama Together to their agenda for next month and would like someone to do a presentation to them.

Community Action Agency:

Orle also attended a Community Action Agency meeting last week and he said that it was the most exciting meeting he had been to since he became involved with Tehama Together. He said their group had very similar ideas as Tehama Together has been talking about. However, they are applying for federal stimulus money (around \$700,000.00) to be distributed within seven counties. Some of the things they were interested in using the money for was: helping non-profits get a 501 (c) (3), organic gardening, and helping the communities non profit organizations with training and assistance (much like Tehama Together has been discussing). Orle said he spoke to the group for a few minutes and shared a little about Tehama Together and their group has put Tehama Together on their agenda for next month. Orle said he thought that Tehama Together could put together a proposal soon so that the group would be able to apply for some of the stimulus money.

Lupe added that this was one of several grant proposals that the Executive Committee had identified. She suggested that it was time to find a grant writer. Lupe said she could write grants, but she would need someone to help her. Advisory Board member Nan Renish volunteered to help with the grant writing when the time comes. Lupe went on to say that the Sierra Central Bank would be giving out a small grant in September, which they said Tehama Together could apply for and the Cornerstone Bank (Tehama Together's chosen bank) gives out small grants. Lupe said as a result of the organic workshop, a faculty member from Shasta College told her that the Shasta Foundation gives out a small amount of money. Lupe told the group she received a telephone call from a person from the Rolling Hills Casino, who said that she

had been hearing about Tehama Together and it seemed that the Tehama Together group was right in line with the kinds of things Rolling Hills liked to become involved with. She asked Lupe to give her a call. Lupe said overall it appears that Tehama Together had some good vehicles to raise money, not necessarily large amounts but enough to cover some of the operating expenses incurred by the organization. Lupe said that she sees these as opportunities for movement into the community.

#### Food to Fork Event:

Lupe asked everyone to mark his or her calendars for the Slow Foods Event – Food to Fork – that is to be held at the Red Bluff Park on June 27, 2009. She went on to explain that Chairperson of the Natural Foods Market, Kathy Moore, was also the local organizer for the international group called Slow Foods. Lupe explained that Slow Foods was a group that promotes growing and buying food within a 100-mile radius of one's own community. She said this event would attempt to promote the idea of healthy food to the community and to identify many of the local producers of food within a 100-mile radius of Tehama County. Lupe said there would be a charge for some activities, but there would also be free activities for kids, as well as the adults. Lupe added that the Executive Committee was thinking about having a table set up at the event and she thought this was a good way to promote Tehama Together and to gather names and contacts of the local producers of food. She said this would help with the group putting together a map of all the local producers for the community.

#### Unfinished Business:

##### Fourth of July Celebration:

It was decided to table the discussion of the Fourth of July event until the next General Committee Meeting.

### Program Planning:

Orle Jackson announced that he had created a needs assessment form and passed it out to the group. While Orle passed out the form Lupe mentioned that Tehama Together was also thinking of becoming involved with the Tehama County Fair in September.

Orle began by saying he would like to try this form out on the group in an attempt to see if it could be used as a needs assessment tool for Tehama Together and other service groups to let them know the kinds of things we are doing. He described the form as follows:

At the bottom of the form, he listed eight program objectives. He went on to explain and describe that there were two objectives for each of the major activities. The following is a list of the program objectives.

1. Develop a place to socialize
2. Provide a place for community information and referral
3. Share expertise via classes
4. Receive training in selected topics
5. Promote agricultural products
6. Develop community garden
7. Provide information and referral to service organizations
8. Help service organizations with capacity building

Orle said he thought the group might like to use this process as people join this organization or when we go to other agencies to get their ideas about what they think about what we are doing. He

explained this was a test to see what the group thought about the process

Orle said the best way to fill out the form was simply and quickly, not to think and analyze too much, but go with a first impression. He thought that the form could be filled out in less than 10 minutes.

He explained that he wanted the group to think about those eight objectives at the bottom of the form as to whether they were needed or not. The group's objective was to choose which ones were more needed than another one, i.e., compare 1 over 2 - which was needed more, a place to socialize or a place to provide information and referral services? He asked the group to circle the one chosen, then go to one over three and compare those and so on until all objectives have been compared. Chris asked the question was it what we want personally or what the county needs. Orle emphasized that it was the county needs and he explained that he had provided another set of determiners at the bottom of the page so that the group's personal needs would be addressed. Orle stressed again that it should be done quickly and the group proceeded to try to do that. There was much discussion as to how to do it and Orle helped everyone understand the form. Colleen raised the point that the first category emphasized socializing she felt that to compare that to everything else she would feel that the place (which was her main interest) would not be a need for the community. She felt it skewed the process. Orle agreed and said he had tried to figure out correct wording to describe that category. He said he thought a better word might be to collaborate instead of socialize. Chris agreed and she changed her number one to read develop a place to gather together to discuss number two thru eight.

The ten minutes that Orle suggested be used to fill out the form turned into a half hour. As the group was completing the

form, there was some discussion about the process and what the results might be. However, the group thought this was a very worthwhile and eye opening exercise and they really seemed to enjoy the process. Orle told the group he would tabulate the results and let the group know at the end of the meeting what the results were. Orle also suggested that if somehow the top part of the form could be made simpler, faster and self-explanatory he might be able to use it when he speaks to the Community Action Agency next month. He said that there could be a possibility that within a few months, they might be able to have 500 forms filled out and the group could use them for feedback for Tehama Together to be more helpful to the community.

Lupe announced she had a few more things on the agenda that she would like to speak to the group about before they moved on to the presentation. She mentioned a possible facility that the Executive Committee was looking into and she said more information would be shared when more was known. She thanked Chris for making and bringing the signs and cards and thanked everyone for the wonderful food they brought.

#### Presentation by Jerry Swart:

Jerry Swart, an accomplished gardener, gave a presentation called Seed Starting 101. The presentation was at least an hour long and after Jerry finished, Lupe said she thought he could do workshops and charge a fee for them. The group felt it was a very informative and useful presentation. Colleen said she would attempt to transcribe his presentation and.

#### Results of the Needs Assessment Form:

Orle gave an account of the results of the needs assessment form. He said the results of the top of the form, which were the interests for the community, were:

1. Agriculture and community garden
2. Coffee Shop and Information and Referral
3. Education/workshop

The results of the bottom of the form which were the personal interests of the group were:

1. Agriculture
2. Coffee Shop
3. Education/Workshop
4. Information and referral

Before the meeting adjourned, Lupe mentioned that she had committed to doing a newsletter and she said she thought she would do one quarterly. She did say she would like some help and the only way to receive the newsletter was to register on the website because that was where the newsletter would be posted. She thanked Jerry for his presentation and thanked everyone for attending.

The Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 1 PM at Business Connections. The next General Committee meeting will be June 8, 2009 at 6 PM. A notice as to the location will be e-mailed to everyone on the address list.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Written by: Colleen Sheehan

Action Items:

Write up results of needs assessment results

Orle Jackson

Quarterly Newsletter

Lupe Green

Grant Writing

Lupe Green and Nan Renish

Transcribe Jerry Swart's  
Presentation

Colleen Sheehan