



Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2026; 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Huron Room & Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Gail Cogsil
2. Crystal Lecoq
3. Peter Lindeman
4. Alexander McKay
5. Brian Meko
6. Lunia Oriol
7. Andrew Paniagua
8. Nicholas Pomante
9. Anna Taylor-McCants
10. Amanda Villescas
11. Kelly Wilson

Absent

1. Noelle Blasch
2. Preety Gadhoke
3. Ava HeberkornHalm
4. Justin Hodge
5. Sierra Lambert
6. Chrissy Taylor

WFPC Support Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

1. Dayna Popkey
2. Mitch Seymour
3. Beth Gibbons
4. Azella Markgraf

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:09-9:19am

a) Council members please share the following:

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

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

- Gail Cogsil – Attending remotely from Chelsea, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Crystal Lecoq – In-Person.
- Peter Lindeman – In-person.
- Alex McKay – In-Person.
- Brian Meko – In-Person.
- Lunia Oriol – Attending remotely from Detroit, Wayne County, MI.
- Andrew Paniagua – In-Person.
- Nicholas Pomante – Attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Anna Taylor-McCants – In-Person.
- Amanda Villescascas – Attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Kelly Wilson – In-Person.

b) Icebreaker

- Council members discussed what they did for spring break or over the last week. Answers include traveling, hiking, preparing taxes, hanging out with family, new pets, and cleaning the house.

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

9:19-9:20am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (March) – VOTE

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

b) Meeting Agenda (April) – VOTE

- Motion: To approve the April 8, 2026 meeting agenda.
 - 1) *Motion: Kelly Wilson, Seconded: Alex McKay*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-11, No-0 (11 council members present at time of vote)*

3. Public Comment – Anna

9:20-9:22am

- Crystal Lecoq mentioned the Community Violence Intervention Summit at the end of the month. April 21-22 at Washtenaw Community College.
- Kelly Wilson said the American Heart Association is hosting a legislative action day on April 14th in Lansing. Funding school meals for all.
- Brian Meko talked about Ann Arbor District Library hosting a Gardening and Farm Fest Sunday April 19th.

4. PAT Updates – Anna

9:22-9:42am

a) Food Waste & Packaging – Noelle

- Noelle met with Rose Spickler and J. Allen Heise from the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (MiSBF, misbf.org) on March 17th. Some of their work aligns with ours. Collaboration may be helpful. They are developing a Food Rescue Resource Guide and have support from several area organizations. I have connected them with Andrew Paniagua (Food Gatherers) and Mary Morris-Donaldson (MSU Extension) in email. I will keep in touch with Rose and J. The PAT continues to work on resources to support the resolution for Coordinating the Donation of Surplus Food from County Events to Pathways for Human Consumption. The PAT is waiting to hear back from the BOC on the status of the resolution. New focus areas for the PAT are being explored.

b) Food Access & Nutrition – Dayna & Kelly

- Kelly said they discussed the potential to update the food resource page on the county website. They also discussed the draft Right to Food proposal that Growing Hope is working on. They talked about the 10 cents per meal program that was cut from the state budget. There is a lot of advocacy to get the program reinstated.

c) Pollinators – Mitch

- The Pollinator Resolution declaring the week of June 22-28, 2026 Pollinator Week will be going to the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

d) Planning & Zoning – Lunia & Peter

- Peter said they had 4 people attend last month's meeting. They discussed how to move forward with 1 or 2 ideas that the PAT has been trying to do for a while. They discussed topics that planners around the county would be interested in. There was discussion about a resource dashboard. The information would be available for planners and the public.
- Crystal discussed side gardens and backyard chickens. She said she is interested in the history of the ordinances. The council can FOIA the data.

5. Presenter – Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw Resiliency Office, Resilient Washtenaw

9:42-10:33am

Beth Gibbons presented an overview of the Resiliency Office, the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, and where the plan intersects with food policy. The Resiliency Office came out of a declaration of climate emergency by the BOC in 2019. Resilient Washtenaw Plan, the County's climate action plan, was passed by the BOC in 2022. Beth began her role in 2024. The Resilient Washtenaw Plan was discussed in more detail, including strategies, principles, goals, and actions.

Beth went into more detail on areas of overlap with the WFPC. In the Implementation section of the plan, Beth sees opportunities in on-going climate education & public engagement and the creation of a regional resilience authority. In the Health section, create resilience hubs countywide, expand & maintain county tree canopy, and create opportunities for local food production on County properties. In the Preserve Working Lands & Natural Areas section, Farmland Preservation is an obvious

intersection. In the Circular Economy section, develop a Countywide organics/compost program, build a multi-dimensional public education & promotion plan for the circular economy, and incentivize local food production. Slides were provided that show the action, definition, and what activities could look like. Beth provided a list of aligned projects underway in 2026 including the Pilot Compost Program, Supporting the establishment of the Eastside Community & Recreation Center, the Green Team Behavior Change Working Group, convening the Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network, co-facilitating the Michigan Climate Health & Adaptation Plan (MI-CHAP), and the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Other items discussed include:

Beth talked about a student project to create an edible landscape plan for the Eastside Community & Recreation Center.

Beth will send a list of climate adaptive trees for Washtenaw County.

6. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:33-10:33am

- Alex McKay announced that he is restarting the Farmers PAT.

7. Adjourn – VOTE

10:33-10:34am

- Motion: To adjourn meeting.
 - 1) *Motion: Alex McKay, Seconded: Crystal Lecoq*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-11, No-0 (11 council members present at time of vote)*

ACTION ITEMS

- Kelly Wilson/Dayna Popkey will share the Right to Food proposal from Growing Hope with the council.
- Russell O'Brien will send a copy of Beth Gibbon's presentation to council members.

RECORDED VOTES

1. **Motion 1:** To approve the March 2026 meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved: Yes-11, No-0
2. **Motion 2:** To approve the April 2026 meeting agenda.
 - a. Approved: Yes-11, No-0
3. **Motion 3:** To adjourn the April 2026 meeting.
 - a. Approved: Yes-11, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

2026-04-08 09:17:11 From Gail Cogsil to Everyone:

I cleaned my house 😊