

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, June 26, 2025

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 2nd floor conference room 234.

PRESENT: Kim Guardado-HACAP
Alora Kraus- Feed Iowa First
Aaron Tarchinski- Horizons
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living-VIRTUAL
Karla Hogan-CRCSD
Jacqueline Montoya- LCPH
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer
Emmaly Renshaw- IVRCD
Sarah Blais- NewBo City Market
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute

ABSENT: Mariah Andrews- Prairiwoods
Hailee Sandberg-ISU Extension
Stephanie Schrader- City of Cedar Rapids
Eva Donnelly-ISU Extension
Kelly Ridenour-Giurato-United Way

OTHERS

PRESENT: Deanna Robinson- ECICOG
Ashley Balias- Linn County Community Services
Andrew

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Renshaw seconded by Mobley, to approve the May 22, 2025, minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

None

Budget Update:

Tertinger reported the balance to be \$387.76 after the \$4,500.00 invoice to ECICOG was paid.

Old Business:

FARE Grant/Iowa Big Video Project Update:

Erickson has the unedited and the student final copy. He will be giving to Guardado to have the HACAP contact polish it up and add introduction and closing statements along with subtitling.

Erickson offered the chance to all to help and Renshaw will help with adding key points and Tertinger will join as well as the County contact.

Iowa Food Systems Coalition Update:

Both Erickson and Renshaw have signed up and Erickson stated that everyone else is welcome as well. The only caution given was to tread lightly as they are a lobbying organization. The Council was advised to email Erickson if they wanted to join.

New Business:

USDA Grant Discussion:

Blais presented the USDA grant proposal she has been working on and went over a few key areas listed in the application. The Council's main partnership will be to hold a yearly symposium with one focus group/workshop to be held during the symposium. Blais is looking for the Council to submit a formal letter agreeing to the partnership.

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Hogan to approve the Chair to sign the grant partnership support letter and to commit to one symposium and one focus group/workshop annually. All present voted yes.

Strategic Plan Kickoff Discussion with Ashley Balias & Deanna Robinson:

Introductions were made.

Balias led the discussion with questions pertaining to what the Council is looking for in the Strategic Plan.

Budget, Schedule, Next Steps:

This was not discussed due to time constraints.

Open Discussion:

Erickson led open discussion with asking to move the meeting time and/or date to be compatible with Supervisor Scheetz's schedule. Erickson will send out a poll to gather information. Renshaw commented that it may be nice to do some nights as well.

Next Meeting:

July 24, 2025

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Drew Erickson, Chair