



Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024; 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Ava HaberkornHalm
2. Keesa V. Johnson
3. June Hollie
4. Anna Taylor-McCants
5. Mary Balog
6. Lauren Marquardt
7. Jae Gerhart
8. Julius Buzzard
9. Chrissy Taylor
10. Noelle Blasch
11. Nicholas Pomante
12. Andrew Paniagua

Absent

1. Ann Hubbard
2. Thomas Hutchinson
3. Justin Hodge (Commissioner)

WFPC Support Staff:

1. Ariane Donnelly – Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)

Other Attendees:

1. SJ Shin
2. Azella Markgraf (City of Ann Arbor)
3. Caylen Cole-Hazel
4. Georgia
5. Julian Creutz
6. Ki-Jana Malone (Aetna)
7. Mitchell Seymour
8. Lisa Perschke
9. Krystel Anderson
10. Hagan Capnerhurst (Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS))

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:02-9:13 am

a) Welcome

b) Council members share name, affiliation, seat, Policy Action Team (PAT)/Committee, area of interest, and location of remote attendance (municipality, county, state).

c/o WCHD, 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198

E-Mail: washtenawfoodpolicycouncil@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.washtenaw.org/1469/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council>

Attendees shared their name, affiliation, seat, PAT/Committee, and area of interest. Council members also shared from where they are attending remotely (municipality, county, state). Council members in remote attendance:

- Andrew Paniagua attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Anna Taylor-McCants attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Ava HaberkornHalm attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Chrissy Taylor attending remotely from Canton, Wayne County, Michigan
- Jae Gerhart attending remotely from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Julius Buzzard attending remotely from Belleville, Wayne County, Michigan
- June Hollie attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Keesa V. Johnson attending remotely from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Lauren Marquardt attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Mary Balog attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Nicholas Pomante attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Noelle Blasch attending remotely from Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

c) Icebreaker - Share a moment in your life when you felt the spark to do this work or share a recent food justice story that inspired you or tell us about some recent action you have taken since being on the WFPC

Some Council members shared a moment in their life when they felt the spark to do this work or a recent food justice story that inspired them or some recent action they have taken since being on the WFPC.

- Julius shared in the chat: Rooted: The American Legacy of Land Theft and the Modern Movement for Black Land Ownership (<https://www.breabaker.com/rooted>); Be sure to shop your local, Black owned bookstore (I.e booksweet, black stone)

2. Agenda, Minutes Additions/Deletions/Approval

9:13-9:15 am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (May)

I. Motion: To approve May 8, 2024 meeting minutes

1. **Motion: Nick, Seconded: Chrissy**

2. **Approved: Yes-12, No-0** (12 council members present at time of vote)

b) Meeting Agenda (July)

I. Motion: To approve July 10, 2024 meeting agenda

1. **Motion: Nick, Seconded: Chrissy**

2. **Approved: Yes-12, No-0** (12 council members present at time of vote)

3. Public Comment

9:15-9:19 am

- Mitch: Interested in the Pollinators, Planning & Zoning, and Food Access & Nutrition Policy Action Teams (PAT)
 - Project Grow has a list of their 24 organic gardens. Looking for a complete list of gardens (organic and non-organic) in Washtenaw County. Please share if you have one.
 - Mary shared in the chat: This was shared in the FAN PAT.
- Jae: Please track efforts about what PATs are doing, as this is often reported out (in the annual report). Here's the link and it's also in the chat: 2024 Washtenaw County Food Policy Council Tracking Form (google.com)
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScns3fVz3eLFq1MfwpANNmagtjmb3cul7VcBicgwCWNx9hMsA/viewform>
- Lauren: whatever goes into the chat goes into the minutes
- From chats:
 - Mary: Growing hope has been working on one for Ypsi: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13YTn2R8v-a1LVDbp06bAk1oheipCHRLERuqNqKLFASw/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
 - Julius: @Mitchell Seymour we are working on Turing this into a map also, and would be happy to collaborate. Feel free to email me at julius@growinghope.net
 - Mitch: Awesome, thank you. Will do!

4. Executive Committee (EC) Report

9:19-9:31 am

a) Updating Bylaws – Lauren

- Discussed with Commissioner Hodge. There were some unnecessary pieces (like vision and mission). We mention the Open Meetings Act (OMA), but we are not actually obligated to follow it. However, we will add language to be in the spirit of the OMA. Ex: by meeting by Zoom, we are already in violation of the OMA (per Commissioner Hodge).
- Will bring edits to the EC. Then the WFPC will vote on it. Then it will go to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to vote on it.

b) Working Group Meeting

I. Policy Agenda – Anna

- o Will share link to policy agenda in chat (and on screen)
 - o <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTWqe2btBMlx6TqBboVYeI0JP6pK9814xbJ9Pa4lwsc/edit?usp=sharing>
- o Highlighted item is the one currently addressing.
- o Bullets indicate additional thoughts/questions.
- o If anyone wants to be part of helping figure out what resolutions we should put forth/interested in helping with the policy agenda, contact Anna.
- o FYI, there are many things on this list that we cannot do without a half- or full-time staff person.
- o Anna will share the policy agenda with PATs so they can review.
- o From chat:
 - o Caylen Cole-Hazel: Is the work Anna outlined something you all are looking for community member support on or is this specific to the Food Policy Council members only?
 - Keesa: hearted this chat
 - Lauren: We are absolutely looking for community member support on that!
 - Anna: Yes, this! LOL
 - o Lauren: hearted this chat
 - Caylen: Amazing, thank you! Is there a contact list of who to collaborate with directly for each topic/focus area?
 - o Keesa: hearted this chat
 - o Anna: Not yet. I will send out each topic to the PAT leaders and I can send a separate email to the full council with more information.
 - Caylen: hearted this chat
 - o Mary: Hazel-This is a description and list of contacts for the different policy action teams if that helps: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3656/Policy-Action-Teams>
 - Caylen: Amazing! Thanks so much Mary 😊

II. Community Food Assessments (CFA) – Keesa

- o Have [notes](#) typed up from the working group's CFA discussion.
- o Want to make sure we're reaching the communities we are here to serve.
- o Looking for a co-leader(s) who want to help push the CFA project along.
 - o Azella would love to be involved in any way they can support.

c) Annual Report Update - Jae

- We presented to the BOC. The presentation went well.
- Broached topic of requesting an increase in compensation for the next budget cycle so can increase meetings/staff time. I am working with the EC to explore what that looks like and will be looping in Ariane, as well.
- The BOC shared that the WFPC is doing a great job and that they love the work the WFPC is doing.
- You all hopefully saw a pre-meeting email from me about updates to share with me. Please add to this form so we can share post-meeting.
- There is a link in the agenda and in the chat for tracking our policy work:
 - o From Keesa in chat:
 - o Annual Report 2023: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/35199/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council-Annual-Report-2023?bidId=
 - o Better link: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3739/Annual-Reports>

d) Racial Equity Report – Keesa

- Not discussed.

e) Pre-Meeting Email Updates – Jae

- We track our work throughout the year so that we can more easily write our annual report and know what the WFPC has done. You can add items yourself onto the electronic form (see link). Council members and PAT members can fill out the form.

I. Tracking Our Work

- o Please use this form to track your work with the WFPC (ex: anytime you talk with representatives, participate in anything policy-related, anything you do as a representative of the WFPC, etc.). This tracking form allows us to keep track of everything the WFPC does throughout the year and is utilized to create the annual report.

5. Updates on the Farm Bill

9:31-10:16 am

Presented by Andrew Paniagua (Food Gatherers) and Hagan Capnerhurst (Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS))

- Andrew Paniagua (Food Gatherers) and Hagan Capnerhurst (MIFFS) gave a [presentation](#) entitled “Farm Bill Update”
- Shared in chat during presentation:
 - o Keesa: Tending Repair - Pigford Farmers, Justice, and the Future of Farming Report: <https://heller.brandeis.edu/iere/pdfs/racial-wealth-equity/racial-wealth-gap/tending-repair-final.pdf>
 - Lauren: thumbs-up’d this chat
 - o Hagan: Please consider reading and signing on to this letter that tells our Members of Congress not to strip funding from CSP (due July 15): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RmuIpbv6o5jrUKx3KR072apD9R_2nPT-LkptGcg6z-8/viewform?ts=666c3a06&edit_requested=true
 - June: @Hagan Capnerhurst (she/her) | MIFFS the form states that signatures are due by July 1st. Has this been extended? I want to be sure before pushing this out to my network.
 - Hagan: Yes, extended to July 15th!
 - o June: Thumbs-up’d this chat
 - o Hagan: Thanks for sharing it :)
 - o June: Thank you.
- Q & A: None
- Thank you!
- Shared in chat:
 - o Lauren: Thank you Andrew and Hagan!!
 - Andrew: Thumbs-up’d this chat
 - Hagan and Keesa: Hearted this chat
 - o Lisa: Yes, thank you for the Farm Bill history. It helped me greatly.
 - Hagan, Andrew, Ki-Jana: Thumbs-up’d this chat
 - Keesa: Hearted this chat

6. PAT Updates

10:16-10:29 am

a) Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT - Mary

- Had two meetings in June.
- Have identified priority areas.
- Offering support for Growing Hope’s community gardens directory (shared link in the chat earlier).
- Growing Hope is looking for tech support for web design/something of this nature.
- Other priority area: staying up to date on Washtenaw County’s Community Health Assessment.
 - o Co-chair, Dayna Popkey, is attending this meeting.
 - o Hopefully the FAN PAT can provide support.
- New transportation group: adding food pantry locations to bus guide. Hopefully a way to integrate bus routes and food sources!
- Medicaid coverage: trying to raise some awareness around medically tailored meals, etc. Keeping an eye on this.
 - o Chrissy: The State is having another meeting about Medicaid In Lieu of Services (ILOS) on Friday. There is a 3-month window when things will be figured out.

- Lastly, interest in exploring if there are any city orchard initiatives in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Reached out to the City of Ann Arbor.
 - A2Zero ambassadors have planted fruit trees in Bryant Park. The trees are still young. We were given a sample proposal that can be tailored for other areas.
 - Learned about a community food forest in Leslie Park.
 - a. Next event is 7/13. Put website in chat: <https://www.trueearth.org/food-forest>
- If interested in participating in the next meeting, reach out to Mary/Dayna. The contacts were shared in the chat as well.
 - I.) Michigan School Meals - Mary**
 - The last workgroup meeting was about 1.5 months ago. Waiting for Will Moyer (food manager at Argus) to get updates about feasibility/interest in organizing a community meet and greet event among food service directors and the local food community. Would love to help support and plan. Waiting for more information.
- b) Food Waste & Packaging - Noelle**
 - Meet monthly. Currently in the information-gathering stage. Trying to collect information from the County. It is focused on what is currently being done at the county level, schools, home, restaurants, faith establishments, universities, State around composting guidelines, food waste, recycling, packaging
 - Question: any guidance about where County policies are and/or have a contact?
 - a. Shared in chat:
 - a. Lisa: Angela Wright
 - Noelle: Thank you!
 - The other co-chair is Heather Hutchins-Wiese, and she met with Angela and got information from her. I can follow-up with her, too.
 - Meeting every month. Next meeting is 7/17. Everyone is welcome to come.
 - Appreciated update on policy agenda. This is very helpful for me and this PAT and helps us understand where we are going.
 - Anna: now that it is organized, you will still need to interpret what to do.
 - Wanted to thank Andrew and Hagan for the Farm Bill update.
- c) Inclusive Food Justice - Ava**
 - No updates right now, but stay tuned, because they will be coming soon.
- d) Pollinators PAT - Mitch Seymour**
 - Not discussed.
- e) Planning & Zoning PAT**
 - Not discussed.
- f) Farmers PAT – ?**
 - Not discussed.

7. Call to Action for Council Members

10:29-10:37 am

- a) Council Members share about one thing they are going to do between now and the next meeting to stay engaged with the work – Anna**
 - Anna: will be following up on the policy agenda and ensuring everyone has what they need to start working on these agenda items and craft position for a budgeted position/staff person. This is my focus between now and the next meeting.
 - Chrissy: will attend the 7/19 ILOS meeting. The State's draft ILOS will be released on 7/15. Lots of opportunities for people to get reimbursed for work we are doing; just need to make sure our voices are at the table.
 - Noelle: continuing work with the Food Waste & Packaging PAT and hopefully will get connected to Commissioner Hodge and get updates on the policy level. Look forward to continuing to move forward and make changes.
- b) Who do you want to hear from or what questions do you have that we could answer by inviting speakers – Keesa**
 - Mary: would love to see a panel of youth-oriented organizations and how they are engaging/educating with youth about nutrition/food/health. Kids want to learn how to cook/grow things.
 - Know about Growing Hope, Neutral Zone, and the Detroit Food Academy. Would love to learn from them.

- June: would like to hear from the Detroit People's Food Co-op (Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Food Network is their parent organization).
 - Keesa: The Detroit Food Policy Council would be a great place to hear from.
- Lauren: thinking about Noelle's question about County policies. Would love to hear a presentation about this (like from Commissioner Hodge, Azella, someone else)
- Keesa: Nick shared about climate/food zones, etc.
- Shared in chat:
 - Lisa: The "Common Ground" documentary.
 - Lauren: Commissioner Hodge would be a good resource and could likely help point you in the right direction!
 - a. Noelle: Thank you!
 - b. Lauren: Do you know how to reach him or would you like me to start this conversation in an email for the two of you?
 - c. Noelle: I would appreciate it if you would introduce me to him in email. Thanks!
 - d. Lauren: On it!
 - Nick: Environmental threats to our food sovereignty (ie. PFAs, increasing temps/shifting seasons and grow zones, etc)
 - a. Keesa and Julian: Hearted chat
 - Lauren: Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network
 - a. June & Ki-Jana: Thumbs-up'd chat
 - Mary: Detroit black food security network
 - a. Ki-Jana: Thumbs-up'd chat
 - b. Lauren: Used to be "security" but it evolved to "sovereignty" to better represent their mission!
 - c. Mary: Oh nice!! Thank you for the correction

8. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:37-10:40 am

- Caylen: this is my first meeting, and I appreciate the opportunity to observe/learn. Hope indigenous food sovereignty and inclusion can be on the WFPC's radar at some point; would like to see it connected to food sovereignty and food justice. Also, wanted to thank you; I have learned so much about the Farm Bill!
- Keesa: If this was your first time, please come back! And I appreciate the WFPC and PATs!
- Shared in chat:
 - Lauren: Thanks for joining, Caylen! Come back anytime 😊
 - Caylen: Thanks I sure will! I'm so glad to have found this lovely meeting
 - Ki-Jana: Thanks Keesa!! Thank you all for the great info!!! Enjoy your week. :)

9. Adjourn

10:40 am

ACTION ITEMS

- Updating bylaws: Will bring edits to the EC. Then the WFPC will vote on it. Then it will go to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to vote on it.
- If anyone wants to be part of helping figure out what resolutions we should put forth/interested in helping with the policy agenda, contact Anna.
- Anna will share the policy agenda with PATs so they can review.
- Keesa is looking for a co-leader(s) who want to help push the CFA project along.
 - Azella would love to be involved in any way they can support.
- Jae broached the topic of requesting an increase in compensation for the next budget cycle so can increase meetings/staff time and is working with the EC to explore what that looks like and will be looping in Ariane, as well.
- Jae: you all hopefully saw a pre-meeting email from me about updates to share with me. Please add to this form so we can share post-meeting.
- If interested in participating in the next meeting of the FAN PAT, reach out to Mary/Dayna.
- See Agenda #7 for Call to Action.

RECORDED VOTES

1. **Motion 1:** To approve May 8, 2024 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved: Yes-12, No-0
2. **Motion 2:** To approve July 10, 2024 meeting agenda
 - a. Approved: Yes-12, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone 9:17 AM
This was shared in the FAN PAT

Growing Hope to Everyone 9:18 AM
Rooted: The American Legacy of Land Theft and the Modern Movement for Black Land Ownership

<https://www.breabaker.com/rooted>

Be sure to shop your local, Black owned bookstore (I.e booksweet, black stone)

Jae Gerhart to Everyone 9:18 AM
2024 Washtenaw County Food Policy Council Tracking Form ([google.com](https://www.google.com))

Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone 9:17 AM
Growing hope has been working on one for Ypsi: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13YTn2R8v-a1LVDbp06bAk1oheipCHRLERuqNqKLFAw/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

Growing Hope 9:19 AM
@Mitchell Seymour we are working on Turing this into a map also, and would be happy to collaborate. Feel free to email me at julius@growinghope.net

Mitchell Seymour 9:20 AM
Awesome, thank you. Will do!

Keesa V. Johnson, MDes to Everyone 9:22 AM
Annual Report 2023: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/35199/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council-Annual-Report-2023?bidId=>
Better link: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3739/Annual-Reports>

Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone 9:23 AM
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTWqe2btBMlx6TqBboVYeI0JP6pK9814xbJ9Pa4lwsc/edit?usp=sharing>

Caylen Cole-Hazel to Everyone 9:29 AM
Is the work Anna outlined something you all are looking for community member support on or is this specific to the Food Policy Council members only?

Lauren Marquardt 9:30 AM
We are absolutely looking for community member support on that!

Anna Taylor-McCants 9:30 AM
Yes, this! LOL

Caylen Cole-Hazel 9:31 AM

Amazing, thank you! Is there a contact list of who to collaborate with directly for each topic/focus area?

Anna Taylor-McCants 9:32 AM

Not yet. I will send out each topic to the PAT leaders and I can send a separate email to the full council with more information.

Mary Balog, RDN 9:33 AM

Hazel-This is a description and list of contacts for the different policy action teams if that helps:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3656/Policy-Action-Teams>

Caylen Cole-Hazel 9:34 AM

Amazing! Thanks so much Mary 😊

Keesa V. Johnson, MDes to Everyone 9:44 AM

Tending Rapair - Pigford Farmers, Justice, and the Future of Farming Report: <https://heller.brandeis.edu/iere/pdfs/racial-wealth-equity/racial-wealth-gap/tending-repair-final.pdf>

Hagan Capnerhurst (she/her) | MIFFS to Everyone 10:14 AM

Please consider reading and signing on to this letter that tells our Members of Congress not to strip funding from CSP (due July 15): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rmulpbv6o5jrUKx3KR072apD9R_2nPT-LkptGcg6z-8/viewform?ts=666c3a06&edit_requested=true

Lauren Marquardt to Everyone 10:16 AM

Thank you Andrew and Hagan!!

Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone 10:21 AM

<https://www.trueearth.org/food-forest>

June Hollie to Everyone 10:17 AM

@Hagan Capnerhurst (she/her) | MIFFS the form states that signatures are due by July 1st. Has this been extended? I want to be sure before pushing this out to my network.

Hagan Capnerhurst (she/her) | MIFFS 10:22 AM

Yes, extended to July 15th!

Hagan Capnerhurst (she/her) | MIFFS 10:23 AM

Thanks for sharing it :)

June Hollie 10:23 AM

Thank you.

LisaP to Everyone 10:27 AM

Yes, thank you for the Farm Bill history. It helped me greatly.

LisaP to Everyone 10:25 AM

Angela Wright

Noelle Blasch 10:28 AM

Thank you!

LisaP to Everyone 10:33 AM
The "Common Ground" documentary.

Lauren Marquardt to Everyone 10:26 AM
Commissioner Hodge would be a good resource and could likely help point you in the right direction!

Noelle Blasch 10:28 AM
Thank you!

Lauren Marquardt 10:29 AM
Do you know how to reach him or would you like me to start this conversation in an email for the two of you?

Noelle Blasch 10:30 AM
I would appreciate it if you would introduce me to him in email. Thanks!

Lauren Marquardt 10:34 AM
On it!

Nick Pomante to Everyone 10:35 AM
Environmental threats to our food sovereignty (ie. PFAs, increasing temps/shifting seasons and grow zones, etc)

Lauren Marquardt to Everyone 10:36 AM
Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network

Mary Balog, RDN to Everyone 10:36 AM
Detroit black food security network

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Used to be "security" but it evolved to "sovereignty" to better represent their mission!

Mary Balog, RDN 10:37 AM
Oh nice!! Thank you for the correction

Lauren Marquardt to Everyone 10:39 AM
Thanks for joining, Caylen! Come back anytime 😊

Caylen Cole-Hazel to Everyone 10:39 AM
Thanks I sure will! I'm so glad to have found this lovely meeting

Ki-Jana Malone, Aetna Medicaid to Everyone 10:40 AM
Thanks Keesa!! Thank you all for the great info!!! Enjoy your week. :)