

Weston Medlock

Your occupation: Administrative Coordinator

Your education: B.A., Sustainable Development

Previous Board of Directors or related experience: Transition Blue Ridge & Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado and current DNF Board Vice President

I first fell in love with cooperatives during my time earning a BA in Sustainable Development, studying alternative economies. What I found most fascinating was the methodology of redistributing decision making and creating a democratic “horizontal power-structure”. I am an idealist and giving the power of food back to the people is something that our societies desperate need.

I have served on the DNF Board for 10 months and was appointed Vice President. I have volunteered hundreds of hours since I have served on the Board and hope to serve many more. During my time with the DNF Board, I was a part of the annual strategic planning in the Fall of 2019, assisted organizing the DNF Annual Meeting and Celebration for 2020, and have conducted outreach opportunities with Fort Lewis College. To ensure that I never become a remote and absent Board member, I always make a conscience and consistent effort to talk directly with DNF staff, managers, and GM to develop relationships and make meaningful, personal connections.

I have been involved with local food systems for several years, participating with local food insecurity assessments, nonprofits, CSA's, local food distribution, and composting systems. I currently serve on the Core Team for The Good Food Collective to assess food insecure populations and implement solution-based initiatives to increase local production and access to equitable food. I also serve on the Board of the Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado where we host Durango's monthly Green Drinks, advocate for renewable energy solutions for LPEA and the City of Durango and assist with various sustainability initiatives with local nonprofits.

Speaking from experience and observation, the DNF Board is comprised of committed and passionate individuals that give a tremendous amount of time serving its Member-Owners and ensuring that we uphold cooperative principles. However, moving forward I believe that the

DNF Board could improve its committee structures to consistently align with our strategic planning goals and serve as the framework of how the Board finds each solution. In addition, while the governance committee is currently working to revise the DNF bylaws, there is still a lot of work to be done updating the old bylaws and ensuring that they are clear, relevant, and timeless. Lastly, I personally desire to encourage and facilitate times where the Board can come together for more informal gatherings to simply build upon our relationships and reinstate some of the comradery principles that co-ops are founded upon.

I would be honored to have your vote, and I hope to continue serving DNF's Member-Owners, the staff, the GM and our local farmers that we so desperately rely on.