



Food System Committee

Wednesday February 26th, 2020

3:30-5 PM

Health Department

1500 State Street Suite 201

Bellingham

Minutes

Members Present:

Name	Sector	Present
Jon Maberry	Export Sales Farming	
Margaret Gerard	Local Sales Farming	X
Kendall Whitney	Fishing	X
Adrienne Renz	Processing/Distribution	
Riley Sweeney	Food Access	X
Amber Noskoff	Nutrition/ Public Health	X
Maureen Darras	Labor	X
Krista Rome	Natural Resources	X
Mardi Solomon	Whatcom Food Network	X

Staff: Ali Jensen, WCHD

Call to order: Riley started the meeting at 3:35

Land Acknowledgement

Determination of Quorum

Quorum

Approval of minutes

Krista moved to approve January minutes; Kendall seconded. Group approved.

Public Comment

None

Process Review

Interviews are contributing to Community Food Assessment (CFA) update as well as Food System Plan (FSP). Recommendations from interviewees will be included/considered in the FSP. The group agreed to update the CFA, adhering to the original timeline. Committee members will send updated CFA and sector-aggregated interview notes to their interviewees for review. There was still discussion about how to share findings with community. The FSP will be shared with community groups. Maureen suggested a community-sharing process similar to C2C's Dignity Dialogue model.

If a Committee member hears about an update from another sector, they should share it with that sector representative or bring it up during the sector presentation.

Later in the meeting, the group discussed changing the sector order from the original CFA. Specifically, Distribution seems to fit in with Consumption. Processing may need to be its own section. Consumption may be reframed as Food Access. Water and Land may be combined into a Natural Resources Sector.

The Committee reviewed the timeline during this section.

Later on in the meeting, the group discussed reviewing the Subject Matter Expert list, to see who has been interviewed and who is still pending. The group will prioritize who gets interviewed.

Subject Review: Consumption

The group decided to remove the “Recommendations” section from the CFA, but keep recommendations on-hand for the actual Food System Plan.

The “Lessons Learned” section is blank in the Consumption review, but will remain in each CFA section.

The group discussed the “Organizations Involved” section. Mardi described that it was a carry-over from a Whatcom Food Network Mapping Project. Staff will explore whether the organizations could be part of Sustainable Connection’s Food Atlas or some other database.

Things to add to the CFA:

- CFC Farm Fund
- BFB Garden Project ended
- Collaborations: Whatcom Food Network and Food System Committee to be added to each sector review?

Natural Resources Sector Review

The Natural Resources section encompasses land, water, and everything in between. Krista interviewed several people, including: Whatcom Land Trust

Whatcom Conservation District
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Department of Ecology
Environmental Caucus to the WRIA-1 Planning Unit
Nooksack Tribe Garden Committee
WA Young Farmer’s Coalition
Goshen Transition Group
Local permaculture professionals
Former NWIC Instructor
Food System expert at WWU
Garden instructor at Montessori School
Cascadia Food Institute
Tenmile Clean Water Project

It was noted that air quality was not addressed. Krista and Ali will work on updating the Land and Water sectors in the CFA.

Distribution Sector Review

Ali presented on behalf of Adrienne, who mostly focused on Distribution. Adrienne also interviewed a Community Development Financial Institute, ICU, which is able to support funding for food system projects, such as the Co-Op Farm Fund.

Some comments from the Committee members included a discussion about food banks' distribution of food to migrant farm worker camps, a need for follow up with other financial institutions, and how the census may impact food resources.

The Committee agreed that processing a distribution may need to be broken up in the CFA update.

Review of Google Drive

Ali shared a quick review of where things can be found on the Google Drive.

Announcements

Next meeting is: March 25, 3:30-5:00 at Health Department

Meetings will be on the last Wed. of the month, though we may change the time to later in the day.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05