



Food System Committee

Wednesday April 28th, 2021

3:30-5 PM

Go To Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

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

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Krista moved to approve, Amber seconded, all approved.

Discussion of Report and Letter to Council

Riley presented to Council on April 6 at the Public Works and Health Committee. The Council asked for more details, updates, and specific proposals. Riley will return in June to share more specific proposals.

The [List of Recommendations](#) has four parts. The group discussed focusing on 1-2 specific asks.

- Since the Health Department could influence/impact the first section, Ali will work on those steps.
- The second section is about economic development and food access. Riley suggested recommending Council use the American Rescue Act funds to offer year-long operation grants to Whatcom-based fishers, farmers, restaurants, etc.
- The third section addresses the need for storage capacity and processing needs. The group discussed a couple of projects: the Puget Sound Food Hub, Bellingham School District's Central Kitchen, and the Food Campus. The group wants to explore those projects:
 - o Can we invite the project manager from the WCF to report on the food campus- Ali will reach out.

- What are the needs of Central Kitchen to expand county-wide- Ali will reach out.
- The group can determine those next steps at the next FSC meeting.

Presentation of Fishing and Labor Interviews

Ali shared the findings from the interviews conducted by Maureen and Kendall. The group agreed the Lummi and Nooksack fishing perspective was missing. Riley will reach out to fishers from these communities.

From CFA to Food System Plan

Ali shared examples from other food system plans. Most Food Policy Councils or Food System Plans have consultants. The group agreed searching for a consultant would be helpful.

The group also discussed the reviewing strategy of the Community Food Assessment, which is almost done. Ali will finalize the draft of the CFA this week (or next week) and send to the committee members to send to their SMEs. Since many of these SMEs overlap with community groups, the soft deadline for review/input is by June 2, but there won't be any finalizing until the mid-July meeting.

Ali will also send a draft email with the following questions for reviewers:

- 1) Is this information accurate?
- 2) Did we miss something important?
- 3) Other notes?

The group agreed to leave the indicators out of the CFA, since the food system plan will likely generate new metrics.

The group should review/edit the COVID section too.

Meeting Schedule Discussion

The group decided to meet on June 2nd, then sometime in mid-July. The group agreed to a longer meeting in September/October with a consultant to have a meaningful discussion about the food system plan.

Next Meeting is June 2nd from 3:30-5pm. Meeting Adjourned at 5:03