



WASHTENAW

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

Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC)

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026; 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Learning Resource Center (LRC) Michigan Room & Zoom

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

Present

1. Noelle Blasch
2. Gail Cogsil
3. Sierra Lambert
4. Crystal Lecoq
5. Peter Lindeman
6. Alexander McCay
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. Preety Gadhoke
2. Ava HeberkornHalm
3. Justin Hodge

WFPC Support Staff:

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

Other Attendees:

1. Mitchell Seymour (Pollinators Policy Action Team Chair)
2. Jacob Trinite
3. Hannah
4. Shavonne Shaw

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening/Introductions - Anna

9:04-9:33 am

a) Council members please share the following:

- I. Shallow Intros: Name, affiliation, seat, and area of interest.**
- II. Deep Intros: Who are you!?!**
- III. Location (municipality, county, state) if virtual.**
 - Anna Taylor-McCants in-person.
 - Alex McCay in-person.
 - Crystal Lecoq in-person
 - Chrissy Taylor in-person.
 - Brian Meko in-person.
 - Andrew Paniagua in-person.
 - Gail Cogsil in-person.
 - Noelle Blasch in-person.
 - Amanda Villescas in-person.
 - Nick Pomante attending remotely from Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
 - Peter Lindeman attending remotely from Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan.
 - Lunia Oriol attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
 - Kelly Wilson attending remotely from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan.
 - Sierra Lambert attending remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

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

9:33-9:35 am

a) Previous Meeting Minutes (November) - VOTE

- I. Motion: To approve November 12, 2025 meeting minutes**
 - 1. Motion: Nicholas Pomante, Seconded: Chrissy Taylor*
 - 2. Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)*

b) Meeting Agenda (January)

- I. Motion: To approve January 14, 2026 meeting agenda**
 - 1. Motion: Crystal Lecoq, Seconded: Noelle Blasch*
 - 2. Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)*

3. Public Comment - Anna

9:35-9:38 am

- Mitch Seymour, Chair of Pollinators PAT, attending from Ypsilanti Township, discussed his many interests and welcomed Alex McCay to the council.
- Lauren Marquardt, former WFPC member, introduced herself and said she's looking forward to attending the meeting as a public participant.
- Shavonne Shaw, attending from Lansing/Ingham County, said she is from Blue Cross Complete of Michigan, wanted to expand community presence, and hear about food access in Washtenaw County.

4. Executive Committee (EC) Vote - Russ

9:38-9:42 am

- Vote held for 2026 WFPC Executive Committee.
 - Chair: Anna Taylor-McCants; Vice-Chair: Chrissy Taylor; Racial Equity Liaison: Preety Gadhoke; Policy Liaison: Andrew Paniagua; Secretary: Crystal Lecoq
- Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote. 9 In-Peron and 5 Online)*

5. Policy Action Team (PAT) Introductions/Orientation – Anna

9:42-9:56 am

a) Food Waste & Packaging – Noelle

- I. Noelle restarted the Food Waste & Packaging PAT when she joined the council 2 years ago. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday every month on Zoom from 10-11am. If interested, please send Noelle a message to be added to the listserv. They put together a resolution last year that passed the WFPC and has moved on to Justin Hodge and the Board of Commissioners (BOC). The resolution is around diverting food from community events that would otherwise go to waste. They are working on resources that can be shared with Washtenaw County.

b) Food Access & Nutrition – Dayna & Andrew

- I. Andrew and Dayna co-chair the Food Access & Nutrition (FAN) PAT. If interested, reach out to Andrew, Dayna, or Russ to be added to the listserv. They meet the 4th Monday each month. The next meeting is January 26th and will be in-person at Growing Hope. They work on policy around food access and nutrition around the county. Recently they helped other PATs put together a WFPC recommendation for the Eastern Washtenaw Community Recreation Center. They also started looking at advancing SNAP-Ed objectives with the recent cuts. Senior nutrition is also an important subject in the context of the Senior Millage and Office on Aging. Andrew will be stepping down as co-chair so let them know if you are interested. Anna reminded everyone that you do not have to be a member of the WFPC to be part of any PAT.

c) Pollinators – Mitch

- I. Mitch said there will be some of pollinator policy summit or pollinator summit in early 2026. They want to look across the county to get municipal tally of their pollinator impacting policies. The goal is to find out what everyone is doing. Mitch will let the group know when the event is scheduled. Anna said the WFPC could be a non-financial sponsor. There will be a virtual option to join as well as in-person.

d) Planning & Zoning – Lunia & Peter

- I. Lunia said the Planning & Zoning PAT has been restarted as of October 2025. The first meeting will be Tuesday January 27, 3-4pm and they meet the 4th Tuesday every other month. They will be reviewing past action items and wrapping up the revisions and feedback received about the ordinance database that was created. The ordinance database is built from previous scans of food system related ordinances at the municipal and township level and is meant to ease the burden of research by putting them in a central location.

6. SNAP Update – Andrew

9:56-10:15 am

Andrew gave a quick update on work requirement changes to SNAP, also known as Time Limited Food Assistance (TLFA). He will forward the entire presentation to council members. There was a quick recap of SNAP including the largest cuts in history. About 8.9% of people in Washtenaw County receive benefits. The changes to work requirements started December 1, 2025. States will pay more administrative costs in fiscal year 2027 and cost shifts to states for the actual benefits based on error rates will start in fiscal year 2028. If a TLFA individual does not meet the work requirements or does not qualify for a deferral or exemption, the individual's SNAP eligibility is limited to 3 months within a 36-month period. Andrew went

over the exemptions in more detail. Work requirements include working an average of 20 hours per week each month, participate for an average of 20 hours per week in an approved employment and training program with Michigan Works, or participate in community service by volunteering at a non-profit organization. It is important for SNAP participants to keep their information up to date with MDHHS to receive correspondence. Chrissy Taylor said that she is concerned because there is no how right now. How to report and how to get your numbers. The only message is to contact MDHHS.

7. Annual Report to Board of Commissioners (BOC) - Jae

10:15-10:16 am

a) Resolutions, letter of support, senior millage, rec center

- I. Jae was not able to attend the meeting. She was going to advise the council on the procedure for the Annual Report to the BOC. Executive Committee will discuss further at their next meeting.

8. Open Comment (Council Members and Public)

10:16-10:30 am

- Council members discussed ideas for presentations at future meetings.
 - a. Crystal – Washtenaw County Conservation Group, presentation on water, Farm Stop, Eastern Market Fellows’ Program, and dietetics.
 - b. Anna – 15-minute timeslots to present about council members’ work.
 - c. Chrissy – Presentation on eating disorders for a better understanding of resources.
 - d. Chrissy – Suggested volunteering as a group.
 - e. Brian – Beth Gibbons for a Resiliency Office presentation.
 - f. Brian – UofM Food Literacy for All sessions are free to the public. Virtual on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:50 PM. Register for free at bit.ly/FLFAWebsite
 - g. Brian – Register for the 2026 Farm Stop Conference to be held February 12-15, 2026.

9. Adjourn

10:30 am

- I. Motion: To adjourn the January 14, 2026 meeting.

1. Motion: Noelle Blasch, Seconded: Crystal Lecoq

2. Approved: Yes-14, No-0 (14 council members present at time of vote)

ACTION ITEMS

- Lunia will share the link to the food system related ordinance database with the group.
- Andrew will share the SNAP food requirement changes presentation with the group.

RECORDED VOTES

- 1. Motion 1:** To approve November 2025 meeting minutes.

a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0

- 2. Motion 2:** To approve January 2026 meeting agenda.

a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0

- 3. Executive Committee Vote:** To select council members to the Executive Committee.

a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0

- 4. Motion 3:** To adjourn the January 14, 2026 meeting.

a. Approved: Yes-14, No-0

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

09:01:16 From Washtenaw County Health Department to Everyone:

We are having technical issues with audio and camera currently.

10:23:00 From Nick Pomante to Everyone:

Yeah, I give presentations on what it means to be a RD all the time and would be happy to create something to present to the council!

10:24:18 From Nick Pomante to Everyone:

Have to go, see you at the next mtg!

10:26:29 From Crystal R. Forbes to Everyone:

Reacted to "Yeah, I give present..." with 👍