

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, May 27th, 2021**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. via GoToMeeting.

Special Statement: As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically. All county buildings are closed to the public until further notice.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

Theresa Lewis, At-Large  
Ellie Evans, At-Large  
Stephanie Schrader, City of CR Community Services Coordinator  
Scott Koepke, Indian Creek Nature Center, Farm Manager  
Sandy Rosenberger, ISU Extension  
Carter Oswood, Feed Iowa First  
Stephanie Schrader, City of Cedar Rapids  
Jason Snell, Sunrise

**ABSENT:**

Lynne Abbott, LCPH  
Chris Thoms, At-Large  
RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension  
Laura Seyfer, At-Large  
Kim Guardado, HACAP  
Sofia DeMartino, Horizons  
August Stolba, Prairiewood Franciscan Spirituality Center  
Tiffani Green, At-Large  
Charlie Nichols, Director Linn County Planning and Development

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Ilsa Dewald, City of Iowa City

**STAFF:**

Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff  
Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary  
Tamara Marcus, LC BOS Sustainability Manager

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Koepke, seconded by Guardado and carried, all members present voting yes, to approve the April 22, 2021 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

### **Monthly Budget Report**

Tertinger said the remaining account balance as of May 1<sup>st</sup> is \$3980 but all money is allocated to fulfill the CSA component of donation to HACAP that was approved by the Council and the BOS. The funds will reset on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to \$4000 and there is no indication that the LCFSC budget will change or be impacted in the upcoming fiscal year.

### **Presentation from United We March Forward**

This was postpone. We will revisit this at next month's meeting

### **Guidelines for LCFSC Charter:**

Oswood mentioned that he and Tertinger have spoken about updating the Charter/guidepost for the Council to bring it up-to-date. Tertinger mentioned that the group started in 2012 and then this was updated in 2015 and nothing since then so they thought it was a good time to revisit this.

Tertinger then reviews the updated responsibilities of the Council and the members thereof.

Koepke suggests striking the "requirement of publicized forums" for the Council to hold during a year. Guardado agreed and mentioned that with everything going on right now it's hard to get everything together to have a requirement like that. The entirety of the Council that was present agreed.

The discussion then shifted toward meeting requirements for the members. Thoms spoke to Tertinger about this before the meeting and said that he thinks it would be a good idea that if a member misses 3 consecutive months, for any reason, AND doesn't have someone else fill in for you then that member should be asked to leave the group or relieved of their duties. The Council agreed to that as well.

Tertinger then mentioned regarding membership reappointment that since this group is a fairly specific group he thinks it would be a good idea to do away with term limits and also add new groups to bring on board (examples: procurement, Attorney, LC BOS person etc).

Tertinger mentioned that these changes will still need to be formalized and sent to the BOS for approval. He is hoping to have a hard copy for the meeting in June.

The conversation then shifted to the funds possibly coming to the County from ARPA. Marcus that there are 4 parts that the funds are intended to cover: Administration, Essential Worker Pay, General Infrastructure Projects and she couldn't remember the fourth one. DeWald mentioned

that she's been working with the Johnson Co BOS about ideas of what their money can be used for and she said that now is a good time to start making lists and DREAM BIG.

There was general discussion on how and some ideas of how those funds could be used.

### **New Project Ideas**

Someone mentioned forming an exploratory commission to look into ARPA, read it, and learn the ins and outs of it

Koepke asked for an update on size of small scale production sites. Tertinger said the County will be hands off in regards to that and not "in it" w/ being overly regulated.

Snell gave an update as to what Sunrise is currently doing to bring food to Food Deserts and the locations.

Dewald gave a couple of State Policy updates.

Koepke gave an update on the Bean Team, testing metric and breeding trials and next steps in the next year.

### **Project Plan Updates**

Farmers Market: No update, 1<sup>st</sup> Farmers Market will be June 19<sup>th</sup>

CSA: already updated

Come to the Table: no update

Recruitment: Carter invited Lemmy w/ school district and he should be here next month, Koepke is speaking with the plant manager at General Mills and he has reconnected with Hy-Vee, Sampica gave an update that he reached out to a couple of people regarding procurement from ADM and Ingredion. Ingredion has fallen through the ADM is still in the works.

Carter and Tertinger are going to meet with Zumbach to possibly bringing him on the Council.

Mini-Grant: possibly a draft summary coming soon to look at. Otherwise no updates

LC Food Policy Coordinator: no update, Carter will follow up

Regional Food Systems Working Group: no updates, next meeting is in September

Feed Iowa First (AG Opportunities): the program has ballooned to now there are 6-7 farmers and it is looking good

HACAP gave an update on grants and programs

ISU Extension: Rosenberger spoke to the Share a Row initiative. Their goal this year is for 30k pounds of good donated to food pantry's. There is also huge interest in the Master Gardener program this year and finally School Gardens 101 is starting up to help teachers do a school garden.

Community Climate Action Committee: discussion continues to speak to how the Food System will look in 20, 30 etc. years.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan Sampica, Recording Secretary

Approved,



Carter Oswood, Chair