



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved MADISON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

5:30 PM

Virtual

The City of Madison is holding the Madison Food Policy Council meeting virtually to help protect our community from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

1. **Written Comments:** You can send comments on agenda items to mfpc@cityofmadison.com

2. **Register for Public Comment:**

- Register to speak at the meeting.
- Register to answer questions.
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking).

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

3. **Watch the Meeting:** If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

4. **Listen by Phone:**

(877) 853-5257 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 894 9014 4979

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Others Present: Nicholas Heckman, George Reistad, Jess Guffey Calkins, Shirley Nennig, Andrew Hirst, Sebastian Hassel, Erica Janisch

Madison Food Policy Council Meeting called to order at by Chair Leete at 5:34PM.

Present: 10 - Bill Tishler; Tag Evers; Nicholas S. Leete; Rebecca Kemble; Hedi L. Rudd; Mathew N. Salbego; Josh Perkins; Noah R. Bloedorn; Devika J. Suri and Lindsey Day Farnsworth

Excused: 8 - Logan C. Morrow; Christopher G. Brockel; Dadit G. Hidayat; Kelsey Abad; Sarah M. Larson; Katie L. Strader; David D. Leeper and Nan Fey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from June made by Evers. Second by Day Farnsworth. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[89118](#) Public Comment: MFPC 7/16/25

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

NEW BUSINESS**Special Presentations**

1. [89119](#) Update on school meals from Madison School Nutrition

Perkins shared updates and background on recent trends in meal service at MMSD. Outlined recent experiences since 2022 when Perkins joined his position, benefits of the commissary kitchen model that MMSD operates to get food to its elementary schools. Shares that values of the district are to increase food quality, availability, and diversity within the program. Mentions importance of income verification for Free/Reduced-price meals.

Questions:

- **Q: Are students required to take dairy?**
 - o **A: No, they are only required to take 3/5 meal components. They can skip dairy if they add another missing meal component (including a required fruit/veg)**
- **Bloedorn: Food Action Plan has been doing some engagement with students.**
- **Leete: What percentage of the food in the district is procured locally**
 - o **Perkins: Will provide these details later.**

- Leete: is local aggregation or storage a limitation/barrier for acquiring more local product?
 - o Perkins: not necessarily a barrier, as the commissary can process food. Can aggregate food but not for external partners; only for the district.
- Salbego: What is the alternative to the commissary model?
 - o Perkins: Individual school kitchens (MMSD high schools operate this way)
- Bloedorn: Are there any impacts from recent federal changes, such as Local Food Service.
 - o Perkins: Yes, but there's no plans to cut back on local foods at MMSD.

2. [89120](#) FoodShed Partnership presentation by Community Action Coalition

Attachments: [Foodshed Partnership \(MFPC 1\).pdf](#)

Hirst presented from the attached slides.

- Leete: Can you outline the timeline
 - o Hirst: Buildout begins August 2025, production spaces should be complete by 2026 with operational facility by summer 2026. Grant support ends in 2027.
- Q: What will be the general revenue model?
 - o Hirst: The model will be to be a transaction holder, potentially buying at wholesale costs and leveraging donations and nonprofit structure of CAC.

Report from Chair

3. [72741](#) Madison Food Policy Council Chair

Continuing to recruit new members.

Regular Business Reports

4. [72192](#) Regional Food System Planning

Currently in the midst of community engagement phase, which wraps up in October. This phase is centered around getting out into the community, familiarizing people with the project and getting their input into the issues they care the most about as it relates to food. After this phase we will begin Drafting the Food Action Plan and Policy Recommendations, using the input from the community engagement and literature review phases.

Out in the Community: We've been hosting lots of informational events, including our project launch, stakeholder meetings, and "State of the Food System" presentations. You might have seen us tabling at dozens of events across Dane County, actively listening and collecting your direct input on the food planning process.

Partnering Up: We've also been distributing funds to community organizations. This helps them run their own engagement activities, ensuring we're reaching diverse groups with culturally relevant outreach. Some of our partner organizations include Kennedy Heights, Lussier Center, Project Home, Sustain Dane, Dane Buy Local, Dane County Farmers Market, Rooted, Northside Planning Council, and others.

Committees in Action: We've established four dedicated committees diving deep into key food system areas:

- **Edible Landscapes:** Exploring how we can grow more food in our shared spaces.
- **Commercial Rent Prices:** Tackling the high costs and complexities food entrepreneurs face with commercial spaces.
- **Workforce Benefits:** Looking at ways to improve conditions and support for food sector workers.
- **Food Resource Management:** Focusing on reducing food waste and improving how food is recovered and distributed.

Get Involved & Share Your Voice!

Your input is shaping this plan. Here are ways you can still contribute and help spread the word:

- **Visit Our Website:** Learn more about the project here
- **Take Our Surveys:**
 - o Consumer Survey
 - o Producer Survey

Don't Miss Our Upcoming Events!

We have many more opportunities for you to connect, learn, and share your thoughts. We'd love to see you there!

- **July 22nd | Brix Cider, Mt. Horeb**
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: State of the Food System Town Hall.
- **August 2nd | Sun Prairie Sustainability Fair**
Visit our table at this event!
- **August 5th | The Madison Club**
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Dane County Food Collective's State of the Food System Presentation and Town Hall. Happy hour (7:30-8:00 PM) followed by presentation and discussion.
- **August 7th | Parks Alive, Penn Park**
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Visit our table!
- **August 11th | Lakeview Library (Northside)**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM: Northside State of the Food System Presentation & Town Hall.
- **August 12th | Vitruvian Farms**
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: Future of Farming Panel. Networking followed by a panel discussion with various farmers.
- **September 11th | Mt. Zion Baptist Church**
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Faith & Food Summit. Gathering of faith leaders and emergency food providers.
- **September 27th | Yowela Farms (Stoughton)**
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Harvest Gathering. Includes a State of the Food System Presentation and Town Hall.

5. [72193](#)

Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

Continuing to work with City on community composting permitting. Developing plans for EPA brownfield protections. Working on clarifying hoop house permitting process and edible landscapes.

6. [77772](#) Dane Food Access Network
- Overview of recent changes to SNAP and SNAP-Ed from the Big Beautiful Bill Act, and potential for greater demands at area emergency food providers on top of already record high levels of need.
7. [75103](#) Farmland Preservation Task Force
- No report
8. [72198](#) Madison Metropolitan School District
- No report
9. [72199](#) Double Dollars Program
- Funding for 2025 and most of 2026 is secure, but benefit funding for 2026 and beyond will need to be developed more fully.
10. [72197](#) Community Gardens
- In the wake of decreased federal funding, Rooted has been making plans to reduce support for gardens (language access, technical assistance, and more).
- Rooted is beginning to plan for Community Gardens Summit in March 2026. Ongoing tours and workshops of gardens available.
11. [77773](#) Food System Assessment
- No report

Staff Reports

12. [72194](#) Business Development Specialist
- No report
13. [72195](#) Public Health Madison & Dane County
- No report
14. [72196](#) Extension Dane County, UW-Madison
- The USDA SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) program was cut in the federal budget law that passed July 4th. This program and funding is a major part of UW-Madison Extension's FoodWise program, which provides nutrition education in schools and community groups for low-income individuals. SNAP-Ed funding will end by Oct 1. Extension leadership is working out the specifics of these significant changes to the FoodWise program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the MFPC made by Bloedorn. Second by Day Farnsworth.
Motion approved by unanimous approval at 6:30 PM.