



Food System Committee

Wednesday October 20, 2021

3:30-5:30 PM

Go To Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

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

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

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:35.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Nikki made a motion to approve; Krista seconded. all approved.

Public Comment

None

CFA comments and next steps

The [Community Food Assessment update](#) is published on the food system committee page. Ali walked the group through the comments (7) from members of the public. Most edits were straight forward, while a few required more robust review.

A conversation around positive health and environmental impacts of organic farming was had in response to a CFA comment by Whatcom Family Farmers. Nikki and Krista agreed to review the language in the CFA, specifically around soil health. Ander pointed out that soil health was prominent throughout the Climate Action Plan. The two plans should be aligned.

Community to Community and IWF provided a thoughtful review of the CFA. They called on the committee to highlight the impacts of structural racism in the food system. The committee agreed to add information about structural racism in three sections of the CFA: Food access, land access, and the

COVID section, as well as focus the food system plan on structural racism. They also pointed out that all of the collaborations throughout the document were among white-led organizations. It is possible this group is missing organizations led by People of Color. Ali will ask if there are specific groups to include.

Ali will incorporate edits and bring back to the group for final approval in December meeting.

Consultant Review

Ali shared specific information about the consultants she interviewed. The group agreed having demonstrated equity and justice work is high priority. Ali will reach out to top 3 consultants to ask for examples of food system plans as well as their justice and equity process.

Request: Food Security Assessment

There was a discussion about doing a more in-depth review of the impacts of COVID-19 on the food system. This was a request from the Health Department. The committee decided they did not want to spend resources and energy on a COVID assessment, as this would detract from energy focused on building out the food system plan. The committee also pointed out that the issues in the food system are not because of COVID, but were exacerbated by COVID and that the food system planning process will identify those issues and will work to address them.

Next steps

Ali will reach out to consultants for examples of work. She will also present to Council on behalf of the Committee to ask them to approve the budget request for the consultant. The Committee will vote on CFA finalization approval next meeting.

Riley will have a baby!

Next Meeting December 1st 3:30-5. Meeting adjourned at: 5:33