



Food System Committee

Wednesday August 4th, 2021

4-5 PM

Go To Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Ander Russell, Whatcom Food Network; Astrid Newell, WCHD.

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 4:02

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Krista moved to approve, Nikki seconded, all approved.

Public Comment

Ali told the group there is a lot of focus on food security in the context of COVID recovery. The group discussed focusing some attention on that.

Ander joined and gave a brief update on the Whatcom Food Network, which met last month to plan out the future of the network.

Next steps for the CFA Update

Ali shared the comments from SMEs. She will send a small section to Margaret about the ag sector. The group agreed to remove the "opportunities" from the CFA and incorporate it into the Food System Plan.

The group discussed soliciting public feedback and decided to publish the report and ask for feedback on September 1st. The public comment period will last through September. Ali and Riley will work on a

press release and each member of the committee will send to community groups for review. The group will agree upon a clean copy .

Crossover from the Climate Action Plan

Ali shared some of the information from the Climate Action Plan that pertains to the food system. Ander had also read the CAP and noted that much of the elements of the CAP are relevant and should be included in the food system plan. Nikki said there should be a huge focus on climate change in our food system plan. The group agreed the Climate Action Plan was a great document that already laid a lot of the groundwork/ established process for our plan.

Next Steps for Food System Plan and Public Process

The group agreed to hire a consultant to facilitate the process from public input to draft of food system plan. Ali will provide a draft scope of work and solicit cost estimates from consultants. The next meeting, we will review this SOW. Astrid noted that this is a good time to make a budget request and Krista mentioned that October would be a good time to ask Council for the funding. Riley mapped out a timeline, citing January as a time for the RFQ to go out and a consultant hired by March. In the meantime, the FSC can work on a plan for soliciting public feedback.

Another topic of discussion was recruitment. Understanding summer is a challenging time for most, there should be a big member recruitment effort in the fall.

Next Meeting is September 1st from 5:00-6:00pm. Meeting Adjourned at 5:05.