

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 3:01PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in the 2nd floor conference room 234.

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

ABSENT: Mariah Andrews- Prairiwoods
Brittany Rohling-Grand Living
Sarah Blais- At-Large

OTHERS

PRESENT: Ashley Balus-LCCS
David Gustafson- Matthew 25
Jack Ball- Matthew 25
Leo Broughton
Jayn Inglethron

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

Election of Officers:

Discussion was had on who wanted to run.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Schrader to elect Erickson as Chair. All members present voted yes.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Tarchinski to elect Sandberg as Vice-Chair. All members present voted yes.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Donnelly to elect Schrader as Secretary. All members present voted yes.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Tarchinski, to approve the December 17, 2025, minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

Broughton stated why he wants to join the Council. He wants to share his strengths with the community.

Inglethron introduced herself and said she was a daily food rescue worker. Her business is Volunteer Rescue Food Service by Jayn.

At this time, both Broughton and Inglethron left the room.

Budget Update:

Tertinger updated the Council that the balance is \$1,750.00 after the \$2,250.00 paid out to ECICOG for the Strategic Plan. That bill is now paid in full.

Membership Update:

FSC New Member Application Review: Discussion was had on if the new ED of NewBo wanted to join and the Council has not heard from him after reaching out. There were discussions on if the Council got too big, would it be effective and if we are missing key players on the Council.

Motion by Guardado, seconded by Renshaw to table adding new members until the strategic plan is complete. All members present voted yes.

Old Business:

2026 Food Symposium (date/planning committee): Erickson would like the subcommittee to meet in a few weeks. They will be discussing 2 separate events: the public presentation (possibly in June) and the Symposium (fall-ish).

Strategic Plan:



FSC Next Steps
Consideration.pdf

Balius spent the rest of the meeting time asking questions to the group to help guide them where they want to go in the next steps. Discussion was had on direction, what makes the Council anxious about the plan, what they are excited for and what the real concerns are.

The direction comments centered around wanting to be intentional, narrow down the scope to be effective and what does the Board want from us?

What made the Council anxious was capacity, response time, not allowing enough time to make big change.

What made the Council excited was possibility of system change, the younger generation seems interested and people are ready to be involved and create change/shift.

The real concerns were capacity, who do we bring to the table, financial, economic development, focus and does the community care as much as the Council?

After the discussion, the Council leaned toward creating system change which would also improve the existing system.

The key conversations for February will focus on the road map and funding.

New Business:

None.

Open Discussion:

There was no time left to discuss possible funding/partnerships with GreenState Credit Union and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Next Meeting:

February 25, 2026

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Drew Erickson, Chair