

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2024**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6<sup>th</sup> St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 3rd floor conference room 303.

**PRESENT:** Emmaly Renshaw-At-Large  
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living-Virtual  
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH  
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids  
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension  
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute  
Kelly Ridenour Giurato-SILT  
Laura Ondler- Horizons

**ABSENT:** Kim Guardado-HACAP  
Aaron Brewer- Prairie Woods  
Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm  
Emily Qual- At Large  
Karla Hogan- CRCSD  
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** None

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Schrader, to approve the September 26, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Budget Update:**

Tertinger stated the current balance is \$2,934.00. Should know by 11/06/2024 if the fall amendment comes back.

**New Business:**

**Round 2 Additional Funding Applicants for Review & Vote:**

\*United We March Forward asked for an additional \$4,500.00 for equipment and materials. There was discussion by the Council on the pricing of items requested, quality and longevity.

\*Local Harvest CSA asked for an additional \$15,000.00 for the 2025 farm season. The budget they presented was for stipends (\$5,500.00), tuition (\$4,000.00), supplies (\$500.00), transportation (\$2,000.00) and mentorship (\$3,000.00).

\*Marion Cares asked for an additional \$6,000.00 for their crockpot freezer program for more supplies.

After discussion, Ridenour Giurato asked if the Council could just split the \$15,000.00 that was available between them all since the Council would not be paying for stipends or mentorship. She discussed giving UWMF \$4,500.00, Local Harvest CSA \$6,500.00 (no stipend or mentorship funding) and \$4,000.00 to Marion Cares.

Erickson made a motion to approve the funding to United We March Forward in the amount of \$4,500.00, Local Harvest CSA in the amount of \$6,500.00 and Marion Cares in the amount of \$4,000.00. Ridenour Giurato seconded. All members present voted yes.

**Round 2 Final Report Updates:**

\*Aroma Artisan Pizza/Luna Treats: Original ask was for \$5,000.00 for a freeze dryer. Established business with 4 new farmers. Council agreed they wanted to know who the farmers were.

Motion by Montoya and seconded by Erickson to approve the final report on Aroma Artisan Pizza/Luna Treats provided they provide the farmers names. All members present voted yes.

\*Over the Moon Farm & Flowers LLC: Original ask was for \$5,000.00 to insulate the cooler. Council agreed the final report was sufficient.

Motion by Schrader and seconded by Ondler. All members present voted yes.

\*Southeast Linn Community Center: Original ask was for \$10,000.00. They mentioned they had distributed 4,565 pounds of food, seeing a 22% increase.

Motion by Ridenour Giurato and seconded by Schrader. All members present voted yes.

\*Horizons, A Family Service Alliance: This project is at a standstill waiting for the City of Cedar Rapids. It was determined that it would start in the spring. Council agreed to push to spring.

\*Rodale Institute-Midwest Organic Center: Tabled until next meeting

\*United We March Forward: Original ask was for \$2,500.00. They served 5,000 individuals, purchased benches and rainwater systems and a portable greenhouse. They partner with 3 food banks- St. Paul's, UMC and Hames Homes. They can now plant in February instead of April.

Motion by Ridenour Giurato and seconded by Erickson to approve the final report. All members presented voted yes.

\*The Full Bowl, LLC: Tabled until next meeting.

\*Children of Promise Mentoring Program: Tabled until next meeting.

\*Local Harvest CSA: Original ask was for \$15,000.00. They held a 9-week program with 440 hours of farm learning called Skills to Pay the Bills. They expanded their CSA number by 35% = \$12,000.00. They are working apartment complexes for mobile markets.

Motion by Ridenour Giurato and seconded by Rohling to approve the final report conditionally on rewording the paragraph on the final report that was discussed regarding the word payroll to stipend. All members present voted yes.

**FARE Grant Video Project – Update:**

Iowa Big is half-way through the project. The “B” roll is mostly done. They will be here for the November meeting to show us what is completed.

**January 2025 Symposium Update:**

Save the Date- Friday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>- Linn County Extension: Renshaw will contact Joi/Britt to put on website. Bring any ideas you have to Renshaw.

**Open Discussion:**

Renshaw asked the Council if they would like to entertain a virtual option as it is getting harder to meet quorum in person. There will be a link established by Montoya that we can add to the agenda and a calendar link in Zoom. This will start with the January 2025 meeting.

There is a rule in the bylaws about members being absent multiple times. As it sits now, if they miss 3-4 meetings in a row, the Council can remove them. Ridenour Giurato suggested sending an email to all with a link to the Zoom meeting and asking them if they still wanted to participate. Renshaw to reach out.

**Next Meeting:** November 21, 2024 @ Noon.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Ridenour Giurato motioned to adjourn and Erickson seconded. All members present voted yes

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary



Emmaly Renshaw, Chair