

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

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6th St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA in Conference Room 333.

PRESENT: Camron Tolley- GSCU
Alora Kraus- Feed Iowa First
Hailee Sandberg- At-Large
Jacqueline Montoya-LCPH
Drew Erickson- Rodale Institute
Stephanie Schrader- City of Cedar Rapids
Eva Donnelly- ISU Extension-VIRTUAL
Kim Guardado- HACAP
Brittany Rohling- Grand Living-VIRTUAL
Gina Mobley- New Pioneer- VIRTUAL
Aaron Tarchinski- Horizons
Leland Freie- Sustainable Iowa Land Trust

ABSENT: Emmaly Renshaw-IVRCD
Mariah Andrews-Prairiewoods
Aron Brecht-HACAP
Sarah Blais- Iowa Ceramics Center

OTHERS

PRESENT: Cassidy Flory- LCPH
Britt Nielsen- LC Communications
Jayn Inglethron
Jack Ball

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Montoya, to approve the February 25, 2026, minutes. All members present voted yes.

Public Comments:

Introductions of Jack and Jayn.

Budget Update:

Tertinger stated the balance is \$1,750.00.

Membership Update:

Leland is now an official Council member. No one has reached out to Jenny Hook from CRCSD so Sandberg will send her the link to the application.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan Update: Prep for April 22 Work Session:

Cass said that she will be sending out a link to a survey and if the homework is done, the meeting can stay closer to an hour and a half. Discussion was had about the executive summary. We had come up with a plan to have the mission, vision, values meeting/work session in April, then in May come up with a work plan for the next 12 months at our May meeting.

FARE Grant Funding Discussion:

Erickson mentioned he has access to a potential donor. Discussion was had on how to link to a non-profit to be a steward for the money.

2026 Food Symposium Discussion: Review 2025 Symposium feedback:

Sandberg said that a feedback email was sent out. She will resend. The date is October 30 at the ISU Extension Office in Hiawatha. Nielsen will send out a save the date facebook post.

New Business:

None

Open Discussion:

Erickson thanked Guardado for all her time and effort on the Council.

Tertinger received an email from Les Beck asking if the Council wanted to be at SILTfest during Freedom Fest on June 27th from 11:30-3 at the Veterans Memorial Building. Nielsen offered to make stickers/swag. We had discussed the idea of attending the SILT fest and potentially have a table if we can spend some of the budget to get some schwag and some brochures for a table together in time, and get a couple of members of the committee to commit.

Guardado reminded the Council to spend the rest of the money before the fiscal year is up.

Next Meeting:

April 22, 2026- Location TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Drew Erickson, Chair