



Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026; 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Huron Room & Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

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

Absent

1. Noelle Blasch
2. Ava HeberkornHalm
3. Justin Hodge
4. Lunia Oriol

WFPC Support Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

1. Dayna Popkey
2. Mitch Seymour

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions

9:02-9:10am

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 – In-Person.
- Preety Gadhoke – Attending remotely.
- Sierra Lambert – Attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI.
- Crystal Lecoq – In-Person.
- Peter Lindeman – In-person.
- Alex McKay – In-Person.
- Brian Meko – Attending remotely.
- 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 – Attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI.

b) Icebreaker

- Council members discussed self-care activities. These included running, yoga, chopping firewood, doing nothing, walking, hiking, fresh air, facial, and fitness goals.

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

9:10-9:11am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (February) – VOTE

- Motion: To approve the February 11, 2026 meeting minutes.
 - 1) *Motion: Alex McKay, Seconded: Gail Cogsil*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-13, No-0 (13 council members present at time of vote)*

b) Meeting Agenda (March) – VOTE

- Motion: To approve the March 11, 2026 meeting agenda.
 - 1) *Motion: Chrissy Taylor, Seconded: Alex McKay*
 - 2) *Approved: Yes-13, No-0 (13 council members present at time of vote)*

3. Public Comment – Anna

9:11-9:12am

- Mitch Seymour, chair Pollinators PAT said he appreciates the opportunity to edit draft resolution language in support of pollinators week.

4. Food Policy Council Member Share Out - Chrissy

9:12-9:34am

- Chrissy Taylor discussed Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Washtenaw County. They are in the

process of rebranding. She went over a brief history of the organization which started to assist the growing number of refugee families arriving from the former Soviet Republics. You do not have to be Jewish to receive services. Services include interpersonal therapy, English as a Second Language, transportation, citizenship classes, employment services, appointment services, specialty food pantry, etc. JFS built a commercial kitchen where they make medically tailored meals and provide meals on wheels to specific clients and other organizations. They try to be smart and innovative and do good work. Chrissy invited council members to come for a tour or to help serve food. Chrissy got into working at JFS because of the family comes first attitude.

5. PAT Updates – *Anna*

9:34-9:58am

a) Food Waste & Packaging – *Noelle*

- The FW&P PAT continues to meet monthly. We are working on resources to support our Resolution in Support of Coordinating the Donation of Surplus Food from County Events to Pathways for Human Consumption. We have not yet heard back from Justin Hodge on the status of this resolution at the BOC level. I am working on meetings with Rose Spickler, with the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum (MiSBF), on several food waste and sustainable packaging initiatives across Michigan, including convening institutional and business stakeholders and developing shared resources related to food donation, food packaging, liability, and best practices.

b) Food Access & Nutrition – *Dayna & Kelly*

- Kelly Wilson said they discussed the ordinance database. They were going to submit a FOIA request about citations for gardening and chickens. Crystal will work on getting the information from the Ypsilanti Township Supervisors Department. A draft of Growing Hope's Right to Food Resolution was shared. Double up food bucks lifted their match cap through April. SNAP-Ed sites have been tasked with creating a food access resource for their service area. PAT members want to communicate with Health Department staff that maintain the website to update the food access page.

c) Pollinators – *Mitch*

- Mitch Seymour said he is working on a summit for this year related to getting feedback from municipalities on their pollinator-related policies. Working on a resolution for pollinators week.

d) Planning & Zoning – *Lunia & Peter*

- Peter said they meet the last Tuesday of the month. They have been looking at which of the old/existing priorities should be a focus in looking at the draft ordinance database. Anna said the commissioners were excited about using the database.

e) EC Announcements – *Crystal & Andrew*

- Andrew said he went to Washington DC last week to talk to elected representatives. He highlighted a flyer from United Way that shows changes to SNAP. Democrats will try to highlight cost sharing with states and the impact on red states.

6. Presenter – Derrick Jackson, Racial Equity Office, Understanding the Equity Office Framework

9:58-10:30am

Derrick Jackson went over the Washtenaw County Racial Equity Blueprint. (Attached) The 3 main pillars are individual growth, institutional change, and structural transformation. He discussed each of the 13 pillars and gave a little information about each. Anna Taylor-McCants asked about how this work could connect with WFPC work and how connected they are with the Resiliency Office. Derrick said he thinks 8 of the 13 pillars could potentially connect with WFPC work. There is a lot of overlap in the two offices, and they are working on projects together. Tomorrow will be the first interdepartmental strategy session to discuss federal changes, strategize around the intersectionality of them, and how to put together scenarios to respond at the department and county levels.

7. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:30-10:30am

- None.

8. Adjourn – VOTE

10:30-10:31am

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

ACTION ITEMS

- Crystal Lecoq will work on getting information about citations for yard gardens and chickens from Ypsilanti Township.
- Andrew Paniagua will email the United Way SNAP changes flyer to the group.

RECORDED VOTES

- 1. Motion 1:** To approve the February 2026 meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved: Yes-13, No-0
- 2. Motion 2:** To approve the March 2026 meeting agenda.
 - a. Approved: Yes-13, No-0
- 3. Motion 3:** To adjourn the March 2026 meeting.
 - a. Approved: Yes-13, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

09:00:10 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Will y'all let me know when we have quorum!

09:00:13 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

?*

09:00:46 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Need 2 more!

09:01:04 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Thanks

09:02:14 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Have quorum!

09:05:31 From sierra to Everyone:

Being outside and going to the park with my friend and her son ❤️

09:05:38 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

Reacted to "Being outside and go..." with ❤️

09:06:46 From Anna Taylor-McCants to Everyone:

Reacted to "Being outside and go..." with ❤️

09:07:12 From npomante to Everyone:

Chopping firewood is definitely meditative, I like that!

09:08:59 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

Good luck with that, Andrew! Excited to hear how that goes.

09:09:20 From sierra to Everyone:

Ty for reading :)

09:27:59 From Project Grow Community Gardens to Everyone:

Mitch, here...sorry, not sure why it's showing my Project Grow icon. It's me, and not on behalf of PG



09:43:31 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

DRAFT Right to Food Washtenaw County Draft - Google Docs

09:59:06 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/2658/Equity-in-Washtenaw>

10:18:02 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Could council members please type where you are joining from in the chat? Thanks!

10:18:25 From npomante to Everyone:

Nick Pomante- Ypsilanti, MI. Washtenaw County

10:18:50 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Reacted to "Nick Pomante- Ypsila..." with 👍

10:19:35 From Kelly Wilson (she/her) - Trinity Health to Everyone:

Kelly Wilson - Ypsilanti Township, MI. Washtenaw County.

10:20:13 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Reacted to "Kelly Wilson - Ypsil..." with 👍

10:23:35 From Brian Meko (He/Him) to Everyone:

Joseph Brian Meko- Ann Arbor, MI. Washtenaw County

10:23:47 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

Reacted to "Joseph Brian Meko- A..." with 👍

Washtenaw County Racial Equity Blueprint

