

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, November 30, 2023

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was started at 12:03 pm in conference room 234A/B at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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

ABSENT: Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm
Matthew McGrane-NewBo City Market
Emily Qual- Cobble Hill

OTHERS Tamara Marcus- Linn County
PRESENT:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Guardado seconded by Sandberg to approve the October 26, 2023, minutes. All members present voting yes.

Budget:

The current balance is \$5,045. This does not include Roasters that have to be paid yet from the symposium. The Council gave \$1000 to the symposium- \$921 for symposium but Extension gave back \$392 (ticket registration & credit card fees). After all of that, the balance is approximately \$4900. Blais's latest invoice is \$721- vote to authorize paying invoice. Motion by Montoya and seconded by Guardado to approve paying the invoice. All members present voting yes.

The ARPA balance after paying this invoice is \$1100.

FARE Grant Final Reports/Updates:

- a. Buffalo Ridge Orchard-reviewed final report and invoices submitted. Permanent deer fence around production area. Tertinger is asking for numbers and Guardado and Sandberg are asking for those if there is a next time. Tertinger- even if we didn't ask this time, we need to go back and ask to get numbers. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Hannah to approve the final report.
- b. Over the Moon- cold storage freezer. Last month had submitted a partial report and this month we now have all of it in order to approve. Renshaw is looking for duck sales in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Sandberg is looking for how many are in cold storage right now. Hannah is looking for how much the restaurants were using before they closed. Sandberg- what more could we do to help these businesses to, for example, sell ducks to different restaurants? Guardado brought up producer day- look in work plan for details.
- c. Echollective Farm- Renshaw told Molly to have it in writing by the end of December on how it will support Linn County. Tertinger mentioned they do have an opportunity to pull back the funding if need be. Renshaw suggested to take 5 minutes just to get questions from the group to ask Echollective to determine their funding. Montoya is requesting this grant be re-written in writing to reapprove since the project has changed; to include numbers with how everything

comes into Linn County and what percentage. Renshaw to call Johnson County to see what they can share. Back in two weeks- if not back, we will pull funding. Renshaw will have Blais or Tertinger connect with them to figure this out. Do a public meeting over zoom to vote when it is back. Sandberg to send an email-Guardado states the clock starts when email is sent out. Renshaw to send out the questionnaire to Council to see what they want to ask. Please send back revisions by Monday and it will go out. Reply within 2 weeks of receiving the application request by email. By read receipt. Email out December 6 and response back by December 20. Zoom on December 21, 2023, at 1pm to vote. Renshaw to draft an email. Motion by Hannah and seconded by Montoya. All members present voting yes.

Food Symposium Recap: Renshaw spoke regarding the event: 40 people attended. Renshaw, Sandberg and Marcus had a debrief. Will push to January 2025 after harvest season. Extension will be looked at as a place to hold again. Good “bang for buck”. Next year, looking to be more restaurant/institution based rather than producer heavy to even out the numbers. Plan on having a meet/greet with buyers/sellers next year.

Discuss 2024 FSC Workplan:

Ridenour Giurato brought up having a producer day to link vendors with restaurants/businesses. Guardado stated to do it before the next symposium.

Renshaw asked what would you like to see this year? Schrader asked to circle back and let everyone know what we did in the past to look towards the future. Guardado wants to revisit the assessment since FARE is almost done – where to go?

Ridenour Giurato suggested a “speed dating” in February (is it too soon to plan?).

Renshaw suggested hosting quarterly meet and greets at NewBo, local coffee shops? Social get together to get people involved and spread the information.

Ridenour Giurato mentioned the Iowa Food Systems Coalition – statewide food systems plan – maybe we should create alignment with the state-wide plan?

Montoya to look at 2019 plan to see if it is still relevant. January meeting maybe look at plans and decide?

Tertinger- LCFS document- things on website as well. Discussion if public health will take over food systems. Montoya- facilitator -would be taking over. Amy Hockett as well. Still trying to figure it out. LC P&D would still get a seat at the table.

Renshaw- requested at the next meeting to have big sheets of paper on wall- sticky wall. Dig in and devise a 1-3 year plan and vision. Short and long term goals. Will look over policies as well. Who advocates for who? We have never done policy work at state level.

Open Discussion:

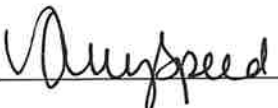
Montoya to put on meetings for next week. Administration will post an agenda on December 13, 2023, for the Zoom meeting on December 21, 2023.

Next in person Meeting: January 25, 2024

Schrader motioned to adjourn and Guardado seconded. All members present voting yes.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

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

Emmaly Renshaw, Chair