

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2024**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:02 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  
Laura Ondler- Horizons-Virtual  
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer  
Aaron Brewer-Prairie Woods  
Karla Hogan- CRCSD

**ABSENT:** Kim Guardado-HACAP  
Laura Krouse-Abbe Farm  
Emily Qual- At Large  
Kellie Ridenour Giurato-SILT

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Representatives from Iowa Big

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Erickson, to approve the October 24, 2024 minutes. All members present voted yes.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Budget Update:**

The fall amendment was approved. Balance is now \$7,839.00

**Grant Coordinator:**

The Council received the last invoice from Sarah Blais for \$306.00, completing her job. As a grant coordinator, Blais worked 53 hours to help complete the process.

Motion by Montoya and seconded by Schrader to approve the payment for \$306.00 All members present voted yes.

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Hogan to allow Blais to come back and become a voting member on the Council. All members present voted yes.

**New Business:**

**FARE Grant Final Reports:**

The Full Bowl, LLC: requested \$2,500.00 for microgreen production. Reported that they sold 2,152 units of ready-to-eat food and 306 units since March of 2024. They are looking for a bigger brick/mortar space. These funds helped to get the project started but there is room for growth. The Council then discussed, in the future, adding a question that says what is the backup plan if you don't get full funding?

Motion by Erickson and seconded by Hogan to approve the final report from The Full Bowl, LLC. All members present voted yes.

Children of Promise Mentoring Program: requested \$2,700.00 for cooking class supplies. Council could not open the expense report so Renshaw will ask for another. Multiple Council members thought there was missing information. Renshaw to speak with Blais about pulling out the old budget and helping them work on the numbers. Decision was made to table until next meeting in January. Montoya recused herself from comment/vote.

Rodale Institute- Midwest Organic Center: requested \$16,000 for electricity to the greenhouse and other needed materials such as heat mats, seeds, soil and black plastic mulch

layering. They doubled donations to Feed Iowa First. 1,850 pounds were donated and another 3,000 pounds were donated after the cabbage harvest.

Motion by Schrader and seconded by Sandberg to approve the final report from Rodale Institute. All member present voted yes. Erickson abstained from voting.

Nupolu Emerging Farms: Renshaw mentioned that this has not been fully transcribed yet so it will be tabled until the next meeting in January.

**FARE Grant Requests for Additional Information Responses:**

Aroma Artisan Pizza/Luna Treats: they did respond with who they were working with. This motion to approve was presented and voted on in the October 24, 2024 recorded minutes.

Local Harvest CSA: they responded with the numbers the Council was asking for. This motion to approve was presented and voted on in the October 24, 2024 recorded minutes.

**FARE Grant Video Project Updates/Presentation (Iowa Big):**

Iowa Big presented a short snippet of the video project they have been working on and asked for feedback and ways the Council wanted the video to end. Sandberg suggested to leave the questions on the screen longer and to slow down the whole thing. The group asked to add data points and metrics into the compilation video. Over the Moon and Buffalo Ridge still need to be completed. The timetable to finish is late January.

**2025 Local Food Symposium Discussion:**

Save the Date- Friday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>- Linn County Extension in Hiawatha: The subcommittee consisting of Sandberg, Guardado (absent) and Renshaw spoke about the symposium. They are looking for themes for the event and do they want to present more opportunities for certification? After discussion, Council agreed there was enough time and capacity to host the event. They are considering 3 rotations and 2 sessions. The rooms have been booked. Discussion about session priorities included New Pioneer (Mobley volunteered), Field to Family, food pantries, ethnic grocery stores, and discussion of the new tax credit for farmers. It was decided to have contact made by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business (Time Permitting):**

**Urban Ag Policy Committee Update:**

Renshaw spoke about the meeting she attended. Kirkwood did say they did not have food insecurities but that was not the same conversation that was given to Montoya. Montoya to meet with Hannah about her place of employment.

**Chef/Farmer Event Committee Updates:**

Renshaw will have a meeting with Qual next week to discuss this.

**Open Discussion:**

Renshaw mentioned how it is the end of the year and the chair position will be open. Renshaw will likely step down but can serve with limited time if no one else steps up.

Discussion was had about capping the number of members of the Council. Council is capped at 15 right now. Sandberg asked if there was a reason for the cap and Tertinger said not that he knew of. They are four-year terms or can be filled if they are vacant/someone steps down. There is also no limit on how many terms. There are some standing spots such as LCPH, Horizons, HACAP, ISU, etc. Rohling would be open to a few more. Sandberg mentioned it would be helpful to have more members when doing events. It was mentioned that if a member missed 3 meetings in a row, in person, they could be taken off of the Council. Sandberg mentioned 20 as a cap with discretion from the Chair.

Motion from Montoya and seconded by Sandberg to cap the Council at 15 but can go up to 19 with the discretion of the Chair. All members present voted yes.

**Next Meeting:** January 23, 2025

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

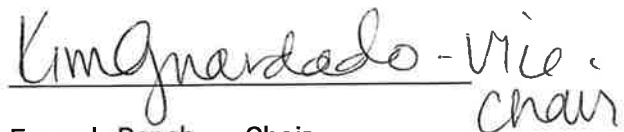
Sandberg motioned to adjourn and Montoya seconded. All members present voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Emmaly Renshaw, Chair