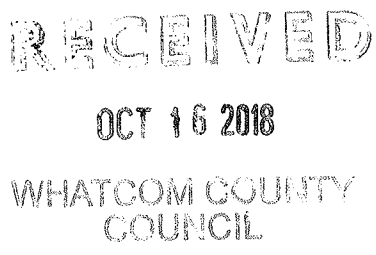


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2018-302

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	AJ	10/8/18		10/23/18	Introduction
Division Head:	AN	10/9/18		11/7/18	PW & Health/Council
Dept. Head:	AD	10/10/18			
Prosecutor:	RB	10/9/18			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	TJ	10.15.18			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Memo to Exective_WCC Chapter 2.47
- Ordinance_Food System Committee
- Exhibit A_County Code 2.47_Food System Committee

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

The ordinance to be considered by the council establishes Whatcom County Code 2.47 Whatcom County Food System Committee. The ordinance and code will establish a Food System Committee that will draft, implement, provide oversight for, and regularly update a county-wide food system plan, ensuring residents of Whatcom County equitable and sustainable food.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

10/23/2018: Introduced 6-0

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.



Memorandum

TO: JACK LOUWS, WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Regina A. Delahunt, Director

DATE: October 10, 2018

RE: ESTABLISHING A WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COMMITTEE

The attached ordinance to be considered by Council establishes a Whatcom County Food System Committee that will draft, implement, provide oversight for, and regularly update a county-wide food system plan. The work of the committee will improve the County's involvement and understanding of food system-related concerns and best practices. The committee will also ensure accountability for the implementation of the Food System Plan.

In March of 2018, the Whatcom County Board of Health requested that the Public Health Advisory Board explore options for food system planning. The Public Health Advisory Board recommended a Food System Committee, established in this ordinance, to carry out this work.

Please contact Ali Jensen at ext. 6121 if you have any questions.



ORDINANCE 2018-_____

ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.47, CREATING A WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COMMITTEE INTENDED TO DRAFT, IMPLEMENT AND PROVIDE OVERSIGHT FOR A COUNTY-WIDE PLAN TO STRENGTHEN OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is home to a robust agricultural production and marine harvest industry; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Health Board adopted a healthy planning approach; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Agricultural Strategic Plan calls for broader consideration of “food security issues, which may include providing local food supplies to food banks, schools, and institutions; vocational training opportunities in agricultural operations; and preserving heritage or artisanal foods.”; and

WHEREAS, Goal 7L in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan calls for the County to, “Strengthen the local food system and take steps to improve conditions for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous food economy”; and continues on Policy Goal 7L-8 which states “Support establishment of communitywide food system development plans”; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom Food Network conducted a Community Food Assessment to assess needs and opportunities within our food system in 2011, and then updated it in 2013 and 2017,

WHEREAS, over one in five residents of Whatcom County regularly struggle to obtain nutritious, quality food; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one percent of Washington adults are either obese or overweight to in part to the type of food consumed; and

WHEREAS, farmland has decreased by roughly 1.02 million acres in Washington State since 1950; and

WHEREAS, market pressures, regulations, and the cost of land make it increasingly difficult for farmers and food system workers to earn sustainable income; and

WHEREAS, recent economic changes to the grocery industry including consolidation and increased transportation costs have led to “Food Deserts” that impact our communities of need in Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the strong public interest in addressing issues relating to food security requires a system-wide approach, involving issues relating to farming and fishing, agricultural labor, processing and distribution, food consumption, and waste.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.47 is hereby established, creating a Whatcom County Food System Committee as outlined in **Exhibit A** to this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the tasks to be accomplished by the Committee are as follows:

A. Utilize and build upon the work of the Community Food Assessment, conduct stakeholder outreach, assess current assets and challenges and draft a report on the current state of these challenges in Whatcom County.

B. Develop a Food System Plan for Whatcom County that works towards a food system which includes healthy people, a strong local economy, environmental sustainability, and a valued workforce with measurable goals and specific benchmarks to be met. The Food System Plan will be developed with input from the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Marine Resources Committee, the Public Health Advisory Board, and other appropriate policy groups.

C. Identify prioritized action items, funding needs, and specific timeframes for decision-making and completion for Whatcom County to implement the Food System Plan, for confirmation by the County Council.

D. Oversee the implementation of these action items.

E. Conduct oversight and review implemented programs for effectiveness, including updating the Community Food Assessment as necessary.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2018.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.47

WHATCOM COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Sections

2.47.010	Established
2.47.020	Purpose
2.47.030	Function
2.47.040	Appointed Members
2.47.050	Term of Office
2.47.060	Organization – Meetings
2.47.070	Staff and Funding Support
2.47.080	Reporting

2.47.010 **Established**

There is hereby established a Whatcom County Food System Committee.

2.47.020 **Purpose**

The purpose of the Whatcom County Food System Committee is to draft, implement, provide oversight for, and regularly update a county-wide food system plan to strengthen our local and regional food system.

2.47.030 **Function**

The Committee will report directly to the County Council or other appropriate advisory boards, commissions, and committees as necessary to carry out the following functions:

- A. Conduct stakeholder outreach, assess current food system assets and challenges, and draft a report on the current state of these challenges in Whatcom County, utilizing and building upon the work of the Community Food Assessment.
- B. Develop a Food System Plan for Whatcom County that addresses current challenges and works towards a food system that includes healthy people, a strong local economy, environmental sustainability and a valued workforce with measurable goals and specific benchmarks to be met, including input from the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Marine Resources Committee, the Public Health Advisory Board, and other appropriate policy groups in developing the plan.
- C. Identify prioritized action items, funding needs, and specific timeframes for decision-making and completion for Whatcom County to implement the Food System Plan, for confirmation by the County Council. Oversee the implementation of these action items, and review implemented programs for effectiveness.
- E. Ensure ongoing assessment of food system needs and periodic updating of the Food System Plan at least every 3 years or as necessary.

2.47.040 Appointed Members

The Food System Committee shall include the following nine members appointed by the Whatcom County Executive and confirmed by the County Council:

- A. Four members representing Healthy Food Economies, preferably one representative each with experience in Farming (local sales), Farming (export sales), Fishing, and Food Processing/Distribution.
- B. Two members representing Healthy People, preferably one representative each with experience in Food Consumption, Nutrition/Public Health
- C. One member representing Healthy Workforce, preferably with experience in Labor issues
- D. One member representing Healthy Environments, preferably with experience in Natural Resources
- E. One member representing the Whatcom Food Network

2.47.050 Term of Office

The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; provided that the terms of the those first appointed shall be staggered so that four will be appointed for two years, and four will be appointed for four years. The member representing the Whatcom Food Network shall be appointed for two year terms to align with changes in Whatcom Food Network membership duties. Appointment of members shall comply with Chapter 2.03 WCC

2.47.060 Organization – Meetings

- A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. At every meeting, the committee will schedule an open session to take public comment.
- C. Written records of meetings, resolutions, research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be submitted to County staff and shall be made public, including posting on the County website.
- D. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedure for the conduct of business.
- E. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.
- F. The committee shall determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly.
- G. The committee may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least two committee members are also members of the ad hoc committee.

2.47.070 Staff and Funding Support

The committee will have full support from the Council, the County Executive's Office, and County Department staff to conduct and complete its tasks in an efficient and effective manner. The Whatcom County Health Department will provide the primary staff support for this Committee.

2.47.080 Reporting

At least annually, no later than June 30 of each year, the Committee will provide a report and recommendations to the County Council and Executive on their progress towards completing the goals of this group.