



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, February 25, 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 6:02pm

- Present** 7 - Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH,
SEBASTIAN HASSELL, ADDI FAERBER, KERRY MARREN, and RICHELLE
ANDRAE
- Excused** 2 - CARL CHENOWETH, and DANIEL CORNELIUS

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

Others Present: Nina Comiskey, Diya Chilukuri, Jess Guffey Calkins

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-581](#)

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2026, FOOD COUNCIL MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-581](#)

A motion was made by ANDRAE, seconded by MARREN, to approve the minutes.
All in favor, motion carries (7-0).

C. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

CORNELIUS joined 6:04pm.

- Present** 8 - Chair BILL WARNER, Vice Chair SHIRLEY NENNIG, ERICA JANISCH, DANIEL
CORNELIUS, SEBASTIAN HASSELL, ADDI FAERBER, KERRY MARREN, and
RICHELLE ANDRAE
- Excused** 1 - CARL CHENOWETH

D. Presentation

Dane County Double Dollars - Nina Comiskey, Double Dollars Coordinator,
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin

A discussion was held following the presentation.

[2025
PRES-274](#)

DOUBLE DOLLARS FEBRUARY 2026 PRESENTATION

Attachments: [2025 PRES-274](#)

E. Reports to Committee

Regular Business Reports

- Dane County Food Action Plan - WARNER, Guffey Calkins
Current project work includes community engagement data analysis and refining goals and strategies. The draft goals and strategies will be shared and discussed with both food councils at the 3/18 meeting. Funding for the survey analysis is tentatively resolved at this point.

- Foodshed Partnership Project - FAERBER
Construction permits are in process - to build out the vegetable processing line area. Future event: late June for the facility opening. Engaging with farmers and buyers.

- Wisconsin Food Systems, Inc - CORNELIUS
No report.

- Regional Agriculture & Food Sovereignty; Community Gardens - Nicholas Leete via Guffey Calkins
What was originally entitled the "Gardening on Brownfields" resolution to the Common Council (discussed by Madison Food Policy Council in December 2025) was renamed after input from the Economic Development Division to "Documenting Policies for Food Production on City-Owned Land" as a first step to developing a city-wide policy for growing food on any city-owned land. Legislative File ID # 91152.

The current Resolution has been approved by the Sustainable Madison Committee, the Board of Public Works, Water Utility Board, and Parks Commission. Input from these BCCs will be considered by the Madison Food Policy Council on 2/18 whose final recommendation will be sent to the Common Council for consideration on 2/24.

The work of drafting a city-wide policy for gardening on public lands will begin in March, with RAFS (Regional Agriculture & Food Sovereignty) taking the lead.

- Food Access; Double Dollars Program - Nick Heckman via Guffey Calkins
Wisconsin's SNAP program, FoodShare, is now implementing expanded work requirements as required by the 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This bill also shifted an additional 25% of administrative costs from the federal government to states (from 50% to 75%). This will increase costs for Wisconsin. Governor Evers and the Legislature have been in negotiations around plans to address this shortfall among other priorities.

Double Dollars moves forward with 2026 planning cycle in advance of the 2026 market season. Work continues to collaborate with statewide partners.

- Public Health Madison & Dane County; City of Madison Business Development - Nick Heckman via Guffey Calkins
Dane County has now had two measles-related events in February: first, a

confirmed case of measles in the Madison area. Second, a traveler from out of state who later tested positive for measles but had resided in Dane County during their infectious period. This has disrupted normal work as staff are called in to support the response in various forms. For more information, visit <https://publichealthmdc.com/your-health/measles>.

- 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
No report.

- Food Access and Equity (PI) - JANISCH, NENNIG
2026 Dane County PI Community Food Project grant applications are due February 27, 2026. The 2026 granting amount is \$35,200 (due to the 4% budget cut). Go to <https://equity.danecounty.gov/grants/PIE-food> for all the details.

- Community Engagement - WARNER
No report.

- Organizational Capacity
No report.

- Food System Resource Recommendations
No report.

F. Announcements

None

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

March 18, 2025, 6pm - Food Action Plan update presentation and discussion (together with Madison Food Policy Council)

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by ANDRAE, seconded by JANISCH, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carries (8-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

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