

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, October 26, 2023

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was started at 12:59 pm in conference room 303 at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PRESENT: Emmaly Renshaw-Feed Iowa First
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids Community Services Coordinator
Emily Qual- Cobble Hill
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Brittany Hannah- Via Sofia's
Kelly Ridenour Giurato- Eat Greater Des Moines
Aaron Brewer- Prairie Woods
Kim Guardado- HACAP

ABSENT: Melissa Wahl-Horizons
Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Matthew McGrane- NewBo City Market

OTHERS Sarah Blais
PRESENT: Tamara Marcus

STAFF: Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sandberg, Guardado and Erickson and seconded by Montoya, Sandberg and Qual to approve the August 24, 2023, September 15, 2023, and September 20, 2023, LCFSC minutes, respectively. All members present voting yes.

Budget:

There is currently \$4000.00 in the budget. There is \$1435.00 additional coming from last year surplus but \$1000.00 is allocated to symposium if needed. There is some ARPA funding left- \$1008.19- can use to pay Blais through until the end of the project.

FARE Grant Final Reports (Discuss & Decide): 70% of Round 1 is complete.

Schrader asked if there will be a recap of the report to give to the Board of Supervisors. Renshaw will be giving a detailed report in March and midterm for Round 2 at same time. The final report is next September.

- a. Darius Nupolu- purchased a tractor to increase capacities. Goal was met and exceeded- increase tonnage by 10 times with the automation. Summer/fall harvest. The biggest lesson learned is he needs an increase in transportation.
- b. Over the Moon-cold storage 1st & 2nd round. – will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c. Theo Bampamirubsa- bought a tractor for \$15,000.00 - Will be able to double donations next year. Blais to follow up with total poundage before/after. Would be looking for a refrigeration van.
- d. Southeast Linn Community Center-awarded \$7,000.00 - Purchased 2 new ranges and 3 wire shelving units for walk in cooler. Project is complete and fully functioning. Working on gardens next.
- e. Children of Promise-awarded \$1,300.00 -They serve 9-18 families- purchased a stove, oven, freezer. Will start cooking classes. Blais to follow up and get the documentation with what to do with the remaining balance. Use towards the electrician?
- f. Marion Cares-\$1,000.00- Crockpot freezer family meals- bought a fridge. Sandberg-how many kids are you serving? How many freezer meals were made?
- g. United We March Forward- \$7,000.00 - purchased an enclosed trailer. Serving 3,000 families monthly. Need detailed where the 3,000 comes from.

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Montoya. Motion goes to approve reports but will try to get metrics. All members present voting yes.

FARE Grant Midterm Report Acknowledgement:

- a. Buffalo Ridge Orchard- mid-term report 95% done.

FARE Grant Next Steps:

Renshaw: Funding is done. Program made a big impact but is there merit to find additional funding outside of the county? Schrader: is there extra money to pay a grant writer? Local grant for food promotion program LFMPP (Schrader) promotes increased access to healthy foods- USDA grant. Renshaw: get a committee with other organizations together to write grant. Shape the stories instead of just numbers. Would like to see something sustainable going forward for small businesses and emerging farmers. Sandberg: are the grants able to be redistributed to others? How does the back side work within the County and how to dole out funding? Ridenour Giurato: regional food systems grant- will send out to all and look for more resources. Renshaw to check with Johnson County about additional funding.

Need something in writing from Echollective with a truck that was damaged in an accident, and they haven't been able to replace. Their application went from transportation to cold storage (in a different county). Fund cold storage or pull the money back? Guardado: if they aren't responsive and Schrader says if they can't pursue as written, we need to know why. Report is past due (awarded \$10k). Erickson: can we hold the money and make them apply to the truck? Montoya: what did they ask Johnson County for? Sandberg: lack of communication and complete report and don't want them to think that just because we have an incomplete report means they can do what they want.

Olivet – purchased a vehicle- need a receipt to show. Guardado to send board information to Renshaw.

Food Symposium Update:

Marcus: thanks to the Council for sponsoring. 40 people registered. No lunch, just snacks. All local growers or small businesses. 3 keynotes. 2 sessions with 3 break out talks. At Kirkwood Linn Regional Center- will accept same day registrations. 10-27. The Council will get there around 7. It starts at 8:00 am. Keynote speaker at 8:15 am. Marcus wants a debrief meeting. Sandberg to create survey and print agendas.

FSC Meeting Schedule:

Tertinger asked if they want to meet November 30 at noon? The consensus was yes. There is usually not a December meeting. Tentatively no December meeting but may still meet up.

Open Discussion:

Sandberg submitted a proposal to the 4H foundation to do things differently. Linn County has food insecurity. If they get a grant, they will get a community garden. Could do things with the kids and increase education.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM. Sandberg to motion and Schrader to second. All members present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Speed", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emmaly Renshaw", written over a horizontal line.

Emmaly Renshaw, Chair