



Food System Committee

Wednesday April 6, 2022

3:30-5:00 PM

Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Others Present: Ali Jensen, WCHD and FSC staff; Eileen Horn, New Venture Advisors, Caroline Myran, New Venture Advisors, several members of the public, including staff from County food banks.

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

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum.

Approval of minutes

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

Announcement from Riley

Riley will present to the County Council on Tuesday, April 12th at 2:40 to debrief them on food plan.

Public Comment

None

Regional Food System Partnership Grant

Twenty-two people met on March 29th to discuss this grant opportunity. The goal of the meeting was to establish an action partnership to center voices of people in our community that have valuable lived experiences from the beginning of planning for food system implementation. The group will continue to meet (anyone is welcome to join) over the month of April.

Food Plan Goals

Eileen shared how the goals were crafted, based on the committee's previous discussion. The draft food plan goals for consideration are:

1. Cultivate equity and justice
2. Protect and regenerate our soil, water and land
3. Build a resilient and vibrant local food economy
4. Ensure access to healthy food for all

The group ultimately decided to have an additional goal around climate action. New Venture Advisors will draft the 5th goal and email it to committee. If there is any opposition to how it's drafted, members can tell Ali.

Community Engagement Strategy

New Venture Advisors shared several tools for community engagement strategies. They suggested we identify who is missing from the CFA so we can highlight lived experience from community members and partner organizations.

Ali distilled the tools provided by NVA into three categories: Survey, Formal Group Meetings, and informal/grassroots meetings. She shared visions for each of those categories.

The survey will be used to cast a wide net and get a lot of feedback. The group discussed the fact that a lot of rich survey-like information came out of the Community Food Assessment interviews and a survey's purpose may be to focus on what actions should be taken in the food system plan. Sean wants the survey to excavate what is already happening in the food system and empower people and groups through a plan. Another important element of discussion was to include how to stay involved.

The other two engagement strategies are formal group meetings, such as other advisory boards and groups with governance, and informal/grassroots conversations, which could be as simple as a 1:1 conversation or something a little more involved, like convening restaurant workers and engaging in a discussion about their experience in the food system.

The group brainstormed, using [a jam board](#), what formal and informal groups we should interact with and what community events we need to be sure to participate in.

Krista mentioned that when developing the Shoreline Management Plan, there were 5 stations (one for each goal) at an open house. People visited each goal and reflected on it. This could be a good model for a large event in the fall.

There was discussion about financing engagement. Members of the public suggested that some of the foundations and local churches would likely support stipends for this work.

Next Steps

Riley and Amber will assist with the survey development.

Ali and Isaac (new staff for food system work) will flesh out the community engagement plan with the support of NVA.

Rhys moved to adjourn, Krista seconded.

Next Meeting May 4th 3:30-5pm. Adjourned at 4:56.