

MINUTES
LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL
Thursday, July 23rd, 2020

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. via GoToMeeting.

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

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Laura Seyfer, At-Large, Co-Chair
:
 August Stolba, Feed Iowa First, Co-Chair
 Sofia Mehaffey, Horizons
 Lynne Abbott, Linn County Public Health
 Stephanie Schrader, Community Well Being Liaison
 Theresa Lewis, Four Oaks
 Evan Langston, Cottage Grove Place
 Jake Kundert, IVRCD
 Carter Oswood, Restaurant/Institution
 Chris Thoms, At-Large
 RaeAnn Gordon, ISU Extension

ABSENT: Emma Johnson, Grower/Producer
 Kim Guardado, HACAP

OTHERS

PRESENT Ilsa DeWald, Johnson County Food Policy Coordinator

:

STAFF: Les Beck, Director Linn County Planning and Development
 Mike Tertinger, Linn County Planning and Development, Staff
 Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mehaffey second by Seyfer, all members present voting aye, to approve the June 25th, 2020 LCFSC minutes as submitted.

Budget

Tertinger said there was \$698 left in the council's operating account at the end of FY2020. As of July 1, 2021, the FY21 budget allocation of \$4,000 has been deposited into FSC's account.

2020 Project Plan Updates

1.) Review July 20 NVA Food System Assessment Project Presentation to Board of Supervisors

- a. Seyfer said Brent Oleson took picture of slideshow and he had a lot of questions. Seyfer commended Mike on his opener at the meeting. Stolba wondered what, specifically, Oleson took pictures of. Beck said Dows Farm. Beck explained that Oleson is a very vocal, passionate supporter of Dows Farm. Beck also informed the group that Ben Rogers & Stacey Walker said they were impressed with NVA's work and were anxious to see what next steps are.
- b. Dewald said the Supervisors seemed interested in hiring a local foods coordinator. Gordon liked the idea of creating such a position.
- c. Tertinger wondered if there were any key themes that jumped out to members of the council from the Board of Supervisors meeting. Beck said the recommendation for a local foods coordinator. Tertinger said education; what does it look like and how does it translate into the work plan? Tertinger mentioned the idea of a Linn County employee CSA pick up at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
- d. Dewald suggested hosting a lunch 'n learn on CSA's.
- e. Schrader mentioned compiling resources for growers to showcase opportunities, or resources guides, as part of the education piece.
- f. Gordon thought educating the public about plant-based proteins and challenges surrounding local meat processing would be helpful.

2.) Website Updates

- a. Tertinger recommended the website subcommittee focus on education, rather than headshots and bios. Oswood agreed, but wondered if the webpage could be linked to another site or different platform. Tertinger was unsure, but suggested Oswood contact Britt, in Communications, to verify.

3.) Create a Local Foods Coordinator

- a. Gordon wondered what the council needs to do for the Board of Supervisors to create a Local Foods Coordinator position. Beck said not much can be done in FY21, but added that the county's budget review process starts in November or December, so the idea can be reexamined at that time.
- b. Gordon asked Dewald to share her formal job description with Linn County. Dewald agreed and also suggested Kundert share his similar job description. Kundert recommended the council reach out to other counties across the country for help creating the position.
- c. Stolba appointment Oswood, Kundert, Dewald, Gordon and Abbott to make up the Local Foods Coordinator subcommittee. The subcommittee will be responsible for putting together a formal job description. Stolba will send a follow up email to the subcommittee to prompt further discussion.

- d. Tertinger suggested removing “conversation with ag lender” from the work plan, and replace it with the creation of the Local Foods Coordinator to avoid work plan overload.
- e. Tertinger asked for any updates regarding Come to the Table Summit. Oswood said the project is currently on hold and will be for the foreseeable future. The subcommittee will have to work on a digitally formatted summit.

Member Updates

Gordon will send out a webinar invite to all members of the council, forwarded from Karen Washington, founder of Rise and Root Farm.

Tertinger asked if Oswood & Seyfer would be able to get a draft of the updated website together prior to the August meeting. Oswood said yes and confirmed he would reach out to Britt, in Communications, for content parameters.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Jessie Black, Recording Secretary

, Co-Chair