

**MINUTES**  
**LINN COUNTY FOOD SYSTEMS COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

The Linn County Food Systems Council meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm in conference room 234A/B at the Harris Linn County Public Health Building, 1020 6<sup>th</sup> St SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**PRESENT:** Laura Seyfer, Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance  
August Stolba, Prairiewood Franciscan Spirituality Center  
Emmaly Renshaw, Feed Iowa First  
Jacqueline Montoya, LCPH  
Stephanie Schrader, City of Cedar Rapids Community Services Coordinator  
Kim Guardado, HACAP  
Hailee Sandberg, ISU Extension  
Emily Qual- Cobble Hill

**ABSENT:** Amy Hockett, LCPH  
Melissa Wahl, Horizons  
Yaholi Machado, NewBo City Market  
Laura Krouse, Abbe Hills Farm

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Tam Marcus

**STAFF:** Mike Tertinger, Senior Planner  
Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Seyfer to approve the February 21, 2023, LCFSC minutes. All members present voting yes.

**Budget:**

Current budget balance is \$6935.00 to spend by June 30. Whatever is left goes to general fund. The budget will then have \$4000 available again on July 1.

**FARE Grant Process Recap/Next Steps:**

- a. Committee Assignment- Stolba asked for volunteers to form committees to make changes to the process for the next round.

Open discussion lead by Stolba- Key points for adjustment: Outreach- nothing translated, internal marketing used- Add an FAQ to website-what networks to tap in to, Nightly news-radio-Talking Points-Testimonials from prior recipients.

Application eligibility- Did organization win ARPA from others? Get Blais involved more.

Move from narrative based questions to a specific ask. Be more specific on budget items.

Filter out salary and wages-no funding for those. Discussion on if partials can still apply but fully funded cannot apply again or only up to the \$25k? If they received ARPA funding from the county, that is to be taken in account. Give priority to ones that weren't funded or given any ARPA funding before?

Application Eligibility Committee - Renshaw & Schrader

Outreach Marketing Committee- Blais & Qual & Stolba (Qual will put together a snippet to mail out)

Post Survey- Sandberg (give to Blais to send) Where did you hear about it? Ease of application/confusing? Filling a niche not seen by other programs? Support that Blais gave- did they use her? Scoring process? Sandberg will send out to members to tweak before giving to Blais to email out.

Reducing narrative based questions & specific asks Committee- Guardado will help but not lead, Seyfer & Montoya.

Budget instructions Committee- Renshaw

Scoring process- Wait until the narrative committee is completed and revisit.

Final report to the website- check with Nielsen to see if the link is active. Discussion about what the questions on the final report ask. Renshaw to give to Tertinger to get Nielsen to add.

### **Come to the Table Summit Discussion:**

Can we sponsor and what does it look like? Sydney Evans is taking the lead. What kind of support can this group provide? Pretty open to what the event can look like. Timeframe in fall after the growing season but is flexible. Evans ends her term in November but can do it after.

Is this something we want to invest in and how much to spend and volunteer?

- a. Committee Assignment- Evans leading and/or P&D and Sustainability co-committee for a steering comm. Jason Grimm, Stolba, Renshaw, Sandberg, Guardado, Tertinger, Tamara Marcus, Scott Koepke.
- b. Sponsorship- lead sponsor and a voice at the table? Motion to approve funds to be spent before June 30 to be a sponsor. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Guardado. All members present voting yes.
- c. Budget- not sure yet.
- d. Scheduling/Volunteer Time- will discuss at a later date.

ISU has a lot of people to keynote and panel discuss. Sandberg will connect after summer.

Registration fees? Rental fees? All discussion items for later.

Marcus says it can look a few different ways. If FSC sponsors, it stays true to the mission.

Topics- any that we do want to cover? Proximity and infrastructure were mentioned.

Places to hold the event were mentioned: Newbo City Market- spaces next door for local events and Kirkwood Regional Center on Boyson Road.

**Wanatee Orchard Project (Discuss & Decide):**

Associated with Feed Iowa First- budget. Allocate funding to plant trees and building a fence. Publicly accessible. Nothing in Linn County is growing food for food pantries. Discussion that up to \$2500 is approved. Discussion about growth potentials. Motion by Stolba to allocate funds and seconded by Qual. All members present voting yes. (Schrader absent and Renshaw abstain)

**Election of Officers Discussion:**

Stolba resigning in June. Who will step up?

**FSC Recruitment**

Time to bring in more people. Young people with energy. AmeriCorp members, etc. Can be someone that isn't an executive. Brainstorm ways to let people that can do things but not able to make a meeting to be a member. Bring in a speaker to help shape a plan and an understanding.

**Open Discussion:**

By-laws for who can be here and who can vote? Up to 15 voting members and unlimited amount of public can attend.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amy Speed, Recording Secretary

Approved,



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August Stolba, Chair