



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Food Council Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group

*Consider:*

*Who benefits? Who is burdened?*

*Who does not have a voice at the table?*

*How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Friday, January 20, 2023

12:00 PM

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

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See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public  
testimony.

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 2 - NAN FEY, and NICHOLAS LEETE

**Excused** 1 - Chair SHEENA TESCH

*Others present: Laura Scandurra, Erin Barnes Lowe, Phil Kauth, Marcia Caton Campbell,  
Nou Thao, Jess Guffey Calkins, Susan Hessel*

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2022](#)  
[MIN-470](#)

11.11.2022 MINUTES FOOD COUNCIL RAF

**Attachments:** [2022 MIN-470](#)

A motion was made by FEY, seconded by LEETE, that the Minutes be approved.  
The motion carried by a voice vote 2-0.

#### C. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

## D. Discussion Items

### 1. Local market development

- No report

### 2. Land for cultivation

- City Farmland Preservation Task Force and the MFPC have put city staff on the spot for this at meetings held 12/14/22. Farmers should have nutrient management plans in place, by state statute. The statute is implemented and enforced at the county level. The farmer has the responsibility to develop such a plan. As a result, it would not be burdensome or problematic for the City to add this as an ag lease requirement. FEY will loop back with George Reistad for clarification and update regarding when City staff met and what resulted if they met.

### 3. City Farmland Preservation Task Force

- This group is meeting biweekly and has picked up the pace on their work. Three teams of three members each will be formed: land access and tenure, land characteristics, and the policy/regulatory environment.
- Meetings are open to the public, from 3:00-4:30 pm, biweekly. Next meeting 1/25. Meeting on 1/25 will be whether the topics generated are gathered in the right clusters with folks allocated to groups accordingly. There will be opportunities for RAFS to assist the Task Force, but Task Force Chair Fey doesn't know what those are just yet.

### 4. Next projects brainstorming

- Stakeholder mapping exercise and possible outcomes
  - Examples of things the City/County might do: Milan Food Policy Pact (City of Baltimore has adopted this pact), Good Food Purchasing Program (adopted by NYC, Chicago, LA Unified School District, and many others)
- Extension website has a list of local food organizations – we could begin by asking orgs and groups to ensure that they are listed or update their listings by sending information updates to Jess Guffey Calkins
- Much of this work falls under the the scope of the Food Plan WG, so let's be careful not to duplicate efforts
  - At Extension, Lindsey Day Farnsworth and Cathryn Herlihey (grad student in urban planning and water resources) are mapping stakeholders to strengthen relationships between farmers and emergency food. From an email from Jess: "The purpose of this project is three-fold: (1) to map out the existing farm to food access landscape in Wisconsin, (2) to understand what is working well, and (3) to identify where additional investment or strategic partnerships could increase our collective capacity to move more culturally relevant, Wisconsin-grown product to households in need. As a result, we aim to ensure that cumulative lessons from individual farm to food access initiatives and the recent influx of federal funding for new and existing programs contribute to improvements at local and system scales. For the purposes of this project, we are defining "farm to food access programs" as any program that links WI-sourced produce with low food access households."
- Erin Barnes Lowe has done stakeholder mapping (nonprofits, local governments) at a regional scale (6-state region) around how to expand managed grazing across the region in a way that supports a more just food system. Stakeholders shared ongoing work and projects at the regional scale; the information was intended for use internal to

*the group.*

*- Susan Hessel suggested development of a crowd sourced GIS platform to capture the information being discussed here. Questions about a project's institutional home and who would support and maintain such a data base. Susan knows someone who recently retired from the Ag Dept who has these skills. Susan and Laura will connect to talk further about possibilities for map-based GIS system.*

*- UW units that work on food systems could include Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, the School of Human Ecology (which has a Wisconsin Food Security Project website), and Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies (led by Mary Beth Collins – Phil and Marcia will follow up to gauge her interest), and potentially the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Erin will also mention to the CIAS group (Center for Integrated Ag Systems)*

*- The UW System has a \$160 million grant application for regional innovation engines that focuses on sustainable agriculture. The effort is multi-sectoral Laura shared the grant application, now in the RAFS WG Google folder. Could we consider them as a possibility for developing a data platform?*

*- MFPC held an extensive conversation facilitated by Abha Thakkar (Mosaic LLC) at their 1/18 meeting to evaluate their charter and the future direction of the Council's work*

*- City's boundaries have limited the horizons for MFPC's work*

*- Opportunity for expanding their horizons comes from the Comprehensive Plan's intergovernmental coordination chapter, where there is a call for a regional food systems plan*

*- City also references funding limitations (as does the County)--these are real, and we've been able to push those boundaries slightly, but it is difficult*

*- There are structural conversations that need to happen given these various limitations--and they all point to not duplicating work that has already been done and not reaching too far*

*- Invite "guest" speakers to the meeting to talk about food sovereignty issues in the area and how policy can support those efforts. (Phil)*

*5. Access/control over land. Land for cultivation.*

*- Discussion shifted to this tab on the RAFS sheet, notes are in the sheet.*

## **E. Announcements**

## **F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*Continuing brainstorming in future meetings*

*Please keep Farmland Task Force as a standing item on the agenda*

*Next meeting, Friday, Feb. 17th*

## **G. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

## **H. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by FEY, seconded by LEETE, that the meeting be adjourned.**

**The motion carried unanimously 2-0.**

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