

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, April 24, 2025

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 2nd floor conference room 234.

PRESENT: Hailee Sandberg-ISU Extension
Kim Guardado- HACAP
Aaron Tarchinski- Horizons
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living-Virtual
Stephanie Schrader- City of Cedar Rapids
Jacqueline Montoya- LCPH
Eva Donnelly- ISU Extension
Emmaly Renshaw- IVRCD
Mariah Andrews- Prairiewoods
Karla Hogan- CRCSD-Virtual
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute

ABSENT: Emily Qual- At Large
Sarah Blais- NewBo City Market
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

STAFF: Sami Scheetz, Board of Supervisor
Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Introductions:

Erickson facilitated introductions to welcome our 2 new members, Andrews and Scheetz.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Guardado seconded by Sandberg, to approve the March 28, 2025 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None

Budget Update:

Tertinger gave the report. Balance is \$3,917.00. Needs to be spent or allocated for before June 30, 2025. On July 1, 2025, \$4,000.00 will be deposited in the account for the next fiscal year. If the \$3,917.00 isn't spent, Council can request it back at the Fall offer time but is not guaranteed to get it back.

The symposium total was \$1,934.00, of which most was spent on food.

New Business:

Small Business Owner: Andrea Miller-Miller Hill Garden -table

2025 Plan:

5-Year Strategic Plan Discussion; RFP Draft Review:

Erickson and Renshaw will work on securing the three quotes that were requested earlier by Scheetz. Guardado asked who else should be in on the conversation that doesn't come to the meetings? Need to make sure all relevant people have a seat at the table. Multiple members voiced concern wondering if Council will show up for the additional meetings that are required- will it be too much of a task or too much capacity to plan in one summer? It was decided that nights and weekends are off the table. Will use the already scheduled meetings on the calendar but extend them to three hours (June and July) with one additional meeting falling between the

two. It was decided to pause on Sandberg's RFP that was written mainly focusing on policy and to send out a Scope of Work ask focusing on policy, education and funding as well as a component on the County hiring a Coordinator position vs an all-volunteer Council. Council then discussed what data they wanted the strategic plan to incorporate. Guardado asked what our boundaries were, as a Council. Are they representing the County or the individual companies they work for? Is the Council name going on things or should they not represent the County in that scenario (State Capital events, etc.)?

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Sandberg to get three bids for a scope of work for a 3-5 year strategic plan that includes three planning sessions, each lasting three hours, to be held over a nine week period from June – July 2025. The scope of work will focus on policy, education, funding and a comparative analysis of hiring a Coordinator versus an all-volunteer Council. The Council will pay in two installments. Asking planner to include a reference, budget and information on two past projects. Bids are to be received by May 15, 2025. All members present voted yes

Old Business:

2025 Local Food Symposium Wrap-Up:

Renshaw noted she received 18 responses from the event evaluation survey that she will send to Tertinger.

Celebration of Agriculture Event Wrap-Up:

Guardado asked if someone from the Council was interested in representing next year. Erickson doesn't think we should sponsor again but Sandberg mentioned that the more the Council does it, the more they will be recognized.

FARE Grant/Iowa Big Video Project Update:

Renshaw received an email stating it is complete. Erickson and Renshaw to go to Iowa Big next week to view. Renshaw will send out an invite to everyone.

Open Discussion:

None

Next Meeting:

May 22, 2025

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D-E", written over a horizontal line.

Drew Erickson, Chair