



Food System Committee

Wednesday February 2, 2022

3:30-5:00 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
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen	Whatcom Food Network	X

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors, Caroline Myran, New Venture Advisors, Hank Kastner, Chris Elder, Jim Davis, Laura Ridenour, Julie Meyeres.

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

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum, although Rhys arrived at 4pm.

Approval of minutes

Riley made a motion to approve; Margaret seconded. All Approved

Public Comment

Members of the public introduce themselves. No specific comments.

Introduction to consultant

Eileen introduced herself and Caroline as the project team for the Whatcom County Food System Plan. They both have extensive experience in working on food system related projects and, especially, drafting and implementing food system plans.

NVA plans to support with engaging key stakeholders and the broader public. The plan will serve as a roadmap to guide the community's food system development that stakeholders can stand behind and local elected officials can engage with.

Timeline

Eileen laid out the project timeline:

Initiation - convene steering committee, identify county staff team, kick-off process (Feb)

Process - create shared vision for plan (Feb)

Engagement - conduct community engagement and in-person outreach events with food system stakeholders (Apr - June)

Synthesis - NVA will start collecting developing themes coming out of community outreach surveying (July)

Strategy - NVA will use themes to and community data gathered to help identify key plan objectives, draft goals, objectives, and action steps.

Compilation - draft food system plan (Oct - Nov)

Adoption - present plan for adoption (Dec)

Whatcom Food Network Update

Rhys reported on the Whatcom Food Network. Although the steering committee is down to 5 people, there has been a lot of work done about revisiting the purpose and goals of the WFN. Of special importance is focusing on a gap assessment and identifying who are the missing stakeholders and engaging those community members not previously heard from. The WFN will be an essential partner in engagement around the Food System Plan.

Next Steps

- Review sample food system plan goals in Google Sheet.
- Identify goal statements you think could be a good fit for Whatcom's plan.
- Complete sheet by Feb. 23, 2022
- Come prepared to March meeting ready to draft a preliminary set of Food Plan goals.

Riley moved to adjourn, Margaret seconded.

Next Meeting March 2nd 3:30-5pm. Adjourned at: 4:30.