



Douglas County Food Policy Council

Monday, July 21, 2025 6:30PM

Virtual and In-Person at Douglas County Sustainability Office,
1006 New Hampshire St Lawrence, KS 66044

MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Shelby Ostrom, Emily Lysen, Natalya Lowther, Tyler Lindquist, Quinlan Carttar, Ben Sikes, Dietrich Earnhart, Aundrea Walker

Absent: Suzy Mooney, Mackie Moore

Staff: Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick

A. Approval of Agenda

- Consider agenda approval
- *Motion by Dietrich Earnhart. Second by Emily Lysen. All in Favor motion passes.*

B. Approval of Minutes

- Consider Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- *Motion by Quinlan Carttar. Second by Dietrich Earnhart. All in Favor motion passes.*

C. Regular Agenda Items

1. Food System Updates:

- **Termination of Regional Food Business Centers Programs**
 - i. On July 15, 2025 the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the termination of the Regional Food Business Centers (RFBC) program.
- **Kansas Local Food Summit**
 - i. Summit taking place July 29-30 in Salina, KS
 - ii. Quinlan Carttar and Emily Lysen to present at the summit. Tyler Lindquist and Star Her Many Horses plan to attend the conference.
- **Gleaning Update**
 - i. The Council previously discussed gleaning efforts in Douglas County. As a follow-up, *After the Harvest* ended operations at the end of 2024. Gleaning activities in the region are now being continued by: [United People Power \(UPP\)](#).
- **Summer Feeding Resource Guide**

- i. The Summer Feeding Resource Guide is now available and includes key resources for food access across the county.
- **Food Truck Roster**
 - i. A Douglas County Food Truck Roster is in development to support World Cup food entrepreneurship.
- **ACTION:** No action required.

2. Kansas Food Action Network & Douglas County Legislative Priorities Timeline

- Presenter: County staff
- The Kansas Food Action Network (KFAN) will host its statewide convening to vote on legislative recommendations. Date TBD (typically held in August). DCFPC representatives will be needed to attend and participate.
- Separately, the DCFPC must finalize its own recommendations for the Douglas County legislative priorities by the end of September 2025.

3. Consideration of New DCFPC Working Group | Common Ground Farm Application Process:

- Presenters: County staff and Leadership
- County staff have met with DCFPC leadership to explore the creation of a working group to co-develop a new, more equitable, and transparent incoming-farmer application and selection process for the Common Ground Farm.
- If approved, the working group will include DCFPC members and County staff to develop a new application and process for incoming farmers. Recommendations from the group will be brought back to the full Council for approval.
 - i. Members of this working group may include but is not limited to:
 - 1. Tyler Lindquist, Emily Lysen, Quinlan Carttar, and Ben Sikes.
- ***ACTION:*** Consider approving the formation of a temporary working group to support development of the revised Common Ground Farm application and selection process.
 - i. *Motion by Dietrich Earnhart*
 - ii. *to DCFPC play a role in WC readiness and provide the training discussed tonight. Second by Aundrea Walker. All in favor. Motion passed.*

4. Economic Development Working Group | World Cup Readiness: Local Food Business Support & Sustainable Practices

- Presenter: Tyler Lindquist
- Proposal by Economic Development: Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) to support World Cup (WC) readiness by preparing local food businesses and promoting sustainable practices. DCFPC will partner with large event and multilingual ESO experts to deliver targeted training for mobile food vendors, including Spanish-speaking food entrepreneurs, focused on WC business readiness, safety, and permitting. To reduce food waste, DCFPC may also work with local food-compost entrepreneurs to integrate compost practices at WC events with an emphasis on mobile food vendors.
- Training expected to take place in Q1 OF 2026.
- ***ACTION:*** Consider approval of DCFPC's role in supporting World Cup readiness through food business training and composting initiatives, and authorize staff and

partners to begin implementation planning.

5. Proposal for a Curbside Compost Collection Pilot in Lawrence

- Presenter: Dietrich Earnhart and Coco Castle
- Background: The FORWARD working group met on May 20, 2025, and developed a proposal for a pilot curbside compost collection program in Lawrence, KS. This is a follow-up effort from a presentation by Coco Castle, Owner & Director of Operations during the DCFPC April 21, 2025 full council meeting.
- Proposal Summary: The pilot aims to test the entrepreneurial feasibility and effectiveness of curbside food waste collection for composting from residential households.
- **ACTION:** Consider approval for the Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) FORWARD Working Group to advance a Curbside Compost Collection Pilot in Lawrence, and authorize County staff and relevant partners to support the preliminary study.
 - i. Motion by Aundrea Walker to approve this request for the Douglas County Food Policy Council (DCFPC) FORWARD Working Group to advance a Curbside Compost Collection Pilot in Lawrence, and authorize County staff and relevant partners to support the preliminary study. Second by Quinlan Carttar. All in favor. Motion passed.*

6. Lawrence Farmers Market Permanent Location Feasibility Study and Community Engagement, Update

- Presenter: Emily Lysen
- LFM Director of Development and DCFPC member Emily Lysen will provide an update on the Lawrence Farmers Market Permanent Location Feasibility Study and Community Engagement. The update will include the feasibility study and project timeline and opportunities for the DCFPC to support community engagement efforts at the farmers market, FidPick, Art in the Park, and Community Town Halls
- **ACTION:** No action required.

D. Next Meeting

- Date: Monday, August 18, 2025
- Time: 6:30–8:30 PM
- Location: Virtual and In-Person 1006 New Hampshire St.

Meeting Adjourned.