

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM at the Linn County Community Services Center, 1240 26th Ave Ct SW, Cedar Rapids, IA in Conference Room 2B.

PRESENT: Camron Tolley- GSCU
Alora Kraus- Feed Iowa First
Emmaly Renshaw-IVRCD
Hailee Sandberg- At-Large
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Stephanie Schrader- City of Cedar Rapids
Eva Donnelly- ISU Extension
Kim Guardado- HACAP
Mariah Andrews- Prairiewoods
Aron Brecht- HACAP
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living
Sarah Blais- Iowa Ceramics Center

ABSENT: Gina Mobley- New Pioneer
Aaron Tarchinski-Horizons

OTHERS Ashley Balias-LCCS
PRESENT: Cassidy Flory- LCPH
Britt Nielsen- LC Communications
Leland Freie- Member of Public

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Kraus, to approve the January 28, 2026 minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

Introduction for Tolley and Brecht.

Budget Update:

Tertinger stated the balance is \$1,750.00.

Membership Update:

Erickson stated that Hogan has resigned from the Council but contact is being made to have a representative from CRCS be on the Council. Tertinger will reach out to Jenny Hook.

Old Business:

FARE Grant Funding Update: Erickson stated there is \$50,000.00 in grant funding secured but the Council needs a 501(c)(3) to disperse. He is also looking for more money to add to the pot and for a sub-committee to help with the process.

2026 Food Symposium Update: Sandberg announced the new date will be October 30 at the ISU Extension Office in Hiawatha. There is a monthly committee meeting.

Strategic Planning Session:

Balius introduced Flory to the Council. Flory then worked with the Council for the rest of the meeting on activities including Align & Sign, Purpose/Spectrum, Role & Expectations and Involvement in the System.

The Council decided to continue to work with Flory on the vision statement and setting a clear vision for the future of the Council. The next meeting will focus on pre-work for the vision statement.

New Business:

None

Open Discussion:

None

Next Meeting:

March 25, 2026

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Drew Erickson, Chair