



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, September 17, 2025

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 6:05pm

Present 6 - CARL CHENOWETH, Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA
JANISCH, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE ANDRAE

Excused 3 - DANIEL CORNELIUS, SEBASTIAN HASSELL, and ADDI FAERBER

Others Present: Jess Guffey Calkins

Joined by Zoom: NENNIG, JANISCH, MARREN, ANDRAE

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-288](#)

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2025, FOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-288](#)

A motion was made by JANISCH, seconded by CHENOWETH, to approve the
minutes. All in favor, motion carries (6-0).

C. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None

D. Reports to Committee

Regular Business Reports

- Dane County Food Action Plan - Noah Bloedorn via WARNER, Guffey Calkins

Food Plan Update 9/17

We are at a critical juncture in the development of the Dane County Food Action Plan. After months of engaging with the community to gather insights, we are now preparing to transition from the community engagement phase of the food plan to data, collection, analysis, and writing the final food plan document.

Here's what we've been working on:

Recap: The Food & Faith Summit

During the summit, the Food Action Plan team brought together stakeholders from Christian and Jewish faith institutions to discuss needs in our community, map out work that is being done by these institutions, and discuss what opportunities there are for collaboration and coordination to meet the needs of our community. Moving forward we are assessing the possibility of hosting more of these events and expanding our outreach and connections for those meetings.

Other Events:

- On August 5, the Dane County Food Collective held its monthly meeting at the Madison Club, where members were able to hear updates about the Food Action Plan and provide input.
- On August 11, the Food Plan team hosted a town hall on the north side of Madison at Lakeview Library. Following a presentation, members provided unique insights into connections specific to their neighborhoods.
- On August 12, Bill Warner of Snughaven Farm moderated a panel at Sustain Dane's Future of Farming event, held at Vitruvian Farms in McFarland. The panelists--local farmers themselves--shared their personal stories and made connections to the food plan.

Upcoming Events:

We are excited to highlight two pivotal upcoming events that mark the culmination of our direct community engagement efforts.

Harvest Gathering at Yowela Farms

We are also looking forward to the 4th annual Harvest Gathering on September 27 from 2-7 PM at Yowela Farms in Stoughton. Hosted by REAP Food Group and Yowela Farms, this event will celebrate Indigenous knowledge, local food, and seasonal abundance.

The Food Action Plan team will be there to share our emerging themes and collect final input from attendees through a town hall discussion. We will also have the honor of MCing the dinner, providing a platform for chefs and workshop leaders to share their perspectives on food policy and the issues they care about.

Racial Justice Summit: Mutual Aid & Solidarity in Building a Resilient Food System

Join us for a dynamic session facilitated by Abha Thakkar, Noah Bloedorn, and Jess Guffey Calkins. This is an open invitation for everyone to explore how we can lessen our dependence on the market economy and build a food system grounded in mutual aid and solidarity. The session will focus on developing grassroots recommendations for the food plan, centered on how we can feed each other in ways that celebrate our distinct humanity, enhance our health, and build community.

These events are the final opportunities to lend your voice as we prepare to synthesize all the information we have gathered. We look forward to your partnership as we move into the final stages of writing the food plan.

- Wisconsin Food Systems, Inc - CORNELIUS
No report

- Regional Agriculture & Food Sovereignty; Community Gardens - Nicholas Leete via Guffey Calkins
We will be meeting over the next couple months to create a draft recommendation for City policy on safely permitting food production on brownfields.

- Food Access; Double Dollars Program - Guffey Calkins
No report

- Public Health Madison & Dane County; City of Madison Business Development - Nick Heckman via Guffey Calkins
No report

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

DCFC Action Plan reports

- Policy - CHENOWETH
An email was sent out to Dane County food producers to notify them about the two Dane County agricultural lease properties that can be bid on; the leases will start in January 2026. Bid proposals for these lease opportunities are due October 3, 2025, 2pm. The details are at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/countyofdane/projects/195321>. A discussion was held about the county agricultural land leasing process.

The Dane County Request for Proposals (RFP) for Community Garden Management Services at Anderson Farm County Park has also been posted at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/countyofdane/projects/194322>. A discussion was held about this RFP and management of other food production projects on Dane County properties.

6:24 CORNELIUS joined.

Present 7 - CARL CHENOWETH, Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH, DANIEL CORNELIUS, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE ANDRAE

Excused 2 - SEBASTIAN HASSELL, and ADDI FAERBER

- Food Access and Equity (PIE) - JANISCH, NENNIG
No report

- Community Engagement - WARNER
No report

- Organizational Capacity
No report

- Food System Resource Recommendations
No report

Council Discussion

- Double Dollars Program

As a result of major budget cuts required for Dane County, Dane County Department of Human Services has proposed to remove Dane County funding for the Dane County Double Dollars program. A discussion was held about this situation.

- Anderson Farm County Park
This information was shared during the Policy report.

E. Announcements

DCFC will have a new Youth Governance Program member, Diya Chilukuri (she/her), starting in October. She's a junior at Middleton High School.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

10/22, 6pm

G. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

H. Adjourn

A motion was made by CHENOWETH, seconded by ANDRAE, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carries (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

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