

Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council

Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

12:00pm – 1:30pm || Remote Call: Zoom

Objectives:

Today's Objectives:

- Provide space for check in/updates: council members + PTRC
- Approve January meeting minutes
- Discuss council business/next steps

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

Annie Mills	Jan Jones	Rachel Zimmer
Cori Lindsay	Jennifer Bedrosian (s)	Savannah Moore
David Allen	Jose Abreu	Sherrie Wise Thomas
Eunice Calderón	Kana Miller	
Gary Williams	LaShauna Austria	

12:00 PM Call to order

- LaShauna Austria called the meeting to order and offered a group check-in with “What made you smile in the last two weeks?”

12:05 PM PTRC updates

- Economic Development, update from Andrea Sheetz, Program Assistant at PTRC
 - Updated council on the [outdoor rec website](#)
 - Updated council about ARPA Funds and PTRC survey to members- 20 responses across region for how we can support. Held workshop with city and county managers. Several responses indicated that they'll use funding to support food systems.
 - Shared [Funds Tracker](#) from SEAP
 - Asked Council, “What do you need to better understand ARPA in your community?”-
 - Rachel Zimmer mentioned that it was helpful in a recent meeting that included ARPA manager in Forsyth to offer more specific information on how funds are spent and what's left.
 - Gary Williams and SHARE is advocating in Forsyth, encouraging investment for Food Security with County and City.
 - David Allen in Randolph County- county is looking to help municipalities to provide water/sewer to those that need it. A portion of funds can be used with less restrictions, which has opened up to other issues and projects.
- Food Systems Coordinator Update from Jennifer Bedrosian: Attended FoodCon Event hosted by UNC, NC State, and Duke University business schools; continuing NCLFC regular meetings and participated in Executive Leadership retreat; Continuing Forsyth Food Chats with City of W-S; Connecting Randolph County to resources for funding the Farm, Food and Family Ed Center; working with PTRFC leadership team to reconvene equity subcommittee; sending follow-up

thank you email to County Commissioners after Partner Presentations last year; follow-up with Shared Gifting recipients; attending City of High Point meeting with Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative about commercial kitchen; and AMEXCAN farm worker clothing donation drive at PTRC begins March 7th.

12:25 PM Approve January Minutes

- David Allen motioned to approve minutes; Gary Williams seconded the motion
- Roll call vote; no discussion; minutes approved

12:30 PM Discussion Items/Updates

- Jennifer Bedrosian brought up having a council retreat/strategic planning session for this group with an outside facilitator to help plan for the remainder of the grant and long-term. We're seeking outside facilitator. Working date: March 29th from 9am-1pm.
 - Council responded with willingness to participate. Some expressed concern over being in person. Jennifer will send out a poll to determine in person with precautions versus virtual.
- Kana Miller provided an update on USDA Local Food Purchasing Cooperative Agreements-program for local food assistance. NC will receive 12.7 million, of that 40% is reserved for Federally Recognized Tribes to apply for; remaining 60% for State Agency. NCDCA will apply and asked Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to use FarmsShare Network, partner with Cooperative Extension, and work with FoodHubs and Community Based Organizations as partners. Trying to have every region covered. Program will run Fall 2022- Fall 2024. If folks have ideas or suggestions about how to fill in gaps in Triad, reach out Kana-kana@carolinafarmstewards.org.
 - Eunice Calderón asked a question about long term sustainability. If growers scale up for this program, what's next?
 - Kana Miller responded that is part of the conversation and where are the overlaps with other programs as well as continuing to push NCDCA to allocate funds in local and regional food systems.
 - Jan Jones added that Local Food Procurement Bill is in Congress now- bill is a result of funding for boxes during COVID- to improve on box program to support. Intended to provide ongoing funding and address local farmers. When we know more on voting, we'll want to support. One co-sponsor is Alma Adams in NC.
 - Cori Lindsay mentioned their partners in Caswell County are having conversations to make some of this happen and would love to connect.
 - Kana is also connecting with Growing High Point and SHARE.
- Cobblestone Farmers Market has invited PTRFC to be at their Community Table during the farmer's market on a Saturday. Anyone interested?
 - Rachel Zimmer had questions about including surveying and community listening sessions. Eunice Calderon and Annie Mills are also interested in further discussion. Jennifer Bedrosian will reach out in early March.

1:00 PM Council updates:

- Cori Lindsay, Caswell County- Local Youth Group that works on Agriculture Development for Youth Opportunities, having Earth Day Event on April 20th. Farmers market expanding market time into October and the local farmer cooperative is hiring a part-time assistant:
<https://www.ppfcoop.com/>
- Savannah Moore, Stokes County- currently working on Agritourism Conference with Forsyth Tech/Stoke Campus. Hoping for April 9th. Sharing information for farmers, marketing, value-added, and food safety resources, etc. Will update this group when more info is available.
- Eunice Calderón, Davidson County- winter market has been successful for the first time; some farmers are discussing having a pop-up food hub and community gardens. Attended CORE Racial Equity Training with CEFS and it was very impactful and highly recommend if you have the opportunity to attend, do so.
- Annie Mills, Randolph County- working with farmers markets and managers on how to better support. Identified things to work on: market promotion; wants to host workshop for vendors; seeking someone to talk with managers about SNAP – benefits and how to apply. If you have suggestions, please reach out. LaShauna Austria may be able to help. Kaitlyn Lamaster in Montgomery County is also interested in connecting on that. Cori Lindsay mentioned that Caswell Extension is also working on helping market managers with SNAP and to connect with them.
 - Kaitlyn Lamaster shared: <https://montgomery.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/02/better-business-series-for-farmers-growers/>

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