



# Food System Committee

Wednesday March 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, Jim Davis, Joshua Fleischmann, Mike Cohen, Sean Hopps, Laura Ridenour, Von EO.

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

### **Land Acknowledgement**

### **Determination of Quorum**

Quorum.

### **Approval of minutes**

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

### **Public Comment**

Sean Hopps has applied to the labor position on the committee. Mike Cohen joined from the Bellingham Food Bank.

### **Food Plan Goals**

Eileen and Caroline gave a presentation about the Food System Plan goals. The homework assignment was to review existing plans' goals and consider what words resonated, what goals rose to the top, and what would the FSC change.

The whole group agreed that equity should be both embedded throughout the plan and called out specifically as goals. The whole group appreciated the Vermont goals and their specificity, which leaves less wiggle room for intention/implementation.

The group identified some things that were left out from the presented goals: water quantity, fishing, processing, and the tribal perspective. Rhys mentioned there should be a distinction between riparian water vs ocean water. There was some concern about the pairing of the ecological and economic pieces. Much of our food system revolves around the Nooksack River and it should be uplifted. Sean mentioned that the “social equity” section in other plans puts white-led organizations at the center, which is counter to what social equity is.

Sean Hopps had written in a comment about utilizing the Nooksack Climate Change Adaptation Plan as a framework.

Krista suggested we keep the sectors and have multiple goals per sector, in order to be comprehensive. Laura suggested employing a collective impact model as a frame for community input.

Krista reminded the group of all of the ideas Subject Matter Experts came up with in the interviews for the Community Food Assessment. There is a document that has all those ideas.

NVA will come back in April with a draft suite of goals, which will be refined throughout community engagement process.

### **Regional Food System Partnership Grant**

Ali reminded the group that after the plan is drafted, the committee is tasked with implementing the plan. To implement, it is likely we will need some funding. Laura Ridenour is providing staff support for WFN and has identified the USDA Regional Food System Partnership grant as an opportunity for more planning or implementation funds. The RFA for this grant is due in mid May and Laura would like a draft by the end of April. Laura and Ali to work on this. Most important is finding a non-profit willing to be the applicant.

### **Next Steps**

Riley and Ali will share Food System Planning process with the County Council. Ali and Eileen will work on a community engagement strategy.

Rhys moved to adjourn, Krista seconded.

**Next Meeting April 6th 3:30-5pm. Adjourned at 5:03.**