

# FIC Proceedings

Fall 1988, Alpha Farm

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## Final Agenda & Index

Bold Numbers at Left of an item designate Page Number

[F: Facilitator, M: Minute Taker] Minutes edited by Geoph & Betty with assistance of Laird & Caroline

### Friday, September 22

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 [F:Caroline]  
[M: Geoph]  
Gathering/Meditation  
**2** Approval of Agenda  
**2** History of FIC  
**2** Sharing/Introductions

Break

10:45  
[M: Geoph]  
**5** Funding Proposals  
(NEH)  
**6** CPC contract handout  
& communities list

12:00  
1:30  
Announcements  
**6** Directory discussion  
**6** Preview CPC contract

### Saturday, September 23

8:00 Breakfast  
9:00 [F: Laird]  
[M: Betty]  
**9** Discussion re: Board  
of Directors

10:30 Break

[F: Caroline]  
[M: Betty]  
**11** Contract with CPC

[M: Suzanne]  
Lunch 12:00  
[F: Caroline]  
[M: Betty]  
**12** FIC Profiles  
**12** Sharing:  
Community Profiles

### Sunday, September 24

9:00 Breakfast  
10:00 [F: Caroline]  
[M: Betty]  
**20** Ag Network Proposal  
**20** Admin. Chart  
**21** FIC Headquarters  
**22** CPC Contract  
**22** Directory Question- 10:30  
aire Mailing

10:45 [F: Caroline]

12:30 Break/Lunch

1:30 [F: Laird]

Lunch  
1:30 [F: Dan] [M: Betty]  
**23** Interim Directory  
**23** By-Laws Revision  
**23** Board Vacancy  
**24** Next Mtg. Date, Place  
**24** FIC Pamphlet  
**24** Don Pitzer's Book  
**24** Art's Letter

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		<b>Page</b>	
3:30 Break	3:30 Break	<b>24</b>	Evaluation
4:00	[F: Laird]	4:00	[F: Dan]
Closing			
[M: Geoph]	[M: Betty]		
<b>8</b> Video: Report & Resolution; Locally based video	<b>14</b> Treasurer's Report		
	<b>15</b> Community networks & support organizations		
	<b>16</b> 501c3 Application	6:30	
Dinner	6:30 Dinner	8:00	
Committee meetings ( as needed)	8:00 [F: Betty]		
	[M: Geoph]		
	Brainstorms:		
	<b>16</b> National Conference		
	<b>19</b> Facilitation		

## **TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING:**

Discussion re: Board of Directors

By-Laws Revisions

Increase Board Size

FIC Pamphlet

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### Friday, September 22 Morning Session

**PRESENT:** Caroline Estes (Alpha Farm, Deadwood, OR); Stefan Pasti (Junction City, OR); Suzanne Riordan (Santa Barbara, CA); Arun Toké (Aprovecho, Cottage Grove, OR); Laird Schaub (Sandhill Farm, Rutledge, MO); Geoph Kozeny (Community Catalyst Project, Traveling Networker); Betty Didcoct (Skysong, Issaquah, WA); Vim Toutenhoofd (Appletree, Cottage Grove, OR); Dan Christenberry (Shannon Farm, Afton, VA) **LATER ARRIVALS:** Joe Peterson (NHCSA)(Eugene, OR); Dave Thatcher (Emissaries, 100 Mile House, BC); Faith Morgan (CESCI)(Occidental, CA); Art Hendershot (Essene Mother Earth Church, Big Bend, CA); Bob Brown (Clairemont Project, San Diego, CA); Sara Laing (New Essene Community, San Diego, CA)

**REVIEW AGENDA:** Accepted as modified

**MINUTES:** Laird admonished note takers to record decisions and tasks, and to emphasize the intent of the conversation rather than who made what point. Geoph offered to set up his Mac computer to take minutes as we go (and to have copies readily available for feedback). The proposal was met with enthusiasm — and we'll have nearly complete minutes by Sunday evening, ready to mail out on Monday! So here we go...

**DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:** Betty pointed out that many of us here are not officially on the FIC board, so how are decisions going to be made? Laird feels that technically we seek the agreement of the board, but expects that with this group we can readily strive for a full consensus. Dan pointed out that the FIC is seeking new board members, and later in the weekend (when all board members have arrived) we hope to formally add some of those present to the board.

**F.I.C. HISTORY:** [Laird] FIC was formed in 1948, mostly as an East Coast group. It was low-key for years, though there has been recent interest in assuming a wider role, spearheaded by Charles Betterton (Stelle Community, IL). At a meeting of several FIC communities convened in August '86, it was decided to emphasize a national scope, and have meetings every 6 months. One primary focus is to attract groups formed in the 60's and 70's that have survived, and to help build connections between them where their paths have diverged. The forthcoming *Communities Directory* is the first designated project. Laird feels there is a certain tenuousness to the FIC's future, noting difficulties sustaining regional networks such as the Earth Communities Network and the New England Network of Light — he happily noted that the Inter-Communities of Virginia is presently enjoying an upsurge. The next FIC board meeting will be held spring '89 at Shannon Farm, Afton, VA.

Dan circulated [attached] that he compiled on the history of the FIC. Annotations: in 1948 when established, FIC was more a social happening and not incorporated. Was incorporated in '86, with an expanded vision from primarily Quaker to more ecumenical.

The School of Living and Community Service, Inc. — founded in the 30's and early 40's — are our parent organizations. A more recent affiliate, the National Historic Communal Societies Association [NHCSA] has collected extensive archival documentation of the New Harmony community, the Farm (in Tennessee), and many other historic and current groups and encourages submissions from other communities. Now that they've realized that the 60's Hippy peace movement did catalyze important changes, they're trying to get involved earlier in the documentation process.

[Arrived: Joe Peterson, NHCSA]

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**INTRODUCTIONS:** NOTE: some participants arrived later in the process. Their mini-intros are included here even though they shared later. Their arrivals are noted in the minutes.

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### [INTRODUCTIONS]

**Vim Toutenhoofd:** From Holland. Left at 25, studied physics, lived in Australia 6 yrs. Left for Boulder with wife and baby. Worked for Center for Atmospheric Research. Divorced. Didn't want to remarry and also didn't want to live on own. Joined an encounter group and amazed at level of openness. This experience very important. Read Carl Rogers, interest in groups went up, got interested in coops. Founded Appletree in Boulder and then moved community to Oregon. Member of FEC. Now have land. Membership has been up to 7 and now dropped to 3. Openess still a major interest.

**Dan Christenberry:** Grew up spending summers on parents' land in southern Alabama and Texas, left their land to become a rocket engineer with NASA. Wanted to get back to a large piece of land, but wasn't willing to establish the feudal patterns necessary for such an existence. After college went to work in public health administration across rural Alabama — was fired for wearing long hair, blue jeans and a beard. Challenged the firing; settled out of court, used money to go back to school in public administration... learned the academic ideals of democratic decision-making in the work place. Came to community realizing that was the only place to exercise those theories.

**Betty Didcoct:** Came to community as part of the late 60's back-to-the-land movement. Emmigrated to Canada, homesteaded in Argenta BC, involved with a Quaker community school, bought own land, trained as a potter, built a cabin, ran out of money. Worked 3 yrs in men's medium security prison. Was subscribing to *Communities* magazine and joined B.C. communities' network [FICC] with an interest in land trusts. On board of B.C. Land Trust, then Turtle Island Land Stewardship Society. Became administrator of Turtle Island Fund (TIF), which helped intentional communities buy land which would be placed into land trusts. TIF supported founding of Earth Communities Network [ECN] a grouping of 22 west coast communities, met yearly for 5 years. TIF closed Jan. 86. Continued west coast community networking/consulting, primarily with the Ojai Foundation, Chinook, Interspecies Communication (whales), Linnaea, Aprovecho, *InContext* magazine and now lives at Skysong (WA).

**Caroline Estes:** 16 years ago in Philadelphia, at the same time Movement for a New Society was started (in an adjacent room, actually), her group got the idea of leaving AFSC to live in community. They considered locations across the continent (even internationally) before deciding to move to the Eugene area, where they found Alpha Farm — already appropriately named. 5 of them moved west with \$500 in the bank, and signed the purchase agreement to come up with \$80,000 in three months. Their friends considered them to be fools, but loaned them money anyway (in \$1,000 and 2,000 chunks). Alpha's birthday is, appropriately, April 1st. They have had their ups and downs, from a low of 7 residents to the current 20 (ranging from 6 days to 72 years old). Caroline is known as a consensus facilitator of large groups (100-500 people), and views consensus as a way that communities can stop being disintegrative institutions.

**Geoph Kozeny:** Grew up in Kansas... very straight except could not function before 10 a.m. and not into monogamy. Was inspired by an article on urban middle class communes in *Psychology Today*. People started handing him books like *A Walden Two Experiment* and Dick Fairfield's *Communes USA* which gave new insight about direction. Moved to California in the early 70's, co-founded Stardance community there in '78 (originally a group marriage, which over the years evolved into more of an extended family). After 10 years felt the need for change, so is now travelling (since Jan '88) for the next 4-5 years, visiting intentional communities in North America. He is on a labor and motivational exchange program, and considers himself an unfunded philanthropist engaged in general outreach and networking for the

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intentional communities movement. (Sort of a communal Robin Hood, soliciting charity from those in the mainstream to support the work of the counterculture.) He was major moving force in the *Collective Networker* newsletter, which folded when he left San Francisco. He will be on the east coast next year, which coincides nicely with the next FIC meeting.      *[ Continued...]*

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**Sara Laing:** Has always wanted to live in community (her masters thesis was on interpersonal conflict within communities; she studied 13 communities on the east coast). Has lived in small communities since that time - urban and rural. Now lives with 12-15 people in an urban house in San Diego who are trying to establish an Essene community on a piece of land being held for them. She is an Essene minister and is studying how Essenes in times past were living out many of the same values held today.

**Art Hendershot:** Of Big Bend California, invited by Bob Brown. Was a nutritionist for years, advised good clean air as most important food for the body. Got the community bug at a conference in Vancouver. Now working with about 10 folks to build an Essene community near Mt. Shasta. Though not yet financially self-sufficient, there are 6 currently living on the land. They have a small campground facility, near a hot springs. Very concerned about air pollution and Big Business control over the options; considers only viable solution for small groups of people to pool resources. Happy to be here, and looks forward to learning all he can from us.

**Faith Morgan:** Grew up in community. Her parents and grandparents were involved in founding The Vale (OH) and Celo (NC) communities in the early 40's. Faith tagged along as "the Brat" for years. Loves community, though doesn't live in one now. Expects to again, though isn't sure, and is not actively seeking. Has been on the CESCO board for about three years. Has very little contact with people in communities in her area. The ones living near her now have a different feel than what she's used to. Excited about FIC gathering of such diverse groups. Views her life as working towards community.

**Joe Peterson:** Came to meeting at request of Don Pitzer (NHCSA). Joe's community experience began in 1963 with Animal Farm, Zoo in OR., Empire Lakes, Bog Hill, Annex in Coos Bay, Family of Mystical Arts (later became Rainbow family). Went to Montana, reorganized tribe. To Vortex. Went to Yakima as part of Hope Farm - helping street people and migrants. There for 9 yrs. Then to Missoula as part of Oak House serving the poor people, developing different kinds of economic systems. Started New Creation Inst. now taken on by World Council of Churches. Then assigned as administrator for Shiloh Communities which just lost a \$1.5 million tax case to the IRS (which caused the demise of the group). He is hosting the spring '89 west coast chapter meeting of NHCSA at Eugene. He is presently conducting extensive research on post-community people by compiling their oral histories. Active with the 800 communities of Christian International Community of Communities and coordinator for Western Intentional Communities [WIC], a network of radical post-evangelical Christian communities. WIC's next annual meeting is in May. He is writing 2 books — *Religion in the Rain* on Oregon groups, and *Alien Nation* on Vietnam era communal movements, reporting the oral histories of those who have been out of community for at least several years.

**Suzanne Riordan:** Utopian/idealistic streak. Sought a "better way" in Marxism and spirituality alternatingly. How to reconcile the two? Spent ten years in college community living in housing coops, group houses. Left grad school in Wisconsin to join commune in Santa Barbara (Sunburst); kicked out 4 months later and became quite disillusioned/cynical about intentional community. '81 focalizer at 21-member group house and founded Santa Barbara Single Parent Alliance in '83 to facilitate shared living & childcare for single parents. 1987 -88 tour of communities, join FIC, work on community video. Inclined to link, educate via media, networking. Polarity: idealism/disillusionment. Learning acceptance.

**Laird Schaub:** Experienced much personal growth in college through the dormitory experience — equality, asking challenging questions of each other. When he finished college and moved to DC to become a Washington bureaucrat [wants to reclaim that term], he traded 6-7 close friends for only 1 or 2. Personal growth slowed down.

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After visiting Twin Oaks, he helped start Sandhill Farm in Missouri, and has lived there for 14 years now.

**Stefan Pasti:** Interested in sustainable agriculture in communities. Moved from North Carolina to Eugene area — he's working at One Step Farm, an Organic farm near Junction City.

*[Introductions Continue...]*

**David Thatcher:** Nice to be back at Alpha ('78 was last of three previous visits). Has community experiences going back to his childhood, a sense that we are all one big family on this planet. Quest through teenage experiences, the drug scene, several communities around the world. Explored philosophy and comparative religions, but sensed there was a missing element. Finally became associated with the Emissary communities in '71, at 100 Mile House (est. '48, the Canadian headquarters of the Emissaries). They view themselves not so much as a community, though it is, but as being in a state of "communing" together. Has recently casually contemplated relocating — vague feelings, nothing to implement now. Not accompanied by a traumatic feeling, because he sees a broader community that inhabits the planet.

**Arun Toké:** Grew up in India, came to the US in '71. After reading *Getting Back Together* he got interested in communities, went on tour of communities in '78. Visited Twin Oaks in '87 and was accepted as a provisional member. Before joining went to Sonora, Mexico to honor a prior commitment to work on a Quaker project. Detoured to visit the west coast FEC community, Appletree. Then visited Aprovecho which expressed interest in publishing his *Skipping Stones*, an international children's magazine. He subsequently joined Aprovecho, where he is publications manager, publishes *Cookstove News*, and now is visitor coordinator.

### FUNDING PROPOSALS:

Dan: Referred to the \$110,000 budget from the spring '88 FIC board meeting, which proposed funding for 2 regional coordinators and 1 publications coordinator. Reported on a meeting with a rep of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities [VFH] which is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH]. They are more into funding special projects rather than administrative functions — copies of all the stuff they fund are stored in archives, and are available to the public. They would probably provide funding to promote the activities and goals with longer-term significance (conferences, videos, radio programs, research fellowships, etc.). Funding includes cost of conference facilities, outreach, publicity, travel expenses for speakers, 3-4 months of conference coordinator salaries, and research stipends. We could fit our programs into their specs — it's all a packaging issue. Problem with Communities Directory: VFH views *Communities Magazine* as an internal organ of the education and information communities movement, while they want to fund public programs.

Joe: He is applying to NEH to fund a documentary on the history of Shiloh communities, with support from his academic colleagues.

Betty: Feels we could do a national conference with their support and much of what we do is easily framed within their guidelines; there is no need to try to go in the back door. In the long run there is probably much we can do with NEH.

Suzanne: Feels Betty's proposal suggests marketing the Communities Directory as a documentary and outreach tool. Why not ask Allen Butcher to write an article on the history of the fellowship, and solicit other



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articles as well — on networks, community building, visitor protocol, and similar topics.

Dan: We could organize a conference at the state level, using that as a model for a national conference. The VFH representative has personal knowledge and interest in intentional communities, providing us with a very supportive advocate within VFH.

Suzanne: Would there be similar interest and support from NEH?

Joe: We need to identify NEH areas of interest, and gear our grant proposals in those directions. People are currently interested in the Vietnam era, 60's people, and intentional community experiences. He thinks we now have an opportunity — those of us who experienced (survived?) the "unexpected social phenomena" of successful intentional communities — to become pillars of countercultural stability. We can now stand up and speak with credibility. But we need a clear strategy and an agenda. How is the FIC structured? Shouldn't it be a vehicle for grants? The Christian network he's involved with gets funding from its member churches. The fact is that the FIC is educational in its documentation and dissemination of the recent history of the intentional communities movement.

Laird: How long does it take after applying, assuming a favorable response, to receive funds? How often can we go back to the well? (Suzanne suggests we check)

**Tasks:** Dan will check at NEH offices the next time he is in Washington D.C.

Dan: VFH reviews grant applications quarterly, with a 3-6 month lapse before monies are disbursed. It may take us up to a year to establish our initial relationship with VFH.

[Faith Morgan arrives]

### **Friday, September 22 Afternoon Session**

#### **DIRECTORY (I): Preview of CPC Contract**

At April Green Pastures meeting Board reaffirmed Directory priority (as FIC's first project).

Laird & Caroline were selected to negotiate a co-publishing agreement with Charles Betterton, the magazine publisher. Laird presented a Contract ("agreement") handout representing his distillation of phone calls with Charles & Caroline about the Community Publications Cooperative [CPC].

Re: #5 ("Any grant money generated will be applied 1st to retirement of existing debt") This is not what we wanted. Instead CPC profit should cover debt. Also Charles wants to withhold his approval of contract until FIC role specified, as decided at this current meeting. We're not intending to reach final decision at this session.

Geoph: Does \$9,500 include ALL outstanding debt, including Charles', Carroll English's, Cathy Feinstein's contributions?

Laird: Yes

Betty: If there is limitation by CPC on how to use money. Can we also decide how used?

Geoph: Related to this, is there a deadline on retiring debts?

Caroline: Review our projected Directory budget.

Laird: Expected costs: \$20,000 for 10,000 issues, not counting labor (except layout).

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Expect it will sell for \$12; sell 10,000 copies in 2 yrs.; 2,000 copies obligated by subscription, not generating income. Projected income \$48,000. Leaves \$28,000 to divide between FIC and CPC. Last issue of Directory sold 7,000 issues I think.

Betty: Makes more sense to keep debt load (magazine expense of CPC) separate. Seems cleaner to take it out of the profit margin.

Laird: Revised proposal: any grant money generated will be only for directory publishing and related Directory costs.

Dan: Twin Oaks annual debt for magazine was much higher than Charles' (or CPC's).

Geoph: Directory technically has brought in 1/4 of the annual magazine subscription fee for Directory publication costs.

Dan: This Directory more of a value than previous ones.

Caroline: These Directories only will cost \$2 each to produce. Why are we expecting a 50/50 split with sellers, rather than usual 40/60.

Laird: Let's be conservative.

Betty: Re: #10. Let's specify percentages.

Dan: Proposal: the Quarterly's publication difficulties should not interfere with timely publication of Directory.

Betty: Suggests establishing Fund for future Directory publishing (not for regular issues).

*[Continued...]*

Caroline: The most CPC could make in profit is \$4,500. Then maybe only \$2,000 left which could be used for magazine publishing.

Laird: Financial difficulties make this impractical.

Dan: If we were to establish escrow account to earmark money for next Directory...there would be no money left to subsidize travel expenses for board members.

Geoph: 20 or 25% is a good figure, if FIC will be full partners in magazine. If not, put money into Directory Fund.

**Agreed:** We do not want funds raised for the directory to retire the magazine debt. Current debts should come out of CPC's net profits.

**Agreed:** To amend the contract to include the following: that if we have a co-publishing agreement for the magazine after the production of the Directory, 75% of FIC's net profits will go to CPC (the magazine) and 25% would remain with FIC for general revenues. If there is no co-publishing agreement to produce the magazine, FIC will give CPC 25% of its net profits if CPC continues to publish the magazine.

Committee to redraft points 5, 6, 10 & 12 - Betty, Geoph, Dan.

### DIRECTORY (II)

Propose 3 sections plus advertising: Listings, Resources, Articles. Questionnaire has been sent out; 50 responses have been received in the first month (past Directories have had 100 overall). Charles will forward responses to Sandhill for collating, and to create reference charts. We'll need to follow up on leads referred by respondents for the Resource Section. Resource list reviewed; needs added headings for Peace & Justice, Ecology. Any cooperative alternative can be suggested and will be checked out

**Task:** Laird requests those present to send him corrections to the communities master address list within 2 weeks.

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Geoph: Suggests a community obituary column... a system to X out defunct communities. And perhaps a way to treat communities who don't want to be listed.

Laird: It's O.K. for us to maintain an unpublished list of communities who don't want to be contacted today because they may change their minds. Decided not to require signatures on the questionnaires; we aren't asking communities who list themselves to swear to veracity.

Dan: Fact is, people DO misrepresent themselves. Must at least include a disclaimer: FIC cannot guarantee veracity.

Arun: Seek financial sponsors among communities?

Dan: Should seek donations and loans.

Joe: Suggests including year community was founded with listings in our Directory. Question: Should there be two Directories? Or should we ask Bobbi Corchran if she's interested in throwing in with us. Her *Community Referral Service Directory* is very popular.

Dan: We can all benefit by having 2 Directories from different sources. More ways to get info out.

Laird: Need more articles. Charles will handle this area. Jim at Alpha is newspaper editor & will help with editing. Charles says we have roughly 1/2 of what we want in way of articles.

We have a piece in hand on NHCSA.

Joe: How about articles from Christian communities?

Caroline: Eastern spiritual communities have own links, networks. Let's encourage them to contribute to Directory.

Arun: Do we want health food coop listings and peace and justice groups?

Caroline: Jim should be asked if he is interested in doing editing for future issues of *Communities*. Laird can't

necessarily do it in future. [Laird affirmed.] *[More..]*

Laird: Hoping most articles for Directory are written by mid-November. Letters soliciting for Resource Section info should go out by end of November. Section complete by end of December. Printing completed by February?

Geoph: Available to help at Sandhill between Thanksgiving and Xmas.

Betty: Suggests adding a point in contract that money raised for Directory not be used to publish other magazine issues prior to publication of Directory.

Laird/Caroline: Unless there's enough for both.

Caroline: Major responsibilities now lie with FIC: compiling information for both Listings and Resources, and soliciting/editing articles,

Arun: Do you want an article on children in community? [yes]

Caroline: Have been no articles on process except one in *In Context*. We need one in the Directory.

Geoph: To show the breadth and strength of community's movement, I would have preferred to list those communities not wanting visitor inquiries with a note to that effect, rather than omitting them altogether.

Caroline: Suggests offering option of having listed communities say "we don't have time to answer letters, but if you call we'll talk to you."

Joe: Someone else's Directory in the past did include notation to this effect.

Faith: Suggests including editorial comment about how many communities exist who did not respond or want to be listed.

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Arrival: [Dave Thatcher, Emissary Community, 100 Mile House, BC]

### VIDEO

Dan: Re: Art Rosenblum's video project [The Aquarian Video Tour]. Proposes that we neutralize previous decision to publicize and endorse the project (FIC gave no financial support). Art had been convincing about his capabilities and financing prospects, but Dan feels that Art lacks certain social skills that made for ill feelings among the communities he visited. Cleaning up after Art's visit took more time and diplomacy than setting him up for the community visits. Art demonstrated poor listening abilities, lack of diplomacy, lack of sensitivity, unwillingness to honor protocols and agreements.

Dan wrote a report (a P.R. piece) that he sent to the groups visited, and submitted to Art for use in voice-overs (so that the facts can be more accurate). Dan also sent a letter to Art describing specific criticisms of Art's actions. Dan feels uncomfortable that we're on record as supporting the project.

Suzanne:

Did work some with Art in Philadelphia to help with editing and shooting new footage, visiting several sites. The scope of this video has been expanded to cover cooperation in a broader sense. Art wants to have a finished piece ready to deliver by November 1st. Suzanne agrees there's a problem. She has been working with Glen Schoemaker (who has been doing work on Art's project) on another community video project, and would still like FIC support on that. She's concerned that support for her work would be lost in the controversy around Art. Art's footage in itself isn't irreplaceable, but the diplomacy of the situation is what's at stake. It would be a shame if some of those doors were closed.

David: Our credibility is at stake here, and we need to be clear on our position.

Agreed:

That we draft a letter this weekend, explaining our position (withdrawing our support from Art's project, but still supporting Suzanne's). Although we don't hold anger toward Art personally, we feel it is inappropriate to be associated with Art's project. We also agree to send this letters to Art, the communities he visited, and to everyone who received a copy of the minutes which contained the resolution to endorse the project.

*[Continued...]*

Dan and Suzanne will draft the letter and bring it back to the meeting this weekend.

Betty & Caroline: Concerned that negative influence about Art's project would carry over to Suzanne's if their names were discussed in the same letter. Should we send out a separate letter supporting Suzanne's project? [no]

[Art Hendershot arrives]

Suzanne:

sufficient support for her project, so that she could proceed with writing a proposal and a script to apply for funding for her video project.

Wants to know if she has with writing a proposal and a

David: Feels we're sufficiently involved in the Directory that not much FIC energy would be available to get involved in this video project.

Caroline:

much more on the video, and the time lines are sufficiently different that we could afford to be as supportive as possible of Suzanne's video. FIC can put more energy into project support after the Directory is out.

We're not being asked to do that sufficiently different that we could video. FIC can put more energy

Betty: Suzanne already has one letter of FIC endorsement, and more board action at this point would be unnecessary.

Dan: Suzanne should look over our old letter and if necessary, work with someone on the executive committee to modify it to fit her needs for fundraising efforts.

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Laird: When Suzanne gets proposal together, she should submit it to the Executive committee for review. Also, If NEH is one of the prospective groups, to verify that they're open to repeat funding requests before we decide if this proposal we want them to consider.

FIC  
he'd like  
is the

Suzanne:  
available in material we already have about the NEH

That information should be

### Evaluations to date (impromotu):

Laird: Impressed by how much ground we've covered.

Suzanne:  
much without airing a bunch of dirty laundry,

Impressed that we dealt with so

Faith: Oh, what kind of juicy stuff am I missing?

Betty: We did air some dirty laundry, and handled it quite well.

Dan: Very impressed by the wealth of leaders here. This is one of those rare occasions where he doesn't feel compelled to constantly try to facilitate and keep things moving.

## **Saturday, September 23 Morning Session**

### DISCUSSION: INCREASE BOARD SIZE?

Laird reviewed the terms of the existing 11 board members.

David questioned how much input general members can have at board meetings without diverting the focus and "efficiency" of the board members in the meeting.

Caroline and Betty - in early stages of organization, lots of input helpful, at later stages, may need to limit observers' input. OK with being open now, may need to be mindful later. When only few board members can make meeting, helpful to have a broader input from observers and guests.

Dan - we need to tap into global brain aspect of who we are. Look at possibility of being bi-coastal and transport one or two members to other coast for meetings. Seek new form to bring in spiritual presence of missing people. Have continuity on each coast.

*[Continued...]*

Caroline - important for me to ATTEND board meetings. I do not want just my name present. In consensual process, recognize that anyone can bring in part of the truth. Up to people attending to speak when appropriate. Not sure if global brain actually works yet.

Joe -in our group, all members of the board have costs paid by pooling transportation costs, then dividing total amount amongst all communities, which gives everyone an equal chance to attend. Sometimes we invite prospective members to come and those expenses are added to the pool.

Laird - To summarize: We need funding to get people to meetings. Can people free up the time to attend? We have not laid out expectations for board members. Suggest we consider, at later point of meeting, ways to get money for travel. Have concern about efficiency and how productive we are at using our time together. It appears that having extra people are not an impediment now, but we must be mindful in future.

Dave - question fundraising for travel expenses. May be useful to use a gauge that if money is available thru what we are doing, then we can proceed; if not, the energy is not right. We need to look at long term sustainability. Do we have too many board

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members to be efficient? Is one board meeting per year better than 2? Are we setting up a bureaucracy that "fits" what we are doing and how it relates to our daily living?

Dan - when we started we wanted to build a continental aspect out of NE base. We talked about a decentralist approach to locally fund our travel to distant meetings. Look at *Handbook for Mission Groups*. First call is to us as individuals, then we put out the call (mission) to larger audience. We need to test our call within our own community and in our local networks. Maybe we should look at possibility of having fairly independent branches on each coast. Raising funds has corrupting potential. Seeking out our own funds has many side benefits. Maybe expansion to continental level is not appropriate at this point. Maybe we should keep our work at the regional level. There are some very real questions to deal with.

Caroline - My hackles go up when we say "the west" and "the east". With one board meeting per year, we fulfill the mission of bringing us together from all over the continent in a powerful way. Holding more exec. committee meetings would make us more efficient in getting the work done.

Bob - Getting sense that the most important function of board is getting the word out to people about alternatives to mainstream. Our future vision is global and not limited regionally. With our limited energies, we are focusing on Directory as most important project. Maybe people working on Directory should be supported more, rather than looking at getting the board together more than once a year.

Sara - Look at Earthsteward Network as model. Have yearly gathering. Then have regional meetings. Projects come out of regions and offered to others throughout the national network. Faith - The diversity we achieve by meeting in various communities is valuable. CESCO had meetings which included a day preceding the meeting for sharing and fellowship. The exec. met prior to the larger meeting. Connections with one another keeps the energy high.

Arun - If we have 1 meeting/year, need to do more preparatory work and send written material to each other beforehand. Maybe consider newsletter to keep in touch in between. Could keep costs down if host community could donate services - over long haul, it would even out.

Laird - In Federation, sense of cohesiveness directly related to number of times we meet. With one meeting per year, we only accomplished 1/2 of what we did if we met twice a year. However, we did not have active exec. board. I have reservations about relying on small active group. And also picking people for the board on basis of them being able to pay for themselves to get to meetings.

Bob - Suggestion: to have temporary exec. committee be selected by those who are working on current projects at any particular time - ie. now the Directory

[Continued...]

**Proposal** (Dan) - 1 board meeting per year, recognizing that we lose momentum. At 6-month point have executive committee meeting encouraging as many board members get there as possible. Look at setting up board meetings to coincide with NHCSA meetings. NO AGREEMENT

Betty - These issues need to be addressed in context of our vision and purpose and what we want to accomplish.

Dave - make better use of telephone. Focusing on projects will make it clearer how we need to meet. It is easier for me to fulfill individual commitments on projects, but harder to commit to the larger executive function of the board.

**Agreed** - we need to bring this back to discussion this afternoon. Needs more exploration addressing: Do we want to raise, allocate, or generate money for travel? What are expectations of board members? How many times do we need to meet? How can we solicit true representation?

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### DIRECTORY (III): Contract between FIC and CPC

There is concern about having payment for editorial time coming out of FIC net profit rather than considered as part of production costs.

- it has been traditional that Communities does not pay for articles written. Recognizing the need to give compensation for articles in the future, we see that our assuming the responsibility for it out of our profits as a first step to changing this policy in the future.

- we recognize that CPC has the burden of paying off debts out of its net profits.

Taking out editorial expenses AFTER net profits is our way of helping balance this burden.

- **Suggestion:** to pay editorial expenses to people who need more immediate reimbursement out of initial funds, realizing that these payments would be assessed to net profits at a later date. FIC's

There is also concern about who keeps what records of expenses and makes sure people get reimbursed both for out of pocket and time expenses.

- our past experience with CPC has been frustrating and we want to come up with some alternatives to relieve Charles of having to do this work

- possible options:

- FIC handles all money which it raises. Have Laird responsible for disbursement of out of pocket expenses, allocations for CPC expenses, then pay people for invested time out of FIC net profits.

- FIC do all accounting

- have raised funds go to another organization like CESCO or Tides and they release funds as they get bills and written requests.

**Agreed:** We recognize that we want to continue working collaboratively with Charles; that his vision has been an inspiration to many of us present and that his efforts have served to engage many of us in this work.

**Agreed:** We also recognize that in projects we have worked on together, Charles has not provided adequate accounting or met some agreed payment for services. We feel strongly that another arrangement needs to be worked out defining who takes the responsibility of accounting for the Directory project.

**Agreed:** Laird take the agreement document to Charles and be empowered to negotiate details. If there is change, Laird will consult the exec. committee. The matter of who takes care of accounting will not be addressed specifically in this document, but be left up to Laird to work out with Charles. When the accounting arrangements are decided upon, Laird is charged with notifying FIC board members of the final decision.

*[Continued...]*

**Task:** Laird will notify the executive board for approval of the final budget created by the Management team.

### **Changes in FIC/CPC Document:**

#10. Change to: Financial records will be jointly managed by Laird Schaub and Charles Betterton.

#8. Add: "responsible to their respective boards".

#6. Add CESCO loan to FIC - \$600.

Committee - Dan, Betty, Geoph, Faith will work on final draft of agreement to bring back to the group before end of this meeting.

Committee - Dan, Betty, Dave work on wording of minute to communicate to Charles which reflects our strong feelings about the accounting issue.

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Laird is concerned about his parameters in negotiating with Charles because we have expressed a wide range of thoughts.

**Agreed:** Laird is free to negotiate with Charles and when he feels it necessary to have the board's input, he will call for it. When a final agreement is reached, Laird will give it to the executive committee for final approval.

**Saturday, Sept. 23      Afternoon Session**

### FIC PROFILE FORMS

Passed around forms for profiles of individual and community members of FIC.

We have addressed the question of what it means to be an inclusive organization and at same time be intentional. We accept each person on faith, while understanding how groups differ. We discriminate not on basis of value system, but rather on whether or not they will discuss these values with us and potentially with the public. (OK to choose to not answer some questions)

**Task:** Those who are members and have not yet filled one out, please do so.

Indiv. membership \$10, organizational \$20. Organizational membership can be used by any person in the organization. We are an organizational group.

### SHARING GO-ROUND ON OUR COMMUNITES

**Alpha:** 16 yrs. old. Now training new communitarians. Exciting, yet sense of deja vu in that same sorts of personalities and interests are showing up now that were coming here in the beginning. We are catching up with the slack from a loss of personnel a few years ago. Now have 20 and are able to operate up to former standards. Our outreach work is a whole new jump for us...bioregional, Green work, FIC, consensus workshops. We now do consensus training workshops 3/year here in the community. We are helping put on our bioregional conference. Our sense of place is much stronger, we know our land better. Almost at end of building "new house" which started 10 yrs ago. Now have significantly larger number of children. Soon to have five under the age of 4. Childcare is given equal weight on our job chart. We are incorporated as a for-profit cooperative under Oregon law. Our income has remained low enough that we have not incurred any income tax liability - keeps us mindful of simple life style.

**Sandhill:** 14 yrs. old. Themes: we are now more intentionally engaged in agriculture to make our living. Last yr. bought 72 adjoining acres which more than doubled our land. We are in the process of being certified as organic farm and are marketing most products through an area coop warehouse. We have increased our political activity by doing FIC, Federation, and nuclear issue work. Trying harder to live out ecological values. Getting involved in local recycling program. 7 adults and 2 children.

*[continued]*

**Aprovecho:** End of the Road Community.. Aprovecho does international work in appropriate technology, particularly as it relates to permaculture. Their research publication is called *Cookstove News*. which will fold at the end of this year. Have now started publishing *Skipping Stones*. Members residing on the land make up the community End of the Road who are the stewards of the land. There are 3 interns, 5 members and 3 long term visitors. Goal is to have 13-14 people. Have high turnover and probably 1000 visitors per year. Have 501c3 status with IRS. Three different governing bodies - Board, staff, and householders. Newsletter which comes out 4-5/yr goes to 300-500 people. Have an environmental education program for children. At end of this year hope to finish land trust agreements.

**Shiloh:** At its peak had 3,000 members, 75 households. Had internal revolt in '75, fired chief founder. Membership dropped from 3,000 to 1400, value of assets went



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way down. Then Joe got involved. Worked on new gov't forms. Group of professional communitarians went there to deal with issue of IRS tax case in which laws for 501c3 were reinterpreted retroactively, causing Shiloh to be assessed \$1,500,000 in back taxes and fines. Lost court case. Property seized, community disbanded in '87.

We realize that we have much to learn from one another in these sorts of issues and how they effect us as communitarians and we need to think about how we can respond to these sorts of issues as an organization. Is it possible to get more information on what is

happening at Twin Oaks, what has happened at Shiloh and Emmissaries/Canada and somehow look at this issue at our next meeting?

**Emissaries:** Have 12 main communities around the world. They don't actively look for projects, but respond to what comes up. At 100 Mile Lodge, operate large cattle ranch and are large land owner in their area. Logging is primary industry there and Emissaries are interested in stewardship and long-term care of land. Currently trying to work in more ecological ways with logging co. who wants to introduce new high tech equipment and is renting land from community. Working in a non-confrontational way. Community's approach to living is communal, although many individual Emissaries do not live communally.

**Essene Mother Earth Church:** Big Bend, CA is 30 mi. south of Mt. Shasta, 11 yrs. old. Strong interest in nutrition and alternative technology. People of all religious faiths welcome. No dogma except "no dogma". Essenes around since time of Old Testament. Believe in living outside cities, good healthy food, clean air, simple lifestyle. Working toward world where we live in peace and harmony. 6 families on property now. 10-11 families are members. Big gardens. Building greenhouse heated with hot springs water. Working toward self-sufficiency. Hot springs, cabins and camp grounds. Relationship with IRS has involved much back and forth status regarding 501c3 status.

**Appletree:** Started out as a co-op house in Boulder, CO. Group of four moved to Oregon 6-7 years ago to establish Appltree community, which is a part of the FEC. Two of the original four are still members, a third original is still on the land and in dispute over a separation settlement. Now down to three members (one member just left) so feeling pretty low on that count.

**Stardance/Purple Rose:** Started '78 in San Francisco with some influence from Kerista Village. High value on communication & openness, no subjects taboo. Originally seen as the home for a group marriage. Vision of shared parenting, common economic base, equal sharing of cooking and chores. Started with open community meetings - invited friends from outside community. Population has been consistantly 7-9 adults, 2-3 kids, although a fair amount of turnover. Ran several collective businesses. Tried income sharing a couple of times, but it didn't last. Group marriage idea was on again, off again. Now each individual is responsible for their own income, and share equally in house expenses. Geoph (the last of the original members) left in January '88 to start the Commnity Catalyst Project — a major reason he left was to break from his "founding father" role. They have been working to transfer ownership of their house into land trust or equivalent, and recently changed house name to the Purple Rose.

**Skysong:** Was started 9 years ago by Louise Grout who was guided to create a center where people could stay when the world situation called for it, and to offer a place of retreat and space for workshops. Many people have come to Skysong over the years to work, or to do workshops, and feel strongly connected to the center. It is more an extended community than a residential community. Residents pay rent and see

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themselves as part of the larger community to varying degrees. It has been referred to as a retreat center and now is calling itself a Light Center. There have been as many as 12 people there and as few as 2. There is a regular stream of visitors throughout the year. There is an orchard, an organic garden, and chickens. They are currently building a barn, and are looking at the possibility of creating cottage industries.

**New Essene Community:** The community doesn't exist yet. Now 12-15 people share an urban house in San Diego, and have found a 115-acre piece of land, one hour from San Diego, which is being held for them. They are now trying to pull together the financing.

**Shannon:** Seeks to bridge contemporary yuppie and classic hippy cultures. Are a county-wide center for volleyball. Tuesday night we do ping-pong and penny poker into the wee hours. Paid off a \$250,000 land mortgage in '86. In '87 buried power lines through our residential clusters, to replace our propane generators. Built a 3-1/2 acre lake this year; and a new community center next year. We are a large struggling community during the winter, and a large fun community during the summer. Politically active in local government and planning commission affairs. Half the members commute off land to work in Charlottesville (25 miles away) at jobs in computers, health and food services, and education. 5% annual turnover of full members, 50% in provisional members. 1/3 been there 9-10 years. Another 1/3 for at least 6. Keeping present members is a community priority second only to consensus decision-making as a community goal. 25-40 visitors per year. 2-3 new members each year. We are a non-violent, egalitarian, financially (individually) self-sufficient community — 7% of income after taxes goes to the community. 51 adults and 20 children plus 6 more children in summer. Cabinetmaking and custom furniture making shop (with solar wood drying kilns) which operates on a Mondragon collective-management system. Computer sales/programming/repair business focussed on IBM clones. Internal construction crews help new leaseholders build 2-3 houses each year. Are a non-profit which chooses not to have a Federal tax designation. In the early "get-to-know-you" stages, they had a variety of committed and uncommitted sexual relationships... before they got down to the business of building physical aspects of their community. Meeting facilitators rotate. They seek to be a crossroads of many different values, and to provide one model for intentional community living.

## TREASURER'S REPORT: FAITH

[See attached report]

Total grant income	\$	300.00	From a previous CESC Grant
Total interest		19.73	
Total dues received		380.00	
<u>Total contributions</u>		<u>130.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		829.73	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	788.28	(includes \$560 from last year)
OUTSTANDING DEBTS		540.00	Owed to Dan Christenberry
		600.00	Balance due CESC on \$900 no-interest loan to CPC
BALANCE IN BANK	\$	462.48	

**Dan's offer:** FIC will continue the existing process of repaying its debt to Dan, by paying him one-half of all dues collected. For any member donations made IN EXCESS of '88 and '89 dues, he will offer matching funds to be deducted from the balance of his debt. This offer is good through the end of

1988.

[Continued...]

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Non-profit donations earmarked for FIC can be made through CESCI.

Laird indicated that he had picked up some FIC membership applications at Stelle, but not the dues, therefore the membership list does not reflect these members.

**Task:** Laird will ask Stelle to forward all membership applications and dues payments received through the mail. He will also collect money from Stelle to cover any dues they collected for FIC in the past (beginning with our initial membership in spring of '87). Laird will then forward the dues to Faith.

**Agreed:** Active participation on Board requires an active membership status (dues paid up and membership profile completed). Where this affects people retroactively, Secretary will give notice so they can submit dues and membership forms to retain active status.

The meeting then considered options for possible deadlines: 2 months? 2 months from date of notice? January 1, 1988? No decision was reached; deferred until spring meeting.

**Task:** Secretary is directed to write letter to Board members whose dues are not current, and send notice of renewals for dues to communities.

### SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

**NHCSA:** National Historic Communal Societies Association. Pacific Coast chapter has had 4 annual meetings. Next meeting is in Eugene May 12-13, 1989; theme: "Founders and Followers". NHCSA produces a newsletter and a journal. They are looking for connections with contemporary communities (as well as historic), and encourage submissions for their archives.

**CCP:** Community Catalyst Project - (Geoph's project) He is visiting communities, taking and presenting slides along the way, gathering information for the Directory, pitching in on work projects and planning where helpful, letting communities know about other communities, and encouraging mutual support and communications between them.

**FEC:** Federation of Egalitarian Communities - There is a growing initiative in our communities to be more inclusive by bringing in people of color and gay men and women. Last Twin Oaks women's gathering had 1/3 women of color. They are trying to schedule their spring assembly, which deals with racism in inner city, in conjunction a conference on racism, "Parallels and Intersections" taking place April 6-9, 1989 in Iowa City. Have nearly completed a compendium of written materials on of systems and structures which have been developed by our communities.

**CESCI:** Community Education Service Council, Inc. - a business loan fund started 40 yrs ago, as revolving loan fund to help finance businesses operated by communities. Started with \$50,000 resource base, now has \$20,000 - it has taken incredible risks to help groups. 100 loans since mid '50s. Low interest 1-2 % points below current rate. Require personal contact with people borrowing money. Currently experiencing infusion of new energy.

**CSI:** Community Service Inc. is involved in promoting and supporting intentional communities. Shares information - newsletters, books, etc.; has clearinghouse function. Puts on 1-2 workshop per year. Helps small intentional community in India.

**NABC:** North American Bioregional Congress - organizing within watersheds to solve local problems which brings them into community work. Since they are more focused on small units, they will be helping form small intentional communities - both urban and rural. Caroline is beginning to see that as the bioregional movement goes forward, they will be running more parallel to our work and we need to be aware of this in the future, possibly look for ways to work together.

**School of Living:** Founded by Ralph Borsodi (influenced by Henry George's work on taxation, dealing with decentralization & land reform). Committed to permaculture,

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single tax education, sponsor of 4th World Assemblies. Have \$100,000 land trust buying fund. \$50,000 currently given to Institute of Community Economics to acquire building in Greater Barrington, MA.

*[Continued...]*

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**ICV:** Inter-Communities of Virginia - 9 communities including Springtree, Shannon which are spinoffs from another member, Twin Oaks, Common Ground (headquarters for a regional holding company of intentional community land trusts), Yogaville (Swami Satchidananda International Hdqts. for Integral Yoga Institutes), The Gathering, Geshundheit Institute (a free medical center), Innisfree (a lifetime home for mentally handicapped).

### 501(c)3 APPLICATION:

Dan has forms, but has not done something about it for reasons he is not sure of.

Do we want to use CESCO as a funding conduit? Dan can do our accounting for CESCO. We will have to wait until next spring for CESCO to make a decision.

Do we want to be a separate entity to do fundraising? Do we know of any defunct 501(c)3 that we can use?

Suggestion: Table application for 501(c)3 for one year, use CESCO in the interim.

Suggestion: Possible to use Tides Foundation as a conduit (7% for their services - bookkeeping and reporting to IRS).

If CESCO used as a conduit, they would have to administer project. Question - If our work increased their annual income to above \$25,000 (which it might if we had a large conference), would CESCO's filing status be effected?

If the volume of money channelled through a conduit 501(c)3 is not too much (how much is too much?), you can operate the sub-organization on a dba (doing business as) for effective control of funds and then spin it off in a separate 501(c)3 at an appropriate time.

CESCO wants to be clear that they will not cover FIC administrative costs. (Usually a project gives the umbrella a % of funds raised.)

Our work could aid CESCO in maintaining its educational status with IRS.

Discussed overlap of personnel on CESCO board and FIC board and difficulties/advantages of wearing different hats when working with a group we have a long association with.

Laird - favors applying for our own 501(c)3. Somewhat amenable to Tides as a conduit. An argument for waiting is that we establish more of a track record. But time makes producing records more difficult. We have already agreed to apply twice. Not to have proceeded with implementing that decision is frustrating and debilitating of organizational energy.

Is someone prepared to fill out a 501(c)3 application at this time? Laird may have time at the end of the year, after the directory.

**Agreed:** We will investigate Tides first, and then CESCO to serve as our funding conduit for the time being, with the intention of doing further research into finding a defunct 501c3 organization that we might be able to take over. We reaffirm the previous decision to apply for our own 501c3 status, but will use conduits for now until we find someone willing to complete the application process.

**Task:** Laird and Suzanne are likely candidates to work on the 501(c)3 application process when they have the time. There is an awareness that this process will require funds.

**Task:** Betty will communicate with Tides, and Suzanne will write the necessary proposal. The Executive Committee will approve the proposal, and ratify any final agreements reached with Tides. If Tides doesn't work, Dan will interface with CESCO.

**Saturday, Sept 23 Evening Session**

### BRAINSTORMING FOR A COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

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Caroline: For years Alpha has wanted to see a conference on national scale; hopefully FIC has that capability and interest. It would be for a broad spectrum of communities, not a *[Continued...]* narrow focus. Would be educational, show that the communal movement is alive and well and didn't dissolve after the 60's. Would give impression of the alternative lifestyles possible, and let people in the general population know that there is hope. Also a good opportunity for cross fertilization; would hope for some energy to be carried forward by the local or regional levels.

**Purposes:** Fellowship, Recruitment, Show options in the US

### **Open Brainstorming:**

Fun! Needs to be a fun gathering.

Week-long celebration

A big celebration/party

Have a video or booth at another national event (Example: Whole Life Expo)

Washington DC, St. Louis, Denver, San Diego, Eugene, San Francisco

Like Rainbow Gathering

Do video of the gathering

Invite people to come wearing their colors, robes, ritual attire (get one if don't have one)

Have at Easter vacation

Invite E.T.'s

Interspecies communication

Do at Eugene Country Fair

Defer until better ties formed with Christian & spiritual communities

Offer work scholarships for people of color

Invite alternative/progressive groups: Greens, Bioregional, Permaculture

Expansion of Land Trust holding companies

Convention for east and west coasts, then national for all types of communities

International

Advertise in Communities Directory

Division in conference: portion for community members, portion for anyone interested

Presentation re: world status — environmental, ecological, economic;

Role of individual, role of the community

Networking like-minded communities

Workshops; 5-Ring circus of lectures

Live entertainment: dance, song, comedy

Workshop on consensus

Product display booths, i.e. Peanut butter, hammocks,

Invite celebrities: Robin Williams, Whoopie Goldberg, Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson

Invite people interested in communities; those looking for community

Lost & Found for seekers

Memorial service (communities which have passed away)

First aid tent for communities in trouble

Presentation of exciting things taking place on the planet

Communities fair

Scott Peck, Sun Bear

Balloon rides

Workshops on issues

Training on non-profit work, invite the IRS; love the IRS

Subliminal tapes on being a good communitarian

Petting zoo (one for adults?)

Polyfidelity workshop

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Workshop led by real community people

Display booths

Workshop on tax resistance

Workshop on NHCSA, National map of communities

Intercommunity exchange

*[Continued...]*

**Brainstorming (Continued):**

Publications booth; Bookstore

Media coverage — Ted Turner too

Intentional community joke booth (produce joke book)

Invite participation of all world-wide community groups

Reunions for ex-communitarians

Communities for senior citizens

Performers benefit for intentional communities: Pete Seeger, John Denver, PP&M, Carole King

Invite the gurus

Woodstock '89

Ululating mummies

Kid's conference

Computer networking

Composting toilet, solar ovens, appropriate technology, milk the goats

Have it at Science Museum

Have at place with camping facilities

Community experience booth, with diplomas for participants

Demonstrations: make cheese, bread, granola

Ongoing slide shows

Nutrition booth

Conflict resolution workshop

Soup kitchen, Hog farm, Community for Creative Non-violence in D.C.

Altering community economics

Michael Linton (LETS founder) barter systems

Single Tax Foundation; A benefit for IRS

Grants workshop

Tides foundation

New Games; Comedy hour with Joe Peterson

Literature display, videos, souvenirs

Have in National forest

Resource center

Unmatched socks booth - community clothes

Sell third world products: Co-op America, The Farm, Jubilee Partners

Native American land tenure workshop

Take over small city (Rajneeshpuram? 100 Mile House? Indian reservation(Warm Springs)?)

Hold in July or August

Bank of copy machines

Caravans to the fair

Parade; Funky People's March

Volleyball, baseball, sweat lodges, hot tubs, massage booths, drumming, fire circles

Hutterites, Catholic groups, historic communal orders

National Endowment for Humanities funding?

Hold it at New Harmony

Survey readers of directory (removable survey)

Seek expertise from groups who regularly do large events (Nat'l Health Federation)

Bill Graham, Community Aid Concert

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Ram Dass, Wavy Gravy, Greatful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Ken Kesey and his bus

Emphasize diversity

Work study options? we'll need lots of help (ask women's conference people,

Hog Farm, Oregon Country Fair)

Map showing community locations

Have it in the UN building

Must be accessible; shuttle from airport?

### Discussion of Brainstorming:

Prepare preliminary paper for next board meeting? Organization. Time line. Size. Financial

Are we ready to put a survey sheet in the Directory? Yes.

Bob: put FIC application on back of it.

Geoph: uneasy about event of a scale of 10,000-20,000; logistics are awesome at that scale.

Joe: offer opportunity for local building/ housing resources to provide facilities. Danger if lopsided balance of images presented. Appeal to vanity of groups, let them offer workshops.

Caroline: main consideration is enough lead time.

Geoph: rather start smaller, grow into a big event.

Joe: consider doing regional gatherings first, on both coasts. Next one might be the national (international) one, in the midwest. Could do a pilot, maybe pick a facility and limit participation to that spot's capacity.

Caroline: consider options for attendance of 250/2,000/10,000

Laird: requests having whatever report committee creates in hand by April 1, 1989 so it will be on agenda for spring meeting.

Dan: can also distribute to "hot prospects".

Joe: should do questionnaire in the directory to test interest.

Laird: gets better response if it's a tear-out

Several: Do a notice to stay a permanent part of the Directory; also do an insert that readers can mail back.

Bob: Get help from major magazines like New Age, Mother Jones (free ads in exch. for booth?)

Joe: seek endorsing groups: NHCSA, various communities,

**Task :** Committee of Joe, Caroline, Betty, Arun will do a rough draft notice for the Directory presenting the idea of a National Conference, requesting feedback -"A call to the celebration of community" The committee is asked to have a preliminary report on proposals and recommendations for community conferences, looking at the possibility of regional gatherings as a precursor to a large national conference/gathering.

**Task:** If people round up endorsements to include in the notices, mail them to Joe.

### FACILITATION RESOURCE SERVICE:

Laird: Many groups need some effective facilitation (or conflict resolution, mediation, arbitration, or other areas of expertise). Suggests we talk Caroline & Alpha into being coordinator of resource referrals for groups who have realized they need help. Doesn't involve much money or labor, but would be a valuable service.

Caroline: Would like to discuss this at greater length.

Laird: Would also need some sort of a form or list or something to send answer to inquiries.



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Caroline: also need an article on "process in community" in the Directory. North American Assoc of Mediators meeting next year-she should go if this is evolving.

Betty: Would potential article solicit both facilitators and clients? [yes] What kind of screening and "accrediting" process for the facilitators?

Caroline: Now knows 2 to 40 people who could do a good job, varying with the particular need. We do need to be very careful at the beginning.

Laird: Maybe we need to develop a follow up questionnaire to screen potential facilitators.

Caroline: ...and would also require references.

*[Continued...]*

Joe: My experience is that most groups who come are looking for initial guidance and encouragement, and to focalize the vision (the presence of someone who has been tested and has persevered is often the key spark)

Betty: Sees three major needs for help: 1)help for start-up groups, 2)assistance in facilitation, 3)crisis and pre-crisis intervention/help.

Caroline: Worry not to bite off more than we can chew (and do well). We might not yet be at that point.

Caroline: concern is mostly that the people with these skills are already heavily committed, and it would be tough for their communities to free them up for more work like this.

Geoph: Wants to channel CCP funds (when they materialize) to travel expenses for facilitators.

Betty: Geoph can be gathering a lot of these resources as he goes (both for skilled people and groups who could use services) .

Caroline: Alpha would have some extra cash maybe two years down the road and would much prefer to invest in community support work than other kinds of things.

Laird: same is true at Sandhill.

Joe: Scott Peck's group is already offering similar kind of stuff and none of their therapists have any experience whatsoever actually living in communities. There is also a real need for affirmations for groups that have failed (they really don't fail, actually).

A fascinating discussion ensued, focused a lot around Joe's research on folks who have left community, and about the nitty gritty real-life basics of community, purpose, support, basic needs, commitment, expectations, the "forseeable future", founders, elders, and —wow... did we wax eloquent! Too bad for all those who went to bed before 10:00pm.

**Agreed:** The FIC supports the establishment of a continental clearing house for facilitation/mediation. Caroline will coordinate it provided Alpha agrees to support it (likely). **Task:** Laird and Caroline will be committee to draft something for the Directory.

### **Sunday, Sept 24 Morning Session**

#### **REVIEW STEFAN'S PROPOSAL** [See attached proposal.]

Because of other projects we have taken on at this time, Stephan presented this idea as a possibility of something we might like to consider in the future. Idea would be very appropriate in the bioregional context. We suggested connecting with others who are

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doing work in the same areas such as Michael Linton of LETS (Local Exchange Trade System), and Bob Swann of ICE (Institute for Community Economics) and gave ideas for ways he could stimulate people in a presentation.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHART** [presented by Laird]

Executive Board functions: (at least 3 members, appointed by Board)

- presentation of state of FIC at each Board meeting
- decision making between meetings
- overseeing task management
- creation of proposed meeting agendas
- coordinate invitations to board meetings
- responsibility for minute taking at meeting
- copy of all Executive Committee correspondence to Sec'y

*[Continued...]*

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### Administrative Chart (Continued)

#### Secretary

- list of current membership
- keep track of flow of correspondence, internal and external
- coordinate all logistics at meeting sites
- keep archives
- dissemination of official information (minutes, proposals, mtg. info, etc)
- billing for dues

#### Treasurer

- accounting (disbursements and implementation of fund investments)
- records of dues
- identifying potential cash flow difficulties
- reporting of finances

### FIC HEADQUARTERS

Dan proposed that initially we view ourselves as not having a national headquarters. If we are doing correspondence, use our own addresses.

We discussed pros and cons of needing stable permanent address now that we will be putting out information about membership and a conference which might generate a large volume of correspondence.

Suggestion: Center for Communal Studies (CCS), through Don Pitzer handle the correspondence.

With increased work load that it would bring there, they would probably be able to get more funding.

Questions: Do we want to move it from Stelle? If so, where do we want to move it?

Suggestions: Leave it at Stelle, through the Directory publishing process, re-evaluate later.

We need to look at the function to make a decision rather than the person.

Move it to Sandhill because that is where the Secretary function is now.

If we end up co-publishing *Communities* it may be important to separate magazine correspondence from administrative mail. Now both have Stelle addresses.

Suggestion: Use a mail service which would give a permanent address (we need one). We could have mail forwarded to whomever is fulfilling the function.

Geoph: in principle, prefers having mail go to one of our communities rather than CCS.

Concern about using phone number on brochure. Do we need a phone number? Should we use CCS to answer phone? Neutrality is important to us.

**Agreed:** That the FIC headquarters be moved from Stelle as presently on our brochure, and approach Don Pitzer to see if CCS is willing to handle our mail through a post box in Evansville.

**Task:** Joe agreed to approach Don and to report the outcome to Laird.

**Task:** Laird agreed to check with Sandhill about their willingness to be listed as our mailing address and telephone number.

Suggestion: that Community Service, Inc. be the center. They have full time secretary and are dealing with inquiries of this nature already.

**Agreed:** Resolution of this entire issue is deferred to the executive committee, with Suzanne also interested in being a part of the decision.

**Task:** If CCS is willing to act as central clearing house for us, Laird will communicate with them as to the details. If they are not willing, Laird will communicate with the executive committee and Suzanne as to an interim decision for a limited reprint of the brochure with a temporary new address.

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### CPC CONTRACT

Clarified what our board wanted to know from Laird - details of final budget and accounting procedures as expressed in #1 and 2. We feel comfortable leaving Laird to deal with the elements of the negotiation.

Delete second sentence of #1.

Inclusion in #2 - "and reporting to their boards the final budget proposal."

**Agreed:** Adopt the contract agreement with these changes. [SEE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT]

**Agreed:** Laird will draft cover letter and many of us would like to sign it.

### DIRECTORY (III): Page 5 of Questionnaire

David is concerned about our process in creating the questionnaire. It was sent out before anyone had seen rough draft. He has some disagreement with its tone in places - for example, the last sentence of introductory paragraph (sentence which is underlined). Would rather have it come from a place of abundance and excitement and opportunity, rather than tone of demanding participation. Others agreed. Some say however, that we do not see ourselves as successful and it showed.

Suggestion that our initial Directory be a relatively less expensive "magazine" edition. Depending on sales and income from the less expensive edition, we could do a second or third run of stiff-spine "trade" paperback.

Suggestion: Create a tear-out form for the directory, so that communities not listed have a way to submit their information for the next directory, and so communities can update their info.

Do we want to do another draft of questionnaire which has a more enthusiastic "tone" — to be sent to new people added to the list.

Suggestion: In second edition, have new community listings as an addendum in the "trade" edition, so new layout does not have to be done.

How do we set up a mechanism to get feedback from others without strapping Laird from moving forward? Suggestion - a small committee for Laird to check in with. Copies of preliminary draft to be sent out to committee members, with a short deadline for feedback to Laird. FEEDBACK, NOT APPROVAL, is the essence of the process. We recognize there will be a 2 week delay for each document that goes through this process.

**Task:** Laird will send copies of the revised letters (soliciting communities listings and feedback) to David, Suzanne, Dan, Geoph, and Arun. The inclusion of suggestions will rest with Laird's discretion.

### **Sunday, Sept. 24 Afternoon Session**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shiloh site is for sale. Worth between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. Can be bought now for \$200,000 cash — to retire existing liens against the property. It is a center which can house up to 200 people. 30 buildings. Property tax is about \$25,000/yr. if not owned by a tax exempt group. Formally one of most popular retreat centers of Lane county. 30 miles east of Eugene. Long communal history. Contact Joe.

NHCSA Pacific Coast Chapter, annual meeting is May 12-13, 1989 in Eugene. Theme: Founders and Followers. For more info, contact Joe.

Remember: Send changes on "dirty" Communities mailing list to Laird within the next 2 weeks. Looking for addresses to promote *Skipping Stones* - magazine by and for children. Contact Arun.

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### DIRECTORY (IV)

Do we want to put out an interim effort first, to stimulate a more complete and thorough one? Use it as a source of funding for a more professional looking larger edition.? Might mean we would not need to raise as much front money or take out loan for the big edition (which is on the scale of what we are planning to produce at this point)

Laird feels that in considering overall costs of a smaller edition, we would not provide as much an economic advantage as we are thinking.

We do not have enough financial information (potential income, current funds on hand, and detailed budget for a preliminary smaller edition) to make an intelligent decision.

Put out a listing directory now and a more in-depth larger issue just prior to the big conference we're planning. Do a smaller edition now.

Concern that to put off the larger issue (to coincide with the conference) might mean that it would never come out. It might be difficult to light the fire under us a second time. The energy has been drawn together now for an edition.

Laird - If we put out what we have now, it is mostly CPC's work and we would not be in much of a position to share in the project. I question whether we can regenerate the momentum later. We were looking at this as a signature first project for FIC - this fact may or may not make a difference

David: On a run of 5,000 — with a similar number of pages — a magazine format would run about \$.75 per copy as compared to \$1.00 for a trade copy format.

**Agreed:** If money is available to print a "trade" bound edition, we would prefer to have that. If money is not available, we want to publish magazine edition first — to stay more within our financial means.

### BY-LAWS ADDITION

Proposed change to raise maximum number of board members to 15 or 18. We do not have a quorum present, so we are not empowered at this time to modify the upper limit (now 12).

Rational for expanding - David: Need to look at function of the board, the executive committee, our broader membership, etc. Are we loading it top heavy?

Dan - we are seeking wider representation, i.e. Christian communities, people of color etc. Yet we value who is already on board. To the extent we expand the board, the executive committee becomes more important.

### BOARD VACANCY:

Nominated to fill vacancy: Betty Didcoct, Geoph Kozeny, Joe Peterson, Arun Toké

Suggestion: Select some alternates so that if another vacancy occurs, there is a person who can fill position.

It is important that Board members attend meetings, making travel expenses an issue; therefore we want to continue to seek funds for travel expenses to be able to subsidize at least one board member's travel between the coasts for board meetings. We recognize that some board members can afford go to other coast without subsidy; we would still seek funding for an additional person's travel.

We desire to expand board representation to include wider community networks (like the Christian communities), to have more female representation, and to include people of color.

**Agreed:** Select Betty now to fill the current vacancy, and hold Joe, Arun and Geoph (in that order) as alternates. As vacancies occur, alternates will be elevated to full Board membership status, and serve out the remaining term of that vacancy.

We want to assure that a quorum will be present at the next Board meeting so that we can legally modify Bylaws should the Board come to agreement.

### PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES (For next Board meeting):

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- 1) Consider expanding Board size to 15 or 18.
- 2) If board member is absent from 2 consecutive Bd. mtgs, they lose their place on the Board.
- 3) If unable to attend, a Board member may instead send a letter requesting that an alternate Board member act in his/her place.
- 4) Board members may participate by telephone in making decisions requiring a quorum.

**NEXT MEETING: Shannon Farm, Afton, VA,  
Thurs, April 27 — Sat, April 29, 1989.**

Board members are encouraged to arrive on Wednesday and stay Saturday night for celebration. Executive meeting on Wednesday, April 26. Try to schedule CESCO meeting for that Sunday. There is an open invitation from Shannon for participants to stay over Monday and Tuesday.

**FIC PAMPHLET:** Geoph has offered his computer. Print on laser, we can send master to whomever wants it; they can make their own copies for distribution.

**Task:** Laird and Caroline will adjust text and send to Dan for approval.

**DON PITZER'S BOOK:** Encyclopedia of 20th century communities. Looking for an author to write a chapter on history of FIC.

**Task:** Geoph will collaborate with Dan to write chapter on FIC history for Don Pitzer book.

**ART'S LETTER:** A letter to Art from the board will be accompanied by the letter to communities [see attached] a few days prior to sending out the letter to the communities.

**Task:** Dan and Suzanne will create the cover letter to Art while at 100 Mile house; Dave will check, Caroline will be phoned before letter sent.

**TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING:**

- Discussion about Board of Director
- Increase in Board size
- By-Laws Revision
- FIC Pamphlet

**EVALUATION:** Good on left, Need Improvement on Right

Joe's sense of humor	timekeeper next time
spirit and dedication of people here	more sharing in the "in-between" time, facilitation
leave more time for business	
hosting from Alpha	in meeting
excellent food	need to address quorum problems
our openness and straightforwardness	lacked music
lots accomplished	difficulty with people coming late or high level of
engagement, nothing	leaving early
left unsaid, candidness	food was too good
immediate availability of minutes	didn't have enough good breaks, or
relaxed flowing atmosphere at Alpha	didn't utilize them physically
having Mac (computer) present	more physical activity (hikes,
new people fit right in (at full speed)	massage, yoga etc)
impressed with quality of new people	tentative agenda & written proposals held interest
need to be available ahead of time	
have confirmed our continental aspirations	need more proposal work done in advance
inclusion of people from outside	of meeting, presented in written opportunity for
personal sharing	form

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was easy for new people to fit in

**[CLOSING CIRCLE AND SONG]**