



Food System Committee

Wednesday August 10, 2022

4:45-6:15 PM

Zoom and in-person

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	X
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Sean Hopps	Labor	X
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	X
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen	Whatcom Food Network	X
Paul Burrill	Fishing	X
	Export Sales Farming	

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors: Eloi Roshon, WCHD; Kamea Black, WFN.

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 4:50pm

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum.

Approval of minutes

Krista made a motion to approve; Paul seconded. All Approved.

Public Comment

None

Synthesis: Survey, preliminary review of community engagement events

Ali provided an overview of the survey results:

-227 respondents

-70% consumers

-90% white

Goals, ranked:

1. Build a resilient and vibrant economy
2. Protect and regenerate our soil, water and land
3. Ensure access to healthy food for all
4. Adapt our community food system to a change...

5. Cultivate equity and justice

The team discussed changing the order in which these goals are presented, based on the survey results and decided to wait until the next round of community engagement.

Ali then provided an overview of the Community engagement events. There were 9 events and a handful of interviews conducted by folks like Sean and Riley. Of the 9 events, 136 people participated.

Marine Resources Committee	<10
Birchwood International Market	10
WFN Virtual Event Goal: Cultivate Equity and Justice	27 +
Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee	8
Restaurant Worker Focus Group	10
WFN Virtual Event Environmental Goals	7
WFN In-person event Shuksan	45
Whatcom Pride	<10
Farmers event	9
Total: 9	136

Reflections and Next Steps for synthesis

Synthesis of the survey open-response questions, notes from the community engagement events, and information from the Community Food Assessment will inform the food system plan. The draft objective and actions will be available for the committee on September 2, ahead of the 9/7 committee meeting.

In September and October, there will be a second survey, which will ask respondents to reflect on the actions and objectives and rank them. In November, we will incorporate that feedback into the food system plan draft.

In December, food system committee members will work on advocating for food system plan adoption.

The group discussed which groups have been missing and how we can reach them in the community engagement in the fall.

The County Council will decide to adopt the plan based on two factors: what is in the plan and what level of community engagement was put into it.

Whatcom County comprehensive plan update is kicking off and the food system plan is slated to be a part of that.

Eileen shared that in addition to having the community rank goals and objectives, we are going to need to do a lot of wordsmithing.

Wrap-Up, Determine Next Meeting(s)

Next meeting- September 7th from 5-6:30 pm.

Adjourned at 6:07.