

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Wednesday, October 22, 2025

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 3rd floor conference room 333.

PRESENT: Kim Guardado-HACAP
Alora Kraus- Feed Iowa First
Hailee Sandberg- ISU Extension
Karla Hogan-CRCSD
Jacqueline Montoya- LCPH
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer-Virtual
Sarah Blais- At-Large
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Stephanie Schrader- City of Cedar Rapids
Aaron Tarchinski- Horizons- Virtual

ABSENT: Brittany Rohling-Grand Living
Emmaly Renshaw- IVRCD
Mariah Andrews- Prairiewoods
Eva Donnelly- ISU Extension
Kelly Ridenour-Giurato- At-Large

OTHERS

PRESENT: Grace Nieland- The Gazette
Lynea Drever- LCPH Intern

STAFF: Mike Tertinger- Senior Planner
Amy Speed-Recording Secretary
Sami Scheetz- Linn County Board of Supervisor

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Montoya seconded by Schrader, to approve the September 24, 2025, minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

Drever introduced herself as the LCPH Intern.

Nieland mentioned the newly opened exhibit at the African American Museum of Iowa called Rooted.

Budget Update:

Tertinger stated the budget was still at \$4,000.00

Old Business:

FARE Grant Video Update:

Erickson presented the video that Christopher Ackman from HACAP revised. Guardado explained that the original footage is not usable but it is missing the stories that we had before. Asked about doing a handout (brochure) that tells the story to go along with the video. Tertinger asked what happened to the footage and Guardado explained that none of it was usable to embed in the new video. Blais asked if we could use it at the Symposium instead? Speed reached out to Renshaw to see if there were permissions given and Renshaw said there were but has no idea where they ended up as that was through Iowa Big. Speed asked Scheetz how long of a presentation they should prepare for and he responded with 5-10 minutes to present. It was suggested to add valuation graphics to show economic impact. Blais to get with Erickson to figure out five-year impact numbers.

New Business:

2026 Food Symposium (date/subcommittee/theme/budget):

Budget is +/- \$1,500.00. Sandberg stated that the ISU Extension office would donate the space again. It was decided that February 27, 2026, would be the date. The subcommittee will consist of Mobley, Blais, Sandberg, Tarchinski, Renshaw (?), Erickson and Kraus. Speed to check with Renshaw to get the sticky wall notes from last year. Some possible themes were presented:

Make Farming Weird

Feeding All

Nutrition Young to Old/Food is Medicine

Food is Healing

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Schrader to hold the 2026 Food Symposium on February 27, 2026, at the ISU Extension Office with a maximum budget of \$1,500.00. All members present voted yes.

NewBo Market council membership retention (discuss & decide):

Discussion was had now that Blais is no longer at NewBo but still wanting to be a contributing member of the Council and if NewBo Market should have a representative. Discussion was had that Blais has been an important member and it is imperative to keep NewBo representation on the Council.

Motion by Guardado and seconded by Sandberg to keep Blais on as a member and add the Executive Director of NewBo onto the Council. Erickson & Tertinger to send a formal invitation to Scott Wilson.

November Strategic Planning Meeting (Tentative 11/19):

The meeting will be held on November 19, 2025, at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center from 1:30-4:30 PM. Speed asked for a quorum call.

Board of Supervisors Presentation (Council invitation to meeting):

Erickson is aiming to present in early December. He is asking for support of the Council to be there and would like Guardado to stand with him. The date is to be determined in hopes that the strategic plan will be finished.

Open Discussion:

Renshaw sent a document to Erickson regarding incubating farms and he shared a bit of that with the Council.

Tarchinski asked that an email get sent out to get the Symposium people together.

Next Meeting:

November 19, 2025- Strategic Planning Meeting

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,

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

Drew Erickson, Chair