



Food System Committee

Wednesday, February 20th, 2019

4:00-5:00 PM

Whatcom County Health Department

1500 State Street #201

Bellingham, WA 98225

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Andy Enfield	Export Sales Farming	X
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Riley Starks	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
Mardi Solomon	Whatcom Food Network	X

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD; Emily West, WCHD

Call to order: Ali Jensen called the group to order at 4:03pm

Welcome and Introductions:

The group introduced themselves and answered what they would like to contribute to the committee and what they hope to gain from the committee:

Introduction to the Food System:

The group reviewed a PowerPoint presentation about the Food System, a Community Food Assessment, and what the Food System Committee will accomplish.

The Food System Sectors include:

- Food Production (farming, fishing)
- Processing/Distribution (grocery retail, food distributors)
- Consumption (nutrition, food access)
- Natural Resources (land, water, environment)
- Labor (farm workers, grocery workers, restaurant workers)

The Food Committee Members intentionally represent these sectors. The committee was also set-up to have one person from the Whatcom Food Network.

The Community Food Assessment will inform a Food System Plan which is the main goal of this committee. A Food System Plan outlines a path for community stakeholders to create a more

sustainable and just food system. Each sector will have goals, strategies, and targets that will lead to healthy people, healthy economies, healthy workforce, and healthy environments.

Adopt Business Rules and Procedures:

The committee reviewed outlines on the expectations for committee members, the function of the committee, and the roles of the officers. The meeting scheduling and process was addressed; the ordinance states that the committee must meet quarterly. The session must be open to the public and the session must be reported to the Whatcom County Council. All meetings will have minutes that are voted on, approved, and then posted the Website.

Discussion on thoughts/concerns:

- Would the open session be at the beginning of the meeting?
 - It makes more sense for the public comment to be at the beginning of meetings in case people need to leave.
- Can the Tribal Acknowledgment be changed from being an expression of gratitude for indigenous stewardship to an actual commitment of our shared responsibilities of that stewardship?
 - Change the language to “it will be opened by a tribal acknowledgement such as the following.” This way it can be amended in the future.
- Roberts Rules of Order is not very accessible to the farmworker community if they were to participate in a committee like this going forward. It doesn’t feel like an organic conversation.
 - I wonder if there is a different approach and if we could be intentional about working on finding a different approach.
 - Roberts Rules can be nice for comparable committees because the minutes look the same and you have the motions.
 - Ali will research if County Committees are required to use Roberts Rules.

Motion: Motion to approve the rules and procedures with the amendment of “meetings will be opened with a tribal land acknowledgement such as the following” and keeping Roberts Rules of order with the intention to look at alternative methods and whether it is a requirement of the County.

Motioned to accept: Krista

Seconded: Riley Sw.

All in favor: Aye, 9; Opposed, 0; Abstain, 0.

Elections of Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, and Alternate Secretary:

The committee reviewed the roles of Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, and Alternate Secretary.

Motion: Krista nominated Riley Sweeney for Chair; Seconded by Mardi.

Aye, 8; Opposed; 0, Abstain, 1.

Motion: Riley Sw. nominated Maureen for Co-Chair; Seconded by Krista.

Aye, 8; Opposed; 0, Abstain, 1.

Motion: Riley St. nominated Mardi for Secretary; Seconded by Riley Sw.

Aye, 8; Opposed; 0, Abstain, 1.

Motion: Mardi nominated Krista for Alternate Secretary, Seconded by Maureen.

Aye, 8; Opposed; 0, Abstain, 1.

Assignment of Homework and Next Meeting:

The group discussed meeting schedules being longer than an hour but no longer than two hours and what day's work best.

- Doodle Poll to be sent out for the third Tuesday/Wednesday and hours between 4-6pm for 90 minutes.

Homework: Each committee member will read a food system plan and answer some questions on the plan to present to the group at the next meeting.

Upcoming events:

- Western Libraries, Western Center for Community Learning and the Volunteer Center of Whatcom County is hosting a community gathering on equity food systems on Tuesday February 26 at 4pm at the Bellingham Food Bank. There is an RSVP required by Friday February 22.
- On March 18 there is a Farmworker Tribunal in Olympia. This is a space where workers can come forward and share testimony on their experiences working the food system. A panel of trusted judges that will issue a verdict and the policy ideas that come forward from the tribunal will be championed in Olympia for the rest of the year.

Public Comment:

Rosalinda wanted to extend congratulation on formation of this Food Systems Committee and is very excited to help. These are difficult for workers that do not know these processes and systems. This is a prohibitive process for workers. They will try and be as participatory in this plan as much as possible.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm