



Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026; 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Michigan Room & Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Noelle Blasch
2. Gail Cogsil
3. Preety Gadhoke
4. Sierra Lambert
5. Crystal Lecoq
6. Alexander McKay
7. Brian Meko
8. Lunia Oriol
9. Andrew Paniagua
10. Nicholas Pomante
11. Chrissy Taylor
12. Ann Taylor-McCants
13. Amanda Villescascas
14. Kelly Wilson

Absent

1. Ava HeberkornHalm
2. Justin Hodge
3. Peter Lindeman

WFPC Support Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

1. Jake Trinite
2. Dayna Popkey
3. Jialu Li
4. Rowan Klar

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:04-9:11am

a) Council members please share the following:

i. Shallow Intros: Name, Affiliation, Seat, and Area of Interest

ii. Location: Municipality, County, State (If virtual)

- Noelle Blasch – Attending remotely from Wayne County, MI.
- Gail Cogsil – In-Person.
- Preety Gadhoke – Attending remotely.
- Sierra Lambert – Attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Crystal Lecoq – In-Person.
- Alex McKay – In-Person.
- Brian Meko – In-Person
- Lunia Oriol – Attending remotely from Washtenaw County, MI.
- Andrew Paniagua – In-Person.
- Nicholas Pomante – Attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Chrissy Taylor – In-Person.
- Anna Taylor-McCants – In-Person.
- Amanda Villescas – In-Person.
- Kelly Wilson – In-Person.

b) Icebreaker

- Council members discussed what currently brings joy to their lives.
- Ordering seeds for gardening season coming soon. Maple syrup season started. A new kitten. Musical performance coming up. A pig learning a new button to communicate. Reading recreationally. Shopping for baby arriving soon. Time with community. A visit with family.

2. Agenda, Minutes Addition/Deletions/Approval – Anna

9:11-9:15am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (January) – VOTE

- Motion: To approve January 14, 2026 meeting minutes.
 - 1) *Motion: Chrissy Taylor, Seconded: Andrew Paniagua*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)*

b) Meeting Agenda (February) – VOTE

- Motion: To approve February 11, 2026 meeting agenda.
 - 1) *Motion: Kelly Wilson, Seconded: Alex McKay*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)*

3. Public Comment – Anna

9:15-9:16am

- Dayna Popkey, Co-Chair Food Access & Nutrition PAT, sitting in to see what is happening.

4. Policy Agenda

9:16-9:27am

- Andrew Paniagua went over the Policy Agenda. It can be found on the Washtenaw Food Policy Council website. <https://www.washtenaw.org/4219/Policy-Agenda> It links to a pdf document that should help guide the council's work and is broken down into Policy Action Teams (PAT). The Executive Committee (EC) restructured the Policy Agenda to focus on what can be done at the county level. Andrew discussed the 2026 WFPC Policy Action Tracking Form available online and in the shared drive. The form should be used when taking any action as a member of WFPC. It will be used for tracking of results and progress WFPC makes in advocating for a healthy, fair, affordable, and sustainable food system. Anna mentioned the Policy Action Change Request Form that can be used to change wording, make additions, or add new focuses. It is located online and in the shared drive. She also encouraged everyone to explore the shared drive! It was suggested to add this item to future agendas and encourage PATs to include it in their meetings.

5. Food Policy Sharing – Crystal

9:27-9:47am

- Crystal Lecoq suggested adding a “show and tell” to the agenda for future meetings. It would allow members to represent their organizations or field of interest. It would be very wide open and casual. She will put this into a formal outline and distribute with a proposed schedule. Some ideas for items to cover include organization name, what is the official or unofficial mission statement, what specific activities are you doing, who do you serve or collaborate with, what do you wish the common person on the street knew about your organization or interest, and how can the WFPC promote your mission or collaborate with you. Reach out to Crystal with ideas, she will be managing this for future meetings. As an example, she would like to focus on challenges for small producers getting hooked up to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Anna Taylor-McCants discussed weather related shutdowns. Some emergency meal programs and pantries had to shut down recently due to weather. How do we make sure the emergency food system can still function and maintain safety for workers and others involved? Chrissy Taylor said Meals on Wheels gives everyone a pack of shelf stable meals at the beginning of the winter. Shelf stable meals are a good option. Anna said some restaurants were still open and pizza or Jimmy Johns could have been ordered. Andrew Paniagua said Hope Clinic would have had prepared, to-go meals but they are undergoing a renovation. Food Gatherers does their best to keep the Find Food list as up to date as possible. Chrissy said Jewish Family Services (JFS)

6. PAT Updates – Anna

9:47-9:55am

a) Food Waste & Packaging – Noelle

- Noelle Blasch reported that the PAT met last month, and they talked about creating resources to support the resolution that was moved forward. Resolution in Support of Coordinating the Donation of Surplus Food from County Events to Pathways for Human Consumption. Haven't heard back about the resolution from Justin Hodge.
- Will be meeting again next Wednesday, February 18th, and will revisit the Policy Agenda.

- Noelle suggested making updates to the website to identify member's position on the EC.

b) Food Access & Nutrition – Dayna & Andrew

- Kelly Wilson will be taking over for Andrew as co-chair of the PAT. Their last meeting was a recap of 2025. Still looking through the document the Planning & Zoning PAT created and working with Lunia Oriol. They discussed what they wanted to focus on for 2026, including Right to Food Resolution, connecting people to food access information, policy scan for pollinators, and food access for immigrant neighbors as ICE activity increases.
- Next meeting is February 23rd at 3pm.

c) Pollinators – Mitch

- None.

d) Planning & Zoning – Lunia & Peter

- Lunia Oriol said the PAT met January 27th and decided to continue the discussion about previous workplans created for the PAT to see if they are still relevant to the Policy Agenda.
- The next meeting is March 24th.
- Peter Lindeman and Lunia will be meeting with the Food Access & Nutrition PAT to discuss how the ordinance database can be applied to their specific needs.

7. Annual Report to BOC

9:55-10:11am

a) Resolution, letters of support, senior millage, and rec center

- Anna said they will present at the Board of Commissioners (BOC) Working Session next week if it's before 5:30pm. Chrissy Taylor shared the 2025 Annual Report slide presentation. She reached out to all the PATs for updates and included those. Please share ideas for the Trends the WFPC is Watching slide and Advocacy Work slide. Andrew said he went to the Legislative Education Day in 2025 and can send info about what was discussed. Kelly suggested the elimination of Michigan's 10 Cents a Meal Program. Alex mentioned the Michigan Farmland Preservation Tax Credit, referred to as PA 116. Andrew talked about the elimination of measuring the value of SNAP and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. No longer measuring food insecurity. More information at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/history-background#annual>. WFPC members are encouraged to attend the BOC meeting to support the Annual Report presentation.

8. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:11-10:31am

- Derrick Jackson, Racial Equity Officer, will be presenting at the March 11th meeting on the county's equity framework. He will be looking for feedback on where they can add more food access and food justice into the framework.
- Beth Gibbons, Director of the Washtenaw County Resiliency Office, will be presenting later in the year.
- There was discussion about moving the reoccurring meeting time so that Commissioner Justin Hodge, BOC liaison, can attend. Suggestions are welcome. Meet same day but different time? Members suggested ending by 4:30pm at the latest, further in advance the better, early/late in the

day, not in the middle of the day, different day in the morning, and a lot of holidays on Mondays. Anna will work on setting up a list of available times and send a poll out to the group.

- Kelly Wilson said this is a big election year and suggested sharing the Policy Agenda with people running for office. She will start a list of who's running, and the group will divide up who to contact. Andrew will help.
- Crystal Lecoq said Michigan is being overrun by data centers and they affect the cost/use of farmland, electricity, and water. Tax breaks are being given to those opening data centers. It was suggested to add a new Policy Agenda item opposing and advocating against data centers in the community. It falls under zoning, green space, pollinators, and water. Kelly suggested working with the Environmental Council to form a unified message and approach. Crystal will speak to Mitch Seymour. Anna said a joint resolution to the BOC would be very powerful.

9. Adjourn – VOTE

10:31-10:31am

- Motion: To adjourn meeting.
 - 1) *Motion: Alex McKay, Seconded: Crystal Lecoq*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)*

ACTION ITEMS

- Andrew will send an email to the council with the link for the Policy Action Tracking form.
- Russ will make updates to the WFPC website to identify roles of members on the EC.
- Crystal will speak to Mitch about connecting with the Environmental Council.
- Kelly and Andrew are going to start a list of who is running for office in 2026.
- Alex is going to figure out a presenter for a future meeting about PA 116 and other farming items.

RECORDED VOTES

1. **Motion 1**: To approve January 2026 meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0
2. **Motion 2**: To approve February 2026 meeting agenda.
 - a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0
3. **Motion 3**: To adjourn the February 2026 meeting.
 - a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

2026-02-11 09:16:32 From Andrew Paniagua (he/él), Food Gatherers to Everyone:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/4211/Washtenaw-County-Food-Policy-Council>

Crystal Lecoq, Lunia E. Oriol: 👍

2026-02-11 09:36:36 From Preety Gadhoke (she/her) to Everyone:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/4584/Restaurant-Meal-Program---Using-a-Bridge>

sierra: ❤️

npomante, Crystal Lecoq: 👍

2026-02-11 09:36:54 From Preety Gadhoke (she/her) to Everyone:

list of restaurants at Washtenaw Co DoH (see link above)

Crystal Lecoq: 👍

2026-02-11 09:58:24 From Dayna Popkey (she/her) to Everyone:

Keto cone

Crystal Lecoq: 🤪

2026-02-11 10:17:20 From npomante to Everyone:

You could try sending a "when is good" and overlap our availability and Justin's