



Food System Committee

Wednesday January 27th, 2021

3:30-5 PM

Go To Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:32

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Edit made to the December minutes to change “voices will be left out” to “voices may unintentionally be left out.” Margaret moved to pass, Krista seconded. All approved.

Public Comment

Astrid Newell, from WCHD, listened in to learn how she can support staff.

Nicki Olsen is interested in the work of the FSC and how she might be of service in the future.

Susan Kopicki volunteers for C2C and is listening in.

Suneeta Eisenberg is seeing how the work of the FSC is relevant to Whatcom Community College. She asked if there was student engagement as part of the FSC.

Community Food Assessment Update

Group reviewed Consumption, Land, and Processing/Distribution sector summaries. Highlights from the discussion:

- The Consumption section was divided into three sections: Food Access, Retail/Wholesale, and Food and Nutrition Education.

- The group discussed the overlap in the Consumption summary and the Processing and Distribution summary and decided to include some things in the P/D summary only, while keeping a couple of things in both and describing how those projects fit into that specific sector.
- Processing and Distribution will be separated within the summary, much like the disaggregation in the consumption sector. The group agreed to highlight the lack of updates in this summary- which will inform the Food Plan.
- Margaret mentioned that Twin Sisters and Birchwood Farmers Market merger was independent of the large USDA grant they received.
- The Land Summary looks good.

Next Steps:

- Members of the group can continue using the “Suggestion Mode” in google docs.
- Ali will update summaries and bring them back. Mardi offered to review summaries for consistent language.
- Margaret will present on local sales farming and waste sectors next time.
- Ali will compile the labor interviews Maureen had done and provide a summary to the new labor rep. Everyone (including new labor rep) will have access to the interviews Maureen did. They are on the drive.
- Involve new committee members in the interview process.
- Ali will write up the COVID section.
- Group agreed that if there is a disagreement anywhere in the Plan or the Assessment, there can be a minority opinion included in the final draft.

Timeline

Group approved timeline change to shift it by one year.

Membership

- Still need a WFN rep to replace Mardi
- Suneeta and Nikki applied for the Committee- same position

Values Statement

The group initially talked about values in 2019. They determined 6 values: Equity, Ecological Stewardship, Thriving Local Economy, Access, Food Sovereignty, and Worker Justice. Next steps/feedback:

- Revise the Equity statement- Ali will look at other Food System Plans to find a more appropriate equity definition.
- Slight revisions to thriving economy and ecological stewardship.
- Food Access: everyone has access to nutritious, affordable food.
- Food Sovereignty definition is the official definition, so keep it as-is.
- Ali will continue to update value statements in google doc. People can edit.

Wrap Up

- Group wants to send a nudge letter to Whatcom County Council to get some action on the recommendations for immediate action.
- Riley will draft a follow-up letter to Council. Group wants to send a letter within the next couple of months. Riley and Ali will share/get buy-in from Whatcom Food Network. Riley, as chair, will appear before Whatcom County Council for status report before June.
- Any Food System Committee member can write to the Council as a citizen and member of the committee, but cannot speak on behalf of the committee.
- Barry Buchanan will be a good Council contact for moving recommendation letter forward.

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 24th from 3:30-5pm on Go to Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm.