



WASHTENAW

COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
HEALTHY. FAIR. AFFORDABLE. SUSTAINABLE.

Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025; 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Crystal Lecoq
2. Peter Lindeman
3. Lauren Marquardt
4. Lunia Oriol
5. Andrew Paniagua
6. Nicholas Pomante
7. Chrissy Taylor
8. Kelly Wilson
9. Brian Meko
10. Julius Buzzard
11. Jae Gerhart
12. Anna Taylor-McCants
13. Preeti Gadhoke

Absent

1. Ava HaberkornHalm
2. Justin Hodge
3. Noelle Blasch

WFPC Support Staff:

1. Russell O'Brien – Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD)

Other Attendees:

1. Mitchell Seymour (Pollinators Policy Action Team Chair)
2. Dayna Popkey (Food Access & Nutrition Co-Chair)
3. Court Cruz
4. Francesca Williamson
5. Gloria Mazinga
6. Shavonne Shaw

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:03-9:13 am

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

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:

- Lauren Marquardt attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Jae Gerhart attending remotely from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Crystal Lecoq attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Peter Lindeman attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Brian Meko attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Lunia Oriol attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Nicholas Pomante attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Chrissy Taylor attending remotely from Canton, Wayne County, Michigan
- Kelly Wilson attending remotely from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Andrew Paniagua attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Julius Buzzard attending remotely from Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio
- Anna Taylor-McCants attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Preety Gadhoke attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan

b) Icebreaker

- Members shared their favorite karaoke songs!

2. Agenda, Minutes Additions/Deletions/Approval - Lauren

9:13-9:14 am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (September & October)

I. Motion: To approve September 10 & October 8, 2025 meeting minutes

1. Motion: Jae Gerhart, Seconded: Nicholas Pomante

2. Approved: Yes-10, No-0 (10 council members present at time of vote)

b) Meeting Agenda (November)

I. Motion: To approve November 12, 2025 meeting agenda

1. Motion: Jae Gerhart, Seconded: Nicholas Pomante

2. Approved: Yes-10, No-0 (10 council members present at time of vote)

3. Public Comment - Lauren

9:14-9:22 am

- Mitch Seymour gave a brief update on hosting a pollinators summit in quarter 1 of 2026.

4. Executive Committee (EC) Announcements - Lauren

9:22-9:36 am

a) Recommendations for 2026 Appointments

10 applications were received for 2026. The EC recommended 9 of them. They will be approved at an upcoming Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting. There was a mix of new and returning people.

b) Changes in EC for 2026 – Jae

There are a few people that will be transitioning out of the council and executive committee. The executive committee will be voted on at the January meeting. There are at least 3 openings for Jae, Lauren, and Julius' positions. Let Jae and Lauren know if you are interested in serving on the executive committee.

c) Submitted a letter for FW&P – Noelle

Noelle not present at meeting.

d) Submitted a sign-off to support SNAP continuation during shutdown – Jae

During the government shutdown, a nonpartisan letter in support of continuation of SNAP during the shutdown was created. Jae signed the letter through a Google form on behalf of the WFPC.

e) Food Security Data advocacy – Kelly

The Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement was discussed. The survey specifically targets food security and is the most comprehensive data set on food security in the United States. The FDA terminated the survey in September. Thoughts on why it was canceled were shared, including not having impact data for food programs like SNAP and WIC. There are advocacy groups trying to get the survey reinstated. Andrew, Mitch, Preety, and Lunia will help with drafting a letter to be sent to federal legislators that cover Washtenaw County and MDARD. A resolution to the BOC was another suggestion.

5. Final Resolution – Eastern Washtenaw Rec Center – Crystal

9:36-9:55 am

Items recommended include kitchens (food preparation and instructional purposes), composting/recycling, community/pollinator gardens, space for education, and transportation/accessibility. Kelly will send the document to the group. The final resolution will go to the BOC, but it was suggested to send to Parks & Recreation as well. The document is good as is and does not have to be changed to a resolution before sending to the BOC and Parks & Recreation. There was further discussion about including a food pantry or not. Food Gatherers suggested not to include a food pantry. The document will be circulated through email and go through passive consent. Members have 24 hours to approve or not approve once the email is sent. If it is approved, it will be sent to Justin Hodge and included when WFPC presents to the BOC.

6. ILOS – Jae

9:55-10:19 am

Jae Gerhart presented on Michigan In Lieu of Services (ILOS). It adds a significant funding arm for work in our communities. It was established by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and administered by Medicaid Health Plans (MHP). MDHHS will reimburse people who are providing food services because they are saving the health care system and insurances money. The goal for ILOS is to meet the enrollees' needs, improve their health, and reduce the need for medical services. Jae gave the example of Jewish Family Services (JFS) delivering medically tailored meals to the home. Other examples include healthy home delivered meals, healthy food packs, and vouchers for produce. There must be a social and clinical risk factor to qualify for ILOS and MHPs determine who qualifies. Jae went into more detail on which MHPs provide which services.

Chrissy Taylor said the State is really pushing for local providers. The policy went live in January but most action started in June/July. MHPs determine the medical necessity of the service and then that person starts receiving benefits. There is still quite a bit of confusion around the program. There is concern that MHPs may try to limit the number of participants because they are funding it. Continued advocacy is very important.

7. Round Robin - Lauren

10:19-10:31 am

a) PAT Updates

- **Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT – Andrew**
 - Andrew said they are working on recommendations for the Eastern Washtenaw Rec Center.
 - State budget update – funding is included for school meals for all. Funding for the Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS) for food banks across the state.
 - At this moment, SNAP payments will be sent out through the end of November. Local organizations have stepped up to ease the anxiety of access to food.
- **Pollinators PAT – Mitch**
 - The assessment of ordinances across municipalities will be the base document for outreach. A working item at the Pollinators Summit will be filling any gaps in the data and getting verification.
 - Mitch attended the Washtenaw County Environmental Council meeting to let them know the PAT is working with the Resiliency Office and they would like to participate in any pollinator activity.
- **Farmers PAT - PAT not currently active; looking for new Chair**
 - None.
- **Food Waste & Packaging PAT- Noelle**
 - Jae shared Noelle's email with a resolution In Support of Coordinating the Donation of Surplus Food from County Events to Pathways for Human Consumption.
- **Inclusive Food Justice – Ava**
 - None.
- **Planning & Zoning PAT - Lunia**
 - Focusing on targeted outreach to let people know the PAT is back up and running. Working on getting feedback on the database.
 - Peter said they are looking at previous PAT priorities to make sure they aren't missed.

b) Things on the horizon, important updates from councilmembers

- Peter Lindeman said he attended a meeting with the Oakland County Health Division in which they pulled together local food providers. He will share the major takeaways once he receives them.

8. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:31-10:33 am

- None.

9. Adjourn

10:33 am

ACTION ITEMS

- None.

RECORDED VOTES

1. **Motion 1:** To approve September and October 2025 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved: Yes-10, No-0
2. **Motion 2:** To approve November 2025 meeting agenda
 - a. Approved: Yes-10, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

2025-11-12 09:11:05 From Nick Pomante to Everyone:

Here I go again by Whitesnake

Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health: ❤️

Crystal Lecoq: 👍

2025-11-12 09:16:20 From Lauren Marquardt to Everyone:

Shavonne, if you were trying to introduce yourself please do so here if you want!

2025-11-12 09:16:29 From Shavonne Shaw to Everyone:

Yes, I was trying to introduce myself. Not sure about the noise, my apologies! My name is Shavonne Shaw, I am listening in on behalf of Blue Cross Complete of Michigan.

Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health: ❤️

2025-11-12 09:16:49 From Lauren Marquardt to Everyone:

Welcome!

Shavonne Shaw: ❤️

2025-11-12 09:18:07 From Crystal Lecoq to Everyone:

@Mitchell Seymour - I am interesting in attending and helping the Pollinator Summit. Also may have some ideas on suggested attendees.

2025-11-12 09:24:44 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

The PATs are doing SO WELL this year y'all. Great work to all of our leaders 💜

Crystal Lecoq, Julius Buzzard, he, Lauren Marquardt: ❤️

2025-11-12 09:29:38 From Jae Gerhart to Everyone:

Forsaking Food Security | America's Data Index

2025-11-12 09:31:23 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

Threats to Food Security Data: Why the 'Redundancy' Claim Doesn't Hold Up - Food Research & Action Center
Federal Data Are Disappearing as Statistical Agencies Face Budget Cuts and Political Pressure | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Measuring Food Security with U.S. Federal Data – Use It for Good

2025-11-12 09:41:38 From Julius Buzzard, he to Everyone:

Coy Vaughn stayed on for this project when he retired

Crystal Lecoq: 👍

2025-11-12 09:45:27 From Julius Buzzard, he to Everyone:

Sounds like you're talking about making it a resilience hub.

Crystal Lecoq: 👍

2025-11-12 09:50:29 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

community asked for teaching kitchen

2025-11-12 09:53:35 From Andrew Paniagua to Everyone:

Thanks, Crystal! 😊

2025-11-12 10:29:25 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

Would it be valuable for us to collate and promote (via social, etc.) the pivots that the A2/Ypsi Market, Food Gatherers etc. are engaging in to support SNAP recipients? Sorry if we already have...trying to limit my social media use these days. 🙄

Lauren Marquardt: 👍