

<p><b>Purpose:</b> Johnson County Food Policy Council Meeting</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Aug. 16, 2021</p>	<p><b>Time:</b> 6:00 pm-8:00 pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Johnson County Administration Building - Betty Sass Conference Room 913 S. Dubuque St. Iowa City, IA 52240 and Zoom Option</p>	<p><b>Note taker:</b> Will Kapp</p> <p><b>Members In Attendance:</b> Bill Weedman Jr, Giselle Bruskwitz, Hannah Schultz, Jill Irvin, Joe Klingelutz, Keshia Fields, Mike Roelf, Molly Schintler, Will Kapp, Deborah Kuiken, Alex MacKay</p> <p><b>Ex Officio:</b> Ilsa DeWald, Rod Sullivan, Cassidy Beamer</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Brandi Janssen, Carly Nichols, Russ Duccini</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Ayman Sharif, Debbie Klein, Kristy Walker, Liz Maas</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items – Due Date
<b>Meeting Called to Order by Giselle at 6:00 pm</b>		
<b>Minutes Approval</b>	<p>Hannah - Move</p> <p>Mike - Second</p> <p>July minutes approved</p>	
<b>1. Introductions</b>	<p>What is a local food you have been enjoying recently?</p> <p>Giselle - Cherry Tomatoes, Will - Apples soon!, Carly - Beets, Deborah - Chili Peppers, Cassidy - Kale, Ilsa - Fresh Cucumbers, Alex - Watermelon, Russ - , Hannah Schulz - Trying to like eggplant, Molly - Pork, Brandi - Putting up tomatoes and pickles, Bill - Sweet Corn, Jill - Tomatoes from container garden, Mike - Tomato, Keisha - Potatoes, Rod - Sweet Corn</p>	
<b>2. Presentation by Brandi Janssen and Carly Nichols, University of Iowa Occupational</b>	<p>Cassidy introduced guests Brandi and Carly and their work with how farm workers and food producers were impacted by Covid-19. Cassidy worked as a research assistant with both of them before coming to the county as an intern.</p> <p>Carly - Began work in international contexts. Mailed out a survey on impacts of Covid-19 on food production via contacts through the IDALs listserve. 500 participants responded from Iowa responded and a portion of them were interviewed, mostly older, more experienced farmers concentrated in the North and Eastern portion of the state growing</p>	

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vegetables and fruit. The data on Covid-19 impacts was messier than anticipated with some farmers having bad experiences and some good throughout.

Brandi - The mixed methods of qualitative and quantitative will help make sense of the messiness of the data.

Carly - A “good” experience may mean a positive financial one, but necessarily without other challenges in terms of getting food to consumers. The amount of information going to farmers about assistance programs and new and shifting health and safety protocols was overwhelming in the midst of the season. Producers who did direct to consumer sales were impacted most acutely by health and safety protocols.

Brandi - Local food producers were able to shift tactics and business models quickly because of their inherent flexibility due to their smaller size than large food producers. Pandemics will not be the only system shock that we see, which could be any number of things.

Carly - Producers and marketers that are embedded in the community don’t have the same impulse or need to inflate prices because they do not rely as much on the supply chain. Many producers who previously had not began donating products to food pantries, offering discounted products to lower income customers or accepting SNAP during the pandemic.

Is there similar work being done around the country? There are other groups in Arizona and Davis, California doing similar work, but much of the larger statistical work may be forthcoming.

Did the idea of shared kitchen space come up in your work? Farmers did not have it on their minds, as the demand for their original products was generally up and shifting was not on their mind. In addition, many organizations or businesses that would offer that were closed or limited.

Did you hear any feedback or comments on policy? People impacted by policy may not have given the thought to policy language to communicate their perspective. One of the jobs of the researcher is extrapolating conclusions from the data to craft policy recommendations.

Which producers reported a negative financial experience? Predominately farmers that sold to restaurants or lived in areas that were far from highly populated areas with a lot of individual consumers.

What are you hoping to do with this data? Any followup? Planning to do followup through re-contacting participants who were interviewed. Did changes that folks made stick? Did they revert back? Our job as researchers is to think about what makes sense in different regional food systems because they are idiosyncratic.

<p><b>3. Updates from Rod Sullivan, Board of Supervisors, and Ilsa DeWald, Local Foods Coordinator</b></p>	<p>Rod - No update from Rod, but offered to take questions.</p> <p>Ilsa - Cassidy and Ilsa attended a SILT event at a farm near Morse, an unincorporated area of Johnson County and made some connections with some entrepreneurs from Center for Worker Justice.</p>	
<p><b>4. Discuss Food Policy Council Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>The Strategic Plan is coming to its final steps. A document was shared out that asked FPC members to think about three strategies and tactics they would like to take ownership on and what they would like accountability to look like. Molly shared how she would engage with the strategic plan, with a focus on the working groups.</p> <p>Accountability was discussed in the FPC Leadership team with the goal of making sure that the strategic plan was something that we stick to rather than file away.</p> <p>Hannah shared that she would like to be involved in the strategic plan in advocating for more public access to the FPC and also communicating our work to the broader public.</p> <p>Council members who did not complete the Engagement doc should contribute to it by Sept. 8 in order for the Leadership team to review the council's thoughts and ideas for engagement and accountability.</p> <p>Motion to Approve the FPC Strategic Plan - Hannah</p> <p>Second - Will</p> <p>Approved unanimously</p>	
<p><b>5. Approval of Recommendation for Equipment Sharing Program</b></p>	<p>A draft of the Letter of Support was completed by the Equipment Sharing Working Group and includes specifically asking that the Board of Supervisors provide storage at maintenance at the Poor Farm, write letters of support for future grants, contribute an Allis Chalmers tractor to the LLC, and explore possibility of being a founding member and contributing upfront starting costs.</p> <p>Any concerns or questions about the recommendation? None voiced.</p> <p>Rod recommends that someone from the FPC be present or call into the meeting where the recommendation is present.</p> <p>Motion to approve recommendation letter for equipment sharing program - Will</p> <p>Second - Mike</p> <p>Approved unanimously</p>	

<p><b>6. Discuss American Rescue Plan Act</b></p>	<p>Ilsa provided information regarding ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and how it affects local food systems through funding of cities, counties and directly through the USDA. There is a committee at the county that is figuring out a plan for how to use money coming in from ARPA. Local food systems fall under the category of 'Address Negative Economic Impacts'. A community survey was used to gather input from community, but there are also public input sessions located so folks throughout county would have access (9/13, 9/28, 10/12, 10/27, locations TBD and times are in the evening).</p> <p>Rod described how data is being processed by a third party group that is putting on listening sessions. They are looking at topics brought up multiple times and across sessions, compile responses and organize them to present to BoS. A lot of money is coming in and will predominately go to folks who were not able to access previous money allocations but there will be things left over. This is "one-time" money, so would be great for a building or equipment, etc. Consider making an ask as a nonprofit or small business in the area.</p> <p>How do we as a council weigh in on decisions regarding local foods? If the council can agree on a few things and we have a recommendation the BoS would be conducive to those recommendations. These would be good conversations to have for the FPC going forward.</p>	
<p><b>7. Discuss 2021 Event Calendar</b></p>	<p>The Power of Food Conference is now online! We have money allocated to it, but now the fee is much lower. We have \$700 allocated so we can now send up to 8 people. We can either be reimbursed or have it purchased by the county. Two FPC members are already going through another funding source, so there is nearly enough money to send all FPC members. Cassidy and Ilsa will be attending through another funding source. If FPC members are wanting to go contact Ilsa or Giselle. Will, Molly, and Alex expressed interest in attending.</p>	
<p><b>8. Food Policy Council Working Groups Report Out</b></p>	<p>Infrastructure group conducted a round table event in July, 22 participants attended. Main ideas that emerged is that shared storage and processing space could solve a lot of problems. Not enough shared kitchen space, especially outside of Iowa City. 1105 Project has shared space that is currently at capacity, so there is more need than there is currently space.</p> <p>County fair table</p>	
<p><b>9. Update on Iowa Ag Vision Coalition</b></p>	<p>RFSWG was a quarterly meeting group that gave birth to IA Ag Vision Coalition. Some recommendations were created in 2011 as Iowa Food and Farm Plan. This group plans to build off that ten-year old work. Looking towards gathering stakeholders in order to hear from a group with a broad base. Opportunities for engagement are coming up in forms of</p>	

	working groups and compensated public input sessions. Also opportunities for committee work in steering, engagement and investment.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>FPC Members who have not filled out the Strategic Plan Engagement doc by Sep. 8</p> <p>Attend ARPA public input meeting on Sep. 13 if available</p> <p>Future agenda item revolving on who we want to connect with in the community in order to provide input for folks who cannot make the public input meetings.</p> <p>Next meeting is Sep. 27 (fourth, not third Monday, of the month)</p> <p>Any FPC Leadership</p>	
<p><b>Meeting adjourned by Giselle at 8:00 pm</b></p> <p><b>Motion - Molly</b></p> <p><b>Second - Hannah</b></p>		