

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM at the New Pioneer Food Coop located at 3338 Center Point Rd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

PRESENT: Kim Guardado-HACAP
Eva Donnelly- ISU Extension
Stephanie Schrader-City of Cedar Rapids
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer
Karla Hogan- CRCSD-Virtual
Kellie Ridenour Giurato-SILT
Emmaly Renshaw- Iowa Valley RC & D
Jacqueline Montoya- LCPH-Virtual
Aaron Brewer- Prairie Woods
Sarah Blais- NewBo City Market-Virtual

ABSENT: Emily Qual- At Large
Laura Ondler-Horizons
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

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

Election of Officers:

Erickson spoke on taking on the Chair role for a couple of years and then discussed his platform, which included marketing (branded items), hosting events, and funding for micro grants. He thanked Renshaw for all her hard work.

There were no other nominations or volunteers for Chair.

Motion by Renshaw to approve Erickson for Chair, seconded by Ridenour Giurato. All members present voted yes. Abstain Erickson.

At this time, Erickson assumed leading the meeting.

Council asked Guardado if she would like to remain Vice-Chair and she accepted as there were no other nominations or volunteers for Vice-Chair.

Motion by Renshaw to approve Guardado for Vice-Chair, seconded by Sandberg. All members present voted yes. Abstain Guardado.

Council asked Schrader if she would like to remain Secretary and she accepted. There were no other nomination or volunteers for Secretary.

Motion by Ridenour Giurato to approve Schrader for Secretary, seconded by Sandberg. All members present voted yes. Abstain Schrader.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sandberg seconded by Schrader, to approve the January 23, 2025 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None.

Budget Update:

Tertinger stated the Council's budget is \$7,339.00. Guardado brought up about having a table for the Celebration of Ag on March 26, 2025, at the Doubletree Hotel. The cost is \$500.00 and the table seats 10.

Motion by Schrader and seconded by Renshaw to purchase a table for \$500.00 for the Celebration of Ag on March 26, 2025, pending approval from Linn County Finance. All members present voted yes. Abstain Guardado and Sandberg.

At this time, Karla Hogan joined virtually.

New Business:

FARE Grant Final Reports:

Marion Cares:

Resubmitted their final report showing \$1,133.00 was spent on cleaning supplies, labeling, freezer items, etc. The Council did allow the branded totes.

Motion by Guardado seconded by Sandberg, to approve the final report for Marion Cares. All members present voted yes.

2025 Local Food Symposium Discussion:

Food for lunch: Motion Needed

Motion by Guardado, seconded by Renshaw, to approve the budget for \$1040.00 for lunches for the symposium provided by New Pioneer Food Coop. All members present voted yes. Abstain Mobley.

Mobley to order and deliver the lunches to the Symposium.

At this time, Sarah Blais joined virtually.

Registration & Invites:

Registration is Live: Agenda is set.

Facebook Event: Council asked to share the event.

Flyer: In your Mailbox

Invitation List: Guardado will send to Celebration of Ag member list. Erickson will send to all that attended the Cobble Hill event. Hogan will contact the food service workers at school. Renshaw to send out to attendees from last year's event.

Registration: Guardado volunteered to help with registration. Erickson asked all Council members that plan to attend to help out in any way that they can.

2025 Ideas:

What are some things we want to host?

Much of the time was spent on this topic. Guardado asked what is the highest priority? Sandberg, Ridenour, Giurato voiced opinions on shaping policy and strategic planning. Renshaw asked what do small vegetable farmers need. Ridenour, Giurato asked about bringing on a consultant to engage with some of the economists from ISU.

After much discussion, Sandberg said that ISU does have strategic planners for this in the CED department and will have them connect with Erickson for more information.

It was agreed upon that 2025 will focus on policy and bringing in someone to help. Sandberg volunteered to get some RFP's out and get the information back by next meeting to discuss. Blais suggested to get the proposals itemized so the Council can pick and choose if needed.

Old Business:

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

Renshaw had to reschedule her meeting to Monday, March 3, 2025. Council should be able to see the final cut at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

March 27, 2025- do we want to make the Symposium the meeting?

Council agreed to move the meeting to Friday, March 28, 2025 at 1:00 pm after the Symposium at the Kirkwood location in Hiawatha.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Drew Erickson, Chair