



Food System Committee

Wednesday January 29th, 2020

3:30-5 PM

Health Department

1500 State Street Suite 201

Bellingham

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Jon Maberry	Export Sales Farming	X
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Kendall Whitney	Fishing	X
Adrienne Renz	Processing/Distribution	x
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Maureen Darras	Labor	X
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	X (Phone)
Mardi Solomon	Whatcom Food Network	X

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 4:05

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Adrienne moved to approve September minutes; Amber seconded. Group approved. Jon abstained.

Public Comment

None

Subject Review: Consumption

Mardi introduced the Community Food Assessment (CFA) history. It started in 2009 by WSU extension. The initial CFA took 2 years to complete. Subsequent follow-ups were in 2013, 2015, and 2017, which can be found on the Whatcom Food Network's Website: www.whatcomfoodnetwork.org. The Food System Committee will be updating the CFA to inform the Food System Plan.

Riley and Amber presented the findings of their Consumption interviews. They had also reviewed the Consumption section of the 2017 CFA. Some of the highlights of their interviews include the following:

- New School Backpack programs for children

- Food Deserts were brought up often
- The County could waive fees for new grocery retail in food deserts
- Mobile grocery delivery was a popular recommendation
- Good Samaritan laws for donating food
- Shared processing facilities
- Food education
- FINI (Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program) grants were great for incentivizing produce consumption for SNAP recipients.

The group decided they may need a different metric for food insecurity, other than “Food Deserts” (a USDA designation.)

The group decided to use the existing CFA categories (Key Developments, Challenges, Opportunities, and Collaborations) and add sections for Lessons Learned and Recommendations. Some institutions were missing from the original Consumption section, such as schools and hospitals.

Ali will add these findings to the old CFA as a means of updating.

Review Timeline

The group reviewed the updated timeline from November. Mardi led a discussion about filling in the old CFA elements (Key Developments, Challenges, Opportunities, and Collaborations). Ali will create a template for each member to organize their interview notes and send to the group. For the next three months, FSC members will continue interviews, glean information from interviews and put them in the template, then present their findings to the rest of the Committee. The month assignments are as follows:

February- Adrienne and Krista

March- Margaret and Mardi

April- Kendall, Jon, and Maureen

The process moving forward will be to send the sector summary draft to different SMEs (those who have been interviewed and other networks (such as the Whatcom Food Network)).

Announcements

Feb. 10 C2C’s Annual Farmworker Tribunal in Olympia. Farmworkers give testimony. 4:30-6:30 in WA State Supreme Court building.

Farmworker picked up by ICE recently. He is in NW Detention Center.

WA Supreme Court case to extend overtime to farm workers. This would have a big impact if it passed.