



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Food Council

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Lyman
Anderson building 5201 Fen Oak Dr; Meeting
Room Moraine (C); attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

Chair **WARNER** called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

Present 5 - CARL CHENOWETH, Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH, and ADDI FAERBER

Excused 4 - DANIEL CORNELIUS, SEBASTIAN HASSELL, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE ANDRAE

Attended by Zoom: NENNIG, JANISCH, FAERBER, CORNELIUS, HASSELL

Others Present: Diya Chilukuri, Jess Guffey Calkins

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-507](#)

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 03, 2025, FOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-507](#)

Motion by JANISCH, second by FAERBER, to approve minutes. All in favor,
motion carries (5-0).

C. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

6:04 CORNELIUS joined

Present 6 - CARL CHENOWETH, Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH, DANIEL CORNELIUS, and ADDI FAERBER

Excused 3 - SEBASTIAN HASSELL, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE ANDRAE

D. Action Item

Consideration of DCFC funding for Food Action Plan Survey Analysis: DCFC discussed options for possible funding allocations to the Food Action Plan survey analysis and/or implementation phase. If an extra DCFC meeting is needed to take an action on this, 2.11.26 is a tentative date.

6:12 HASSELL joined

Present 7 - CARL CHENOWETH, Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH, DANIEL CORNELIUS, SEBASTIAN HASSELL, and ADDI FAERBER

Excused 2 - KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE ANDRAE

E. Reports to Committee

Regular Business Reports

- Dane County Food Action Plan - WARNER, Guffey Calkins

Project team is developing overall plan goals and specific recommendations under the goals. The team will set a time to share draft goals and recommendations with the food councils in the spring - likely at the March meeting.

- Foodshed Partnership Project - FAERBER

On February 4 there will be an Open House for potential partners, farmers, and institutional purchasers. A contractor has been secured for build-out work. Cornelius suggested looking into a fresh fruits and vegetable distributor out of DeForest that partners with the Tribal Elder food box program.

- Wisconsin Food Systems, Inc (WFS) - CORNELIUS

Annual board meeting was recently held. WFS is working on connecting more with the Foodshed Partnership Project; also working on grant applications.

- Regional Agriculture & Food Sovereignty; Community Gardens - Nicholas Leete via Guffey Calkins

The Community Garden Summit, an annual gathering of gardeners and organizers, will be hosted by Rooted and UW-Madison Extension Dane County at 517 E Badger Road, Madison, WI 53704 on Saturday, February 21 from 8:30am to 6:30pm. Registration is available at: <https://rootedwi.wufoo.com/forms/z11avknj19opgi9/>. More information is available here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oujkbCYrTsBrVmYSFDac8EVwRx2z2qjS/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107988339666866627101&rtpof=true&sd=true>.

Most community gardens are also starting their 2026 registration now. Contact information for each garden to see if there are plots available can be found at <http://www.danegardens.net>.

- Food Access; Double Dollars Program - Guffey Calkins

No report

- Public Health Madison & Dane County; City of Madison Business Development - George Reistad via Guffey Calkins

2026 City of Madison SEED Grants opened Monday 1/19/26 (announced Tues 1/20); close Fri 2/20/26.

Madison Public Market announces first cohort of merchant leases signed:

https://www.wkow.com/news/madison-public-market-announces-eight-vendors-ahead-of-opening/article_11ae9cfe-311d-4039-807d-9a41d417b8a0.html

- Extension/Dane County - Guffey Calkins

2026 Organic Vegetable Production Conference: January 22-23 (online) and January 30-31 (Alliant Energy Center). Connect with experienced vegetable growers from throughout the Midwest and beyond at this producer-initiated event grounded in farmer-to-farmer skill sharing. Join your peers for online sessions, in-person sessions, or both! This conference serves advanced vegetable growers and content is tailored to this audience. More info and registration options are at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/dane-county-agriculture/ovpc>. The Organic Vegetable Production Conference is hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Dane County, in partnership with FairShare CSA Coalition, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach, and the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.

Upcoming educational events are listed on the UW -Madison Extension Dane County website: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/>.

Council Discussion

- Potential policy recommendation regarding future county land acquisitions: Identify parcel sections with existing water infrastructure and designate them for food production.

[2025](#)
[RPT-654](#)

DCFC POLICY 2025 REVIEW MEMO

Attachments: [2025 RPT-654](#)

DCFC discussed ideas around increasing food production designations on county park land.

DCFC Action Plan Reports

- Policy - CHENOWETH

This information was shared and discussed under Council Discussion.

- Food Access and Equity (PI) - JANISCH, NENNIG

The 2026 PI application has been updated and is live. The 2026 granting amount is \$35,200 (due to the 4% budget cut). The grant is now called Partners in Community Food Project Grants (or PI Community Food Project Grants). The Office of Equity and Inclusion is now the Dane County Civil Rights Department. Go to <https://equity.danecounty.gov/grants/PIE-food> for all the details; applications are due February 27, 2026.

- Community Engagement - WARNER

No report

- Organizational Capacity

No report

- Food System Resource Recommendations

No report

F. Announcements

FAERBER will be leaving REAP and starting at CAC as a full-time grant writer on February 2.

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

February 25, 2025, 6pm

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by NENNIG, seconded by CHENOWETH, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carries (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jess Guffey Calkins, pending council approval.