



Food System Committee

Wednesday March 24th, 2021

3:30-5 PM

Go To Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
	Export Sales Farming	
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
	Fishing	
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	X
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	
Austin Hengy	Labor	
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	X
	Whatcom Food Network	

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:33

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Welcome and Introductions of new member

Nikki and Austin were approved by the Council on 3/23. Nikki is the Director of Operations at the Non-GMO project. She will serve as the Processing and Distribution representative. She mentioned that the Non-GMO project is looking to expand certification to soil health and biodiversity. Austin, not present, is an employee in a restaurant and also owns a small farm. He will serve as the labor representative on the committee.

Approval of minutes

Krista moved to approve, Margaret seconded, all approved.

Public Comment

None.

Letter to Council Update

Riley will present to Council on April 6 at the Public Works and Health Committee. Ali will update the time when it is finalized. Ali will also prep Riley for any questions that may come up.

Timeline and Next Steps

The group discussed the process of reviewing the different sectors within the CFA and ultimately agreed that they wanted to have a complete draft to share with SMEs and community groups. Due to gaps in committee membership, some sectors may not have as many interviews. The group determined how they could get more input from sectors that have had vacancies:

- Ali and Riley will break up some of the fishing industry Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on the initial list of people to interview and reach out to interview folks.
- Krista will email the Whatcom Commercial Fisherman's Association about the vacant fishing sector seat.
- Maureen had done several interviews with laborers. Ali will compile the notes and ask for Community 2 Community Development to review those notes and make sure they reflect Maureen's work accurately.
- Austin can review the labor section too and identify any gaps.
- For export farming, export farmers will be asked to review the CFA and comment on it, paying particular attention to the farming, land, and water sections.

The group discussed how feedback would be gathered in a review of the CFA. Riley suggested having some broad questions: 1) Is this information accurate? 2) Did we miss something important? 3) Other notes?

Ali will also look to other Food Policy Councils/ groups who have created Food System Plans and ask the process for how to go from assessment to plan.

Ali brought up other groups' Assessments, such as the Climate Impact Advisory Committee Report. The group discussed how we can incorporate those findings into our CFA/FSP.

Krista suggested the group simultaneously draft the Food System Plan while completing the assessment. She suggested there be a template in Google Drive, using other Food System Plans. The group can use the initial discussion about other Food System Plans to inform this template.

Indicators from Previous CFA

The Whatcom Food Network's 2017 Community Food Assessment included [indicators over time](#). Ali asked if the group wanted to keep these. The group decided to keep these and Ali would send updated information she has available. The group will revisit these indicators and set goals for FSP.

Next Meeting is April 28th from 3:30-5pm. Meeting Adjourned at 4:30pm.