



Food System Committee

Wednesday May 4, 2022

3:30-5:00 PM

Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	
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	
	Export Sales Farming	
	Fishing	

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors, Isaac Nicholl, WCHD; Laura Ridenour, WFN; other members of the public.

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:31.

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum.

Approval of minutes

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

Public Comment

None

Regional Food System Partnership Grant

Laura Ridenour reported out on the status of this grant proposal. The purpose of the grant is to carry out the implementation of the food system plan. There have been four community meetings and Laura is coalescing the findings from those meetings into a proposal and budget. She will share out at the next Food System Committee meeting.

Racial Equity Guide Report

Ali shared the timeline for community engagement, as context for the racial equity tools presented.

Isaac Nicholl shared four racial equity tools:

- Michigan State University Metrics - has 86 different metrics for how to evaluate racial inequities in the food system. Centered around 4 themes, with metric, description, example, scale, and data type
- Food System Racial Equity Assessment (FSREA) - operationalizes inclusion of racial equity principles into planning processes. Defines goals by draft objectives and actions.
- Washington State Food Policy Forum Equity Filter - seven-question policy filter; doesn't involve community feedback or input.
- Minnesota Food Charter Self Assessment - chart with questions for local, state, and community-based organizations and institutions as a way of framing racial equity mindset.

He also offered some other opportunities:

- Create a racial justice sub-committee to evaluate the impacts of proposed actions and objectives.
- Prioritization of engaging and fostering relationships with key stakeholders and populations.

The committee reflected on the tools. They are not interested in a subcommittee. They feel that ensuring voices are at the table is the best approach. There was discussion of the importance of engaging with grassroots organizations and community leaders.

Survey Adoption

The group reviewed the survey. Sean recommends pulling Goal #1 example objectives and group agrees. There was also an issue with the survey looping at Goal #4. The group agreed the survey needs to be available in multiple languages: Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, and Punjabi.

For next steps, Ali will review and edit the objective examples and will send out an updated survey for the group review. She will send out a toolkit for sharing the survey communication and community engagement.

Community Engagement Sign-ups

Ali shared community engagement options and associated tools:

- Send survey to contacts - email(s) to community survey
- Post survey on social media - social media post ideas
- Post survey on website
- Present to stakeholders/existing meetings - email(s) to community survey, discussion guide(s)
- Host a group conversation - email(s) to community survey, discussion guide(s)
- Join an existing event - email(s) to community survey, discussion guide(s)

The group discussed the engagement and timeline (proposed earlier in the meeting). Krista recommended fall sessions with community members who are not available to participate in summer survey and engagement sessions. Laura recommended a fun and joyful engagement, which could be possible even in the summer with workers who are extra busy in the summer. Eileen recommended a "gut-check" group check-in halfway through engagement. This will ensure the community groups the FSC prioritizes are actually engaged and no groups are missing or not being heard.

For next steps, the FSC members (and others) will share the final survey with community groups. Committee members will sign up on the Community Engagement Spreadsheet to identify who they are willing to reach out to and what they will be asking (see options above).

Wrap-Up, Determine Next Meeting(s)

Ali will send some potential dates for August and September and the group will decide which of those dates work for them then.

Adjourned at 5:01.