



# Food System Committee

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

4:30-6:00 PM

Zoom and in-person

## Minutes

### **Members Present:**

Name	Sector	Present
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Nikki Oleson	Processing/Distribution	
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Noelle Beecroft	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Sean Hopps	Labor	X
Trevor Gearhart	Natural Resources	X
Rhys-Thorvald Hansen	Whatcom Food Network	X
Paul Burrill	Fishing	X
Rob Dhaliwal	Export Sales Farming	X

**Others Present:** Alex Harris, Katherine Orlowski, Cam McMaster, Olivia Palmer, Fred Likkel, Sarah Rose, Laura Ridenour, Hank

**Call to order:** Riley started the meeting at 4:30 pm.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

### **Determination of Quorum**

Quorum.

### **Approval of minutes**

Approved

### **Public Comment**

Alex Harris shared support for the Food System Plan and wants to see it move forward; Katherine Orlowski is on the child and family well-being task force, saw Ali's presentation to that task force, and wants to plug into the implementation of the plan.

### **Recap Council Action**

Riley provided a recap of the Committee's April meetings to the County Council. He went to the Public works and Health committee of council on behalf of the Food System Plan on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee asked to allow for more time from farmers for input on the plan. Riley returned to the Public works and health committee of the council on April 25<sup>th</sup>, where the committee asked for the food system committee to consider comments from Whatcom Family Farmers and the Farm Bureau.

Councilmember Elenbaas set up a meeting with Ali, Riley, a representative from the Farm Bureau and a representative (Fred Likkel) from Whatcom Family Farmers. Rob Dhaliwal and Paul Burrill were also

present. The group worked through a critique letter from the farm group and created some edits to the actions in the food system plan for consideration of the food system committee.

**Review of Farm Bureau and Whatcom Family Farmers suggestions to the food system plan**

Riley reviewed the process. The committee would go through the suggestions, action by action, discuss proposed edits, and approve, reframe, or reject the edits. The edits were approved as follows:

1.3.2 Adopt a fair scheduling ordinance, designed by essential farm, food, and hospitality workers, in consultation with employers, to make schedules and breaks more consistent with routines that sustain healthy and safe lives for workers

2.1.5 Support land trusts and cooperative projects to develop permanently affordable housing communities that provide farmland access for the residents for commercial and non-commercial local food production. Partner with the Ag program staff in Planning and Development Services to achieve this.

2.1.6 Work with farmers and land trusts to determine acreage goals and farmland preservation strategies; focus on community farms and forests that are locally owned and managed, are working lands, and benefit the public.

2.3.3 Collaborate to implement sustainable funding mechanisms that support water efficiency (e.g., providing technical assistance to producers, offering rebates for water efficient irrigation equipment)

2.3.5 Support collaborative efforts to address water supply and salmon recovery

2.3.6 strike

2.4.1 strike

2.4.2 will be combined with 2.5.1 for next meeting

**Next meeting:** June 27th from 4:30-6:00 pm

Margaret adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm