

Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

Objectives:

Today's Objectives:

- Provide check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Update council business
- Provide an opportunity for council members to sign up for a subcommittee and space for q & a

Attendance: (c) consultant; (s) technical support staff; (v) visitor

Annie Mills	Jennifer Bedrosian (s)	Savannah Moore
Cori Lindsay	Jose Abreu	Sherrie Wise Thomas
David Allen	Kana Miller	Stesha Warren
Gary Williams	LaShauna Austria	
Eunice Calderón	Michael Banner	
Jan Jones	Pearl Dowell	

12:00 PM Call to order

- Kana Miller called the meeting to order.
- Welcome new members + new co-chair!
- Council began taking meeting attendance for accountability

12:05 PM PTRC updates

- Economic Development, update from Andrea Sheetz, Planning Intern at PTRC
 - ARPA Funds- RFA, Area on Aging to meet nutritional needs of older adults <https://www.ptrc.org/services/pandemic-recovery-funding-opportunities>
 - NC COGS receive ARP Funds to support ARP Fund recipients in the region
 - \$600,000 for ARP technical assistance
 - \$400,000 for resiliency planning and projects
 - Business Investment Fund Loans- <https://www.ptrc.org/services/economic-development/business-investment-fund>. Established pre-pandemic.
 - Lights on Loan Fund- <https://www.ptrc.org/services/economic-development/lights-on-loan>. Established during the pandemic, emphasis on downtown and agriculture business. Funds can be used to pay more competitive wages. Working on recapitalizing this fund.
 - Build Back Better Regional Challenge: Site Next-Gen Coalition. Nationally federally funded project. PTRC is putting together a project that focuses on advanced manufacturing and processes in the region. This is a coalition of education, business, and non-profit leaders. Gap in equity in this group, can look to this group to provide guidance in this area.

12:15 PM Council updates:

- Cori Lindsay, Caswell County- received Tobacco Trust Fund Funding for [CEAD Project](#). EDA application submitted. She's located in Co-Square collaborative workspace- go check it out if you're in Yanceyville. Farmers market and local food council is re-organizing and moving forward.
- Pearl Dowell, Surry County- working on several projects 1) digital technology program to improve farming + skills and partnered with Forsyth County and others; 2) container gardening working to close gap for people from other countries to be sure they have access to growing culturally appropriate foods.
- David Allen, Randolph County- working on farm, food, and family education similar to Caswell. Have funding from state and rural electric cooperative. First meeting to plan with architect tonight. Envision: working with community college and school system, 4H, commercial kitchen, incubator farm. Talking about cold storage and base for food hub later. Been working on this for 10 years.
- Kana Miller, Forsyth County- focusing on FarmShare Program and expanding that. Working with NCDA on projects.
- Jose Abreu, Guilford County- settling in new position with [Growing High Point](#). Got started on public orchard on greenway and expanding farm projects and lots of side projects.
- Savannah Moore, Stokes County- working a lot with nutrition and health classes and some with housing. Still fairly new to position, learning a lot.
- Gary Williams, Forsyth County- [SHARE Cooperative](#) has opened full service food market, called Harvest Market. General contractor on board to build out store. Anticipating grand opening July 1st 2022. Can take SNAP and coordinating to buy local. Building cold storage as part of store. PTRC is one of the funders through loan program.
- LaShauna Austria, Alamance County- a lot going on in Alamance. Most recently having listening sessions for farmers in Alamance and surveys to help inform initiatives moving forward. Meeting monthly with Alamance Food Collaborative- also has a planning retreat this weekend and will have report next month.
- Jan Jones, Triad Rep- Second Harvest Food Bank covers 18 counties in Northwest NC. Excited to connect with Pearl and learn more about project in Wilkes County and possible collaboration. Learning more about [USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Program](#). Preparing for upcoming Farm Bill advocacy and Child Nutrition Reauthorization, ex: school breakfast and lunch.
- Eunice Calderón, Davidson County- working on expanding farmers markets and community gardens and including teaching. Starting Farm Tours again and training for farmers to scale business.
- Sherrie Wise Thomas, Guilford- in research realm and heavily focused on several research projects that involve social determinants of health 1) to better identify food insecurity and housing insecurity in older frail adults and navigate existing resources; and 2) specific project with older women with hypertension and how COVID has impacted access to food, medication, etc.

- Annie Mills, Randolph County- horticulture and local foods. Small farm boot camp project - a group of agents working to increase farm capacity across the state for new and beginning farmers. Farm School Program- helping farmers to develop business plan and strategy. Farmers Market Alliance Project- distributed a survey to customers and vendors about access and times. Will be working with managers to go over results to improve logistics of markets in county.
- Michael Banner, Forsyth County- Island CultureZ building off racial equity framework. Working on policy in Winston-Salem. Was founding member of Winston-Salem Urban Food Policy Council. Making a strong case for water access and infrastructure in city for urban farms- the current model is not sustainable. Working on access for farmers markets and shared staffing type of model with other organizations that are aligned. Very interested in seed banking/seed swaps- will connect with LaShauna.

12:30PM PTRC Food Systems Coordinator Update

- Attending: Davidson County Local Food Council Meeting on 1/25; the “in-betweeners’ racial equity conversation with CEFS on 1/26; Greater High Point Food Alliance Food Summit on 1/28; webinars on USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program
- Organized: conversation with Alamance County partners about potential partnership with UNC Health; equity subcommittee regroup; working with PTRC Planning on Summerfield Land Use Development- to include a farms and food topic
- Plan/Host: Food Council New Member Orientation; Forsyth Food Chats with City of W-S on first Friday of the month virtually
- Serve: Executive Committee Member for North Carolina Local Food Council- meets monthly and workgroup

12:45PM Approve December Meeting Minutes & update member list contact info

- Council reviews minutes; roll call vote
- Update member list contact information; will be shared with council

1:00 PM Co-Chair Nominee

- Council holds anonymous vote for LaShauna Austria in Alamance County to serve as co-chair.
- Council votes 100% in support of new co-chair.

1:05PM Other Business

- What folks on council were able to sign up for racial equity training with CEFS? It’s closed now. Is there still a need here for folks that couldn’t sign up?
 - Yes: some signed up; there is still a need of about 4-5 people who are still interested
 - We’ll look at getting out links for April training or if we can offer something else

1:10PM Subcommittees

- Reminder to sign up for subcommittee:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E4FA8AB2DA7F94-piedmont>
- A question was asked about meeting times. Jennifer will reach out to folks in each with a doodle poll to schedule meeting times and provide an agenda.

1:15PM Adjourn : next meeting February 22nd at 12PM