

Food Policy Forum

2017 Report to the Legislature

As required by 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget Section 306 (4)

Washington State Conservation Commission

Mark Clark, Executive Director

October 2017



SCC-FP-10-17

Please contact the SCC (360-407-6936) or TTY Relay (800-833-6388) to request this publication in an alternate format.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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October 2017

TO: Members of the Washington State Legislature

FROM: Mark Clark
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Food Policy Forum - Submission of report to the legislature, as required by
2ESHB 2376 section 306 (4) (c)

I respectfully submit the Food Policy Forum report as required by legislative proviso.

The Washington State Conservation Commission will continue to convene and work with the Food Policy Forum to refine the opportunities to advance food policy concepts in this report. The work of the Forum will continue in 2018 with a goal to identify recommendations, as appropriate, and report to the legislature in October 2018.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Clark
Executive Director

BACKGROUND

Introduction to food policy

Food policy is an area of public policy that concerns how food is produced, processed, distributed, purchased, and disposed – in other words, how our food system works. Food policies are designed to influence the operation of the food and agriculture system. Food policy is affected by a variety of interests and conditions at the local, regional, state, and national scale.

Over the past two decades, food policy work increasingly is centered and informed through an established multi-sector structure, often a food policy council or forum. These structures may be a formal council established in code or statute and often include a charge to be supported or promoted by the group. Council-type efforts often include representation from a wide variety of interests in the food system. These efforts also may be grassroots campaigns designed to influence food issues at the varying levels of policy (local, state, and national).

What is a food system?

A food system contains the elements necessary for getting food from field to fork. It includes the growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, accessing, consuming, and disposing of food. One of the most critical elements is the human element which must be considered at each step of production. It also includes the inputs needed and outputs generated at each step. Each input and output is associated with specific interests in the food system. For example, the consumption of food may be the primary focus of hunger and nutrition experts, with emphasis on making available appropriate, affordable, healthy food for low-income consumers.

Food policy in Washington

State-level policy councils exist in about half of U.S. states, but Washington does not have a formal state-level food policy structure. Past legislative efforts to establish a state-level council in Washington have achieved varying levels of success, with a bill that passed both the House and Senate in 2010 that was vetoed by Gov. Gregoire and replaced with an Executive Order that did not create a full food policy council. More recently, bills were introduced to create a food policy forum; while the bills did not pass, funding has been allocated through the budget to begin this work.¹²³

At the local policy level in Washington, there are at least 12-15 broad-based food policy groups that range from city-level to regional organizations. They vary in scope and size, and all work on issues important in their communities. Groups focus on a range of issues, including promoting locally produced food; access to culturally appropriate food; improving the connection of growers and consumers; and enhancing food programs for low-income consumers both locally and across the state through advocacy.

¹ 2017-18: HB 1562 - An Act relating to continuing the work of the Washington food policy forum

² 2015-16: HB 1685 - An Act relating to the establishment of a Washington food policy forum

³ 2009-10: SB 6343 - An Act relating to the establishment of a Washington food policy council

In January 2017, the Washington State Conservation Commission Office of Farmland Preservation surveyed known food policy groups in Washington to learn about their top work products and/or priorities that are underway or in are in the planning phase. Several food councils responded to the survey; their top work products and priorities related to several topics, including:

- Comprehensive food planning
- K-12 education/nutrition and wellness
- Local food events
- Farmland preservation

See Appendix B for a full list of survey responses along with information on the other food council type groups. Please note that this list is incomplete — there likely are other groups working on issues related to food policy in our state.

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Origin

In 2016, the Washington State Legislature provided funding in the Supplemental Operating Budget for the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) “to convene and facilitate a food policy forum.”⁴ The proviso specified that the director of the SCC would appoint members to the forum in consultation with the director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The funding proviso made no reference to the issues to be considered by the forum. However, the SCC was directed to report to the legislature with the forum’s recommendations by October 31, 2017.

In 2017, the SCC established the Washington State Food Policy Forum (Forum). The SCC director appointed members from a variety of food-related sectors from across the state. The SCC facilitated a series of five meetings that occurred both in-person and via webinar to reduce meeting costs and allow for broader participation from stakeholders across the state. Materials, agendas, and recordings of meetings are available on the SCC Food Forum webpage: scc.wa.gov/food-policy.⁵

Forum Membership

The composition of the Forum includes a mix of agricultural professionals, county staff, state agency directors and program managers, and nonprofit food sector organizations. The proviso provided the following guidance on the composition of the Forum:

In making appointments, the director of the commission must attempt to ensure a diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspectives by building on the representation established by the food system roundtable initiated by Executive Order 10-02.

⁴ Section 306 (4) - <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/lbns/2016Omni2376-S.SL.pdf>

⁵ <http://scc.wa.gov/foodpolicy-meetings/>

In 2010, former Governor Christine Gregoire issued Executive Order 10-02 directing state agencies to examine state food policy, food-related programs, and food-related issues. The executive order work ultimately recommended formation of a roundtable like group to develop a 25-year vision for the state’s food system. This became the Washington State Food System Roundtable (Roundtable). Executive Order 10-02 did not provide for a list of representatives on the Roundtable other than specifying agency participation:

The Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Social and Health Services shall work collaboratively with other agencies and non-governmental organizations to examine state food policy, food-related programs, and food-related issues. In addition, I request the Conservation Commission and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction join as full partners in this effort.

Given no specified membership for the Roundtable was outlined in the executive order, the state agencies set out to develop a charter identifying participation. The charter identifies membership as:

“...individuals committed to improving the Washington State food system through active participation in the Roundtable. 25-30 representatives from varied food system sectors will be chosen/elected to manage direction for the Roundtable. Members will be ultimately responsible for decision making.”

Following guidance from the proviso, the SCC executive director, in consultation with WSDA, established a list of potential Forum members. This list formed the foundation of participants in the first two meetings. During these meeting, participants discussed potential topics to be addressed by the Forum, and the SCC requested that individuals share whether they would be interested in becoming a formal member. The SCC executive director then formally requested member participation. See Table 1 for a list of representatives that accepted and constitute Forum membership.

Table 1: Representatives invited to be members of the Food Policy Forum

Washington State Legislature	Snohomish County
Washington State Department of Agriculture	King Conservation District
Washington State University	Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship
Washington Friends of Farms & Forests	Slow Money Northwest
Washington State Farm Bureau	Catholic Charities Spokane
Washington Potato Commission	Twin Sisters Market
Washington Association of Land Trusts	Northwest Harvest
Washington State Dairy Federation	Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Washington State Farmers Market Association
Washington Tree Fruit Association	Northwest Food Processors Association
Washington State Conservation Commission	Clark County Food System Council
Office of Farmland Preservation	Washington Food Coalition
Charlie's Produce	Enterprise for Equity
Thurston Economic Development Council	

Forum meetings

The Forum as convened by the SCC is a collection of the relationships here in Washington. The intent is to do no harm in all components of the Forum and to have anti-hunger groups, agricultural industries, local farms, and state and local departments work collaboratively on recommendations.

Five Forum meetings were held in 2017. Facilitation and staffing was provided by SCC, as per the proviso, with assistance from the WSDA in meeting design. Participants noted that while no clear directive was given, it was viewed that the Forum could and should:

- Be a venue for safe collaboration among the varying food sectors, and
- Be a place to have equal voice while working together on behalf of one Washington.

There also was interest in trying to do better with what we have and foster a climate of resilience in the food system changes around us.

Identification of topics

The first two meetings worked to identify potential topics for the Forum to address. Many topical areas were shared, and SCC, along with WSDA staff, worked to combine areas of commonality. These discussions generated eight topics of interest:

1. Build relationships and partnerships with existing food policy groups, food policy efforts, and market sectors with a goal to elevate opportunities that may exist for cities, counties, and non-governmental organizations.
2. Establish venue to learn and share information (e.g. academia research, grant/investor opportunities, identify challenges), and identify the role higher education can play in addressing food policy issues.
3. Identify challenges for small farms, such as land availability, regulatory pressures, and land conversion. What are the barriers to keep farmland viable?
4. Identify economic opportunities, especially for small farms (e.g. connecting consumers and producers, building farmers markets and community partners).
5. Identify opportunities for new farmers (e.g. partnerships and networking to help provide key information for new farmers).
6. Focus on food security. Identify food policy issues at state- and local-levels, and communicate these issues with key decision-makers.
7. Incorporate the role of conservation districts in educating farmers on opportunities.
8. Identify existing programs that address small farms (e.g. farm to market, Farm to School, Breakfast after the Bell) and assess lessons learned. Focus in on the programs that are really working.

To better understand the topical areas and to avoid duplication of effort, meeting design shifted to allow members to learn from individual organizations and agencies. The intent was to 1) help

Forum members assess how they could effectively engage, and 2) spur conversation about opportunities to enhance existing activities, or in some cases, broaden those activities to include other areas in the state.

Meeting Activities

This section of the report provides an overview of activities that occurred at each of the five Food Policy Forum meetings facilitated by the SCC. A full list of meeting agendas, materials, presentations, and notes are available from the SCC website: <http://scc.wa.gov/food-policy/>

Meeting 1 – February 2017

Group discussed and identified topic areas for the Forum to consider.

Meeting 2 – March 2017

Group defined the list of issue areas. This included condensing to the eight topic areas.

Subsequent meetings were designed to address the topic areas defined in March by the Forum members. Staff at SCC determined which organizations were invited to present information at each of the meetings. In general, these presentations provided context for the overarching issue (e.g. opportunities for new farmers; hunger; nutrition, etc.) and an opportunity for Forum members to learn more about some of the organizations or work happening now around our state that supports each identified topic area.

Meeting 3 – May 2017

In order to provide more information to Forum members about some of the opportunities and challenges related to supporting small- and mid-sized farms as well as expanding their opportunities to engage in various markets, this meeting included presentations by:

- Northwest Agricultural Business Center
- WSDA's Regional Markets programs
- Governor Inslee's Results Washington discussion on food policy

Snapshot: ⁶

Washington State produces more than 300 crops each year and the value of our state's total agricultural production was \$10.7 billion in 2015. Yet the average age of Washington's farmers continues to rise (58.8 years old in 2012), the average price of farm real estate increased by \$1,000 per acre from 2003 to 2013 (to an average cost of \$2,500/acre), the number of farms in Washington from 2000 to 2014 declined by 0.8% and the number of farm acres declined by 5.4%. Small scale farms have notably fewer resources to combat these trends, yet the majority of Washington farms are smaller than 100 acres.

Policies and programs that will expand market opportunities for new and established small-scale farmers will preserve and strengthen local food production; increase income for food and farm

⁶ <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2015-Final-Indicators-Report.pdf>

businesses; and preserve farmland by ensuring agriculture use is economically viable at all levels. Some of the strategies described in the presentations offer insight into what is working:

Technical assistance that is targeted to help expand and strengthen small farm businesses:

- Business planning and development (including Latino-owned businesses)
- Cooperative development and access to capital
- Product development
- Food safety and Bridging the GAPs⁷ (including on-farm workshops)
- Expanding distribution networks
- Increasing access to public institutional markets (including USDA pilot for school procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables)
Value chain relationships for food hubs
- Local buying missions

Partnership examples that expand direct market opportunities and create innovative connections:

- Thurston County Economic Development Council
- OSPI
- Washington State Farmers Market Association
- WSU Extension – Mount Vernon: Bread Lab
- Twin Brook Creamery
- Innovative Partnership Zone (IPZ) Skagit Valley
- Local Institutional Farm Team (LIFT)
- WSU Beginning Farmers Programs

There was a discussion of how models like WSDA’s Regional Markets programs and NABC could be replicated in the state where there are none, or strengthened where they exist but have fewer resources to meet needs and opportunities for growth. These models are funded with a mix of federal and state funds, private grants, and fee-for-service. With farms of all scales facing priority issues - such as water, labor, markets, regulations, infrastructure, and processing – these models could work to address these issues areas and provide information to farmers on how they can achieve success.

Meeting 4 – July 2017

This meeting focused on anti-hunger and nutrition programs by both state agencies and nonprofit organizations:

- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) – Food Assistance
- Northwest Harvest
- Washington Food Coalition
- Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

⁷ WSDA’s Bridging the GAPs project aims to improve food safety by providing education, information and technical assistance relating to on-farm food safety for small, mid-sized and diversified fruit and vegetable farms.

SCC staff presented on food-related items in the 2017-19 capital and operating budgets. This generated discussion about any overlap or whether there was a role for the Forum to support and promote efforts to the legislature related to food.

Snapshot:

In 2016, 11.6% of Washington households (328,000) were food insecure and 4.6% (nearly 16,000) of these households faced hunger, a more extreme condition than food insecurity. These rates have improved slightly in the past few years, but remain higher than pre-recession (2007) levels. Single women with children; households with children under age 6; and African American, Latino and Native American households, and rural households are the most likely to face food insecurity.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps) is the most effective tool to fight hunger, but critical programs like WIC (Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children), school meals and food banks are also essential in ensuring low income people have enough food to eat. One in six low income Washingtonians receive food from our state's 500 food banks and meal programs that receive assistance from WSDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP); last year, food banks had 1.22 million clients. Seniors are the fastest growing demographic of food bank clients for the last several years. Northwest Harvest supplies food for 375 food banks, meal programs, and high needs schools. Yet only one in 20 bags of food needed to feed a hungry family is provided through food banks – the remainder of food bag equivalents are provided through publicly-funded programs, such as WIC, Summer Meals or school meals. Our state ranks 45th in the country for school breakfast participation by low-income students, and is below average for high-need, high-poverty schools using the Community Eligibility provision to offer free meals to all students. Washington also ranks 36th in participation in the Summer Meals program, designed to serve low income children when school meals aren't available, with a 24 percent decrease in participation in 2016 compared to 2015.

SNAP: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services staff presented information on hunger and nutrition programs managed by their agency, especially Basic Food – more commonly called SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or food stamps. Washington has been at the forefront to enhance SNAP – by streamlining eligibility to align eligibility with other programs, including Medicaid and WIC; providing same-day service to enroll people and automating verification processes; taking up a range of federal options to enhance our state's SNAP program, including partnering closely with OSPI and the Department of Health and collaborating with community colleges and community-based nonprofits to provide education and job training for SNAP participants.

Emergency Food Assistance: WSDA's program goals are to develop key partnerships and data-driven strategies to alleviate hunger and increase access to healthier food options available in the emergency food system while supporting a vibrant agricultural community.

Northwest Harvest (NWH) distributed 34 million pounds of food statewide last year, with 60 percent being fresh or frozen produce; seventy percent of food that they distribute is donated. NWH provides food to food banks, meal programs and high poverty schools statewide.

Washington Food Coalition (WFC) educates and networks with food banks and food pantries that strive to alleviate hunger throughout Washington. They provide technical assistance and sponsor an annual conference to promote best practices in service delivery and program design across its network.

Emergency food providers have identified several areas of concern, based on client trends at food banks across the state: low-income seniors are a growing population using food bank services; high rates of child poverty; homelessness and lack of affordable housing exacerbates challenges for low income people to afford groceries or be able to prepare meals; college students; and access to fresh food for low income people.

Other Anti-Hunger Programs: The Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition and its partners (including NWH and WFC) work on state and federal policy advocacy to ensure the hunger and anti-poverty safety net works for low income people and local communities. Each year the Coalition develops a state legislative agenda; for the past few years, its focus has been: Breakfast after the Bell legislation, the Apple-a-Day grant program for school kitchen equipment, protecting and enhancing our state's food stamp program, Summer Meals program, and restoring funds to WSDA's Regional Markets program – especially Farm to School funds. This collective focus on child nutrition programs can be a benefit for low-income schools to offer fresh foods in daily breakfast and lunch programs and summer meal programs. Additionally, AHNC was able to get a budget proviso to track and report performance of the federal nutrition programs across four state agencies. AHNC also works on federal policy, including Child Nutrition reauthorization and the Farm Bill.

Institutional purchases was a topic discussed. For example, a shift in institutional purchase by establishments serving low income seniors could have potential positive impacts on not only the local economy but food access for seniors in general. Similarly with education – both K-12 schools and institutions of higher education – schools purchase food for their own students, including the growing number of college students experiencing hunger, but also other programs like Summer Meals. Finally, child care programs that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) can range from family day care homes for young children to YMCAs that host afterschool and summer programs. These are all organizations that purchase food and are proven to be a small but potentially growing market for Washington grown food.

Meeting 5 – August 2017

This meeting focused on the role of conservation districts in food policy and state efforts at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to promote Washington grown fruits and vegetables and healthy eating. Three organizations presented information:

- Washington State Department of Health (DOH) – Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) team
- Pierce Conservation District
- King Conservation District

Snapshot:

Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program

Through the HEAL program, DOH works to reduce the burden of obesity and chronic disease and increase the proportion of Washingtonians with a healthy weight. It also works to build a healthier Washington through policy, systems, and environmental changes that make it easier for people to eat healthy and be active, wherever they are. This has led to several projects at DOH including the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive grant.

Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant

In 2015, the Washington State Department of Health and over 60 multi-sector partners were awarded a \$5.86 million competitive Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

FINI is intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables and improve the nutrition and health status of SNAP clients by providing incentives at the point-of-purchase for present and future fruits and vegetable purchases. There are three primary strategies:

1. **Farmers Market Match:** When customers spend their SNAP/Basic Food benefits at participating farmers markets, they receive additional tokens or vouchers to spend on fruits and vegetables at the market.
2. **Fruit and Vegetable Prescriptions:** At select pilot sites, healthcare providers, community health workers, and community nutritionists are prescribing fruits and vegetables to SNAP participants. The prescription is a paper voucher that recipients can use like cash to buy fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and any Safeway store in Washington.
3. **Fruit and Vegetable coupons at Safeway:** In all Washington Safeway stores, shoppers who buy at least 10 dollars of qualifying fruits and vegetables using their SNAP benefits and Safeway Club Card will get a coupon for up to five dollars off their next purchase. Shoppers can choose any fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables, so long as the products have no added fats, sugars, or salt. Coupons automatically print at the checkout.

Harvest Pierce County

Pierce Conservation District shared the work they achieved in collaboration with Harvest Pierce County. Harvest Pierce County is the urban agriculture wing of Pierce Conservation District. With a focus on justice, connection, and equity, Harvest Pierce County's vision is that the region has a thriving community engaged in a just and healthy food system. This is accomplished through reconnecting communities to each other and their food systems through gardening, gleaning, and educating Pierce County about their food and food systems.

Regional Food System Program

King Conservation District (KCD) presented on their regional food system program. At the center of this effort is grant funding they have made available, which supports KCD priorities and their role and interest in the local food system. In 2016, they awarded 11 competitive grants totaling \$751,298. KCD priority food system investment areas include:

- **Infrastructure** (e.g. produce processing, commercial kitchens, value added processing facilities, cold storage, and equipment sharing/loan programs)
- **Land access** (e.g. models and resources for leasing; purchasing land; developing/expanding farm incubators; services that link farmers and farmland owners; realtor forums focusing on ag zoned lands or lands suitable for agriculture)
- **Food safety** (e.g. training and education; technical assistance; good agricultural practices; good handling practices; hazard analysis critical control point; food safety modernization act)
- **Business management** (e.g. business planning; finding farmland; finding and managing labor; record keeping; insuring crops and other risk management tools; finding capital; accessing markets; retirement planning)
- **Consumer demand** (e.g. eat local promotions; farmer-buyer trade meetings; improve access to markets; farmers market promotions; retail readiness; market assistance to schools, restaurants, institutions, and other food retailers; and support for emerging markets for local farm products)

Potential role for conservation districts

Presentations highlighted the potential for similar work that conservation districts (CDs) could perform. There are 45 CDs in Washington, and every county is home to at least one. CDs work directly with community partners and landowners on a variety of issues. Many rent farm items to their constituents, such as chicken processing equipment and manure spreaders. Many of these constituents operate small farms and would not otherwise have access to this type of equipment. In addition, CDs in highly populated regions in our state could be a tremendous asset to implementing successful programs such as those shared by Pierce Conservation District and King Conservation District.

POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The budget proviso language that created the Food Policy Forum specified that the SCC, WSDA, and SCC Office of Farmland Preservation should coordinate “to avoid duplication of effort.” To that end, and because several entities in Washington are working in the food policy arena, initial meetings of the Food Policy Forum have focused on assessing current issues, existing efforts, and promising opportunities.

Opportunities to advance Washington food policy

The Forum is still in the process of educating itself about food policy efforts underway in various state agencies and local communities. While these meetings have uncovered innovative strategies and unmet needs, it is too early to identify specific policies that this group will endorse. Yet it is clear that there are several areas of opportunity across the food system:

- Expanded technical assistance for small/mid-scale farmers to acquire land, develop new markets, comply with new regulations that would open new markets, etc.
- Infrastructure capacity building (cold storage, food packing facilities, expanded food distribution centers, etc.)

- Institutional purchasing of Washington food and products (schools, hospitals, child care, food banks, etc.)
- Develop capacity to track local food purchasing and items available for purchase
- Strengthen hunger safety net programs to ensure they are reaching low income people in need
- Other issues that will be identified in future meetings, based on the Food Policy Forum's initial list of priority areas of concern

FUTURE WORK OF THE FORUM

The 2017-19 state operation budget provided a proviso to SCC to continue the work of the Forum with the same proviso language that originally initiated this Forum in the 2016 supplemental operating budget. The 2017-19 proviso provided funding (\$50,000) to continue the work of the Forum.

Also in 2017, House Bill 1562 (Continuing the work of the Food Policy Forum) was introduced and passed by the House of Representatives. This piece of legislation provided specific goals and direction to the work of the Forum however was not fully passed by the legislature. With the absence of issue areas and goals in the 2017-19 proviso, SCC staff recommended that the goal language found in HB 1562 become the basis for the Forum work moving forward. HB 1562 would establish the Food Forum and be tasked with developing recommendations to advance the following food system goals:

1. Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods;
2. Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents;
3. Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state;
4. Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state; and
5. Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies.

The Forum's recommendations must consider, at a minimum, how the following can help achieve the goals of the forum:

1. Increased collaboration between different levels of government;
2. Innovative public-private partnerships;
3. Improvements to state and federal laws;
4. Improvements in state or federal program implementation;

5. Identification of additional public and private investments needed to accomplish the recommendations; and
6. Defining and describing the variety of agriculture in the state.

The 2017-19 proviso directs the director of SCC to appoint members of the Forum with the goal of ensuring a diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspectives that reflect the issues to be addressed by the Forum.

2017-18 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings will be accessible by webinar		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
December 13, 2017	975 Carpenter Rd NE #301, Lacey, WA 98516	1:00pm – 4:00pm
January 5, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
February 2, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
March 2, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
April 5, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
May 3, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
June 7, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
July 5, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
August 2, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
September 6, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD
October 4, 2018	Olympia, TBD	TBD

APPENDIX A – ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTING TO FOOD POLICY FORUM

Food Policy Forum meeting materials, presentations, and agendas: http://scc.wa.gov/foodpolicy-meetings/	
Meeting	Topics and Presentations
Meeting #1 - February 2017	<p><u>Overview of Food Policy Forum and discussion of possible Forum topics</u></p> <p>WSCC Staff – Food Policy Forum Overview</p>
Meeting #2 - March 2017	<p><u>Discussion of possible identified Forum topics</u></p> <p>Open discussion – no presentation</p>
Meeting #3 - May 2017	<p><u>Small Farms and Domestic Markets</u></p> <p>Response to the need – State and Nongovernmental Programs Northwest Agricultural Business Center WSDA Domestic Marketing Assistance Programs</p>
Meeting #4 - July 2017	<p><u>Hunger and Nutrition in Washington</u></p> <p>Response to the need – State and Federal Programs State Conservation Commission Overview of state funding Department of Social and Health Services WSDA Food Assistance Programs</p> <p>Response to the need – Nongovernmental Organizations Washington Food Coalition Northwest Harvest Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition</p>
Meeting #5 - August 2017	<p><u>Hunger and Nutrition in Washington – (cont. from July)</u></p> <p>Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition Department of Health, Healthy Eating Active Living Program</p> <p><u>Incorporate the role of the Conservation Districts to educate farmers on opportunities.</u></p> <p>Pierce Conservation District King Conservation District</p>

APPENDIX B – SNAPSHOT OF FOOD POLICY COUNCILS

PRIORITY – Build relationships and partnerships with exiting food policy efforts and market sectors

GOAL - Elevate opportunities that may exist for cities, counties, NGO’s.

There are currently around a dozen food policy type groups statewide. They vary by scope and type of work they engage in. A January 2017 snapshot survey by the Office of Farmland Preservation was sent to known food policy groups in Washington. The survey requested their top work products/priorities that are underway or have plans to be undertaken.

Listing of known food policy groups/efforts. An asterisk denotes survey responder. This list may be incomplete and can be updated as appropriate.

*Clark County Food System Council	*Puget Sound Regional Food Council
Gorge Grown	Snohomish Lands Strategy
Inland Northwest Food Network	*Spokane Food Policy Council
Jefferson County Food Systems Council	*Thurston Food System Council
Kitsap Food Policy Council	*Whatcom Food Network
*North Central WA Food Systems Coalition (housed under IRIS)	Whidbey Island Food System Consortium (may no longer exist)
Palouse Clearwater Food Coalition	WSU - Skagit Food for Skagit People
* Survey responder	

Clark County Food System Council

<http://www.clarkfoodsystem.org/>

The Council was formed in August 2007 as a citizen advisory board. The Council is comprised of individuals from many sectors of the community food system that come together around common interests and beliefs about a healthy sustainable food system for Clark County. Council formation is sponsored by Community Choices and Steps to a Healthier Clark County Access to Healthy Foods Team and is also supported by Clark County Public Health.

The Council recently partnered with Clark College to convene a Food Summit to discuss their local food system in Southwest Washington.

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

1. Updating their roadmap in next few months to ID specific local issues
2. Building on education/advocacy @ land use and healthy food access

Gorge Grown Food Network

<http://www.gorgegrown.com/about/>

Gorge Grown Food Network (GGFN) is a web of individuals and organizations working to build a vibrant local food system. They serve five counties in the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon and Washington.

GGFN are farmers, eaters, policy-makers, educators, healthcare providers, chefs, grocers, makers, and food enthusiasts. Collectively, GGFN aims to ensure that everyone who lives here has access to fresh, healthy, local food, and that farmers have the skills, support, and infrastructure they need to succeed. GGFN pride themselves on being nimble and inclusive, and crafting programs that truly serve the needs of our unique community.

Mission: To build a resilient and inclusive regional food system that improves the health and well-being of our community.

Inland Northwest Food Network

<https://inwfoodnetwork.org/>

Mission is to connect people, place, food and farms through education and outreach. Vision - We envision a resilient, community food system that celebrates the cultural aspects of our region's food and promotes health for individuals, the local economy and the environment.

Jefferson County Food Systems Council

<http://12020.org/local-food/food-council/>

WSU and Citizens for Local Food are collaborating to launch a new Local Food Council for Jefferson County. The vision is to attract volunteers from across the entire food system: farmers, value added producers, regulatory people, health educators, restaurateurs, institutional food service folks, food retail, food security/food bank representatives, Grange members, resource waste management, elected officials, and concerned citizens, willing to meet several times a year specifically to consider how to strengthen our local food access for all.

Kitsap Food Policy Council

<http://www.kitsapgov.com/boards/FFPC/ffpc.htm>

The mission of the Food Policy council is to build a sustainable food system that increases and preserves access to local healthy food for all residents in Kitsap County.

Established in accordance with Resolution No. 181-2009 and #126-2013, the Council will serve the public interest by advising the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on improving and maintaining an integrated and sustainable local food system in Kitsap County.

IRIS – Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship

<http://www.irisncw.org/>

IRIS fosters sustainable rural communities in North Central Washington by gathering and sharing success stories that enhance a sense of belonging, inspire action, and build. We believe that thriving communities in a healthy environment create success.

The Regional Food Systems program at IRIS focuses on the activities that result in the production and exchange of food in North Central Washington (NCW). These include farming, processing, storage, distribution, and transportation; food access via farmer's markets, grocery stores, restaurants, and institutions; cooking and food preservation; and food recycling through gleaning, food banks, and soup kitchens.

IRIS is working with an array of partners to promote the development of a regional network that connects farmers and consumers through the development of a directory as well as workshops and other special events.

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

1. Healthy Diverse Ecosystems
 - a. Protecting and restoring the health and resiliency of our agricultural, natural and built landscapes
 - b. Issue: Securing healthy agricultural lands for the future
2. Meeting Basic Human Needs
 - a. Fostering healthy businesses
 - b. Issue: Nurturing the next generation of farmers
3. Bridging Cultural and Political Divides
 - a. Increasing access to health care (in the larger sense, not just medical care)
 - b. Issue: Helping people understand where food comes from and get access to that food
4. Farm to School programs, food assistance network, gleaning and other ways of reducing waste and increasing access

Palouse Clearwater Food Coalition

<http://www.pcfoodcoalition.org/about/>

The Palouse-Clearwater Food Coalition (PCFC) is an ad hoc group comprised of representatives from regional and community organizations, institutions, agencies, non-profits and retail businesses with shared interest in growing our local food system.

The mission of the Palouse-Clearwater Food Coalition is to strengthen the health and vibrancy of the Palouse-Clearwater Food System and increase the production, distribution and consumption of locally grown food and agriculture products.

Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council

<http://www.psrc.org/about/advisory/regional-food-policy-council/>

The Regional Food Policy Council develops just and integrated policy and action recommendations that promote health, sustain and strengthen the local and regional food system, and engage and partner with agriculture, business, communities and governments in the four-county region. The council has a diverse membership of local jurisdictions, businesses, institutions and community organizations.

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

1. Aggregate info across region to identify what actions local government can take to address the food system in policy/planning.
2. Working to convene more topical forums

Snohomish Lands Strategy

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2194/Sustainable-Lands-Strategy>

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) was established with the intent that fish, farm, and flood management advocates can make more progress by working together than by being at odds with each other.

The SLS was convened in 2010 by Snohomish County, Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, state and federal agencies, and agricultural and environmental stakeholders to improve coordination and generate progress for fish, farm, and flood management interests.

Spokane Food Policy Council

<http://www.catholiccharitiesfoodforall.org/spokane-food-policy-council>

A coalition of farmers, public agencies, food enterprises and concerned citizens, the Spokane Food Policy Council “advances policies and initiatives that foster a resilient food system in the Spokane area.”

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

1. Preserving water quality and quantity for food production
2. Preserving key farmland and prime agricultural soils
3. K-12 education-Nutrition and wellness policy
4. Comprehensive food planning and updating our urban agricultural policy

Thurston Food System Council

<https://ssfoodsystemnetwork.org/>

The South Sound Food System Network is a voluntary coalition of organizations and individuals. No formal application for membership is required. The network encourages broad community engagement and the participation of organizations and individuals to better connect diverse perspectives and sectors within the food system.

Their mission is to grow a vibrant local food economy, ensure broad access to healthy foods, and steward the environment in the South Sound.

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

Priority actions for 2017 are:

1. A local food messaging—outreach/education - campaign engaging 40+ organizations, businesses, agencies and media outlets
2. A local food Summit in November 2017

Top issues/messages will be refined in early spring 2017 – looking at:

1. Increasing the percent of the food dollar that goes to the producer
2. Healthy food access for all
3. Farmland preservation, remediation and expansion

Whatcom Food Network

<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/foodnetwork/index.html>

The Whatcom Food Network was formed in April 2010, when a group of people came together with the goal of increasing coordination and collaboration among food-systems related organizations. This group became the Whatcom Food Network Planning Committee, which acts as the hub for these organizations throughout the county as we continue to define our network model, functions, values and goals.

Survey Response: Work product/priorities

1. Worked to get an addition to comp plan for “local food system”
2. Working on development of a Whatcom food system plan
3. Working with agencies in support of that process
4. Working to release their 3rd community food assessment

Whidbey Island Food System Consortium

No contact or group information available

Skagit Food for Skagit People

<http://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/fam/skagit-food-for-skagit-people/>

WSU Extension in partnership with Community Action of Skagit County has received a grant from the USDA for the project “Skagit Food for Skagit People” project. The year-long grant activities will focus on how to improve access to nutritious food for low income shoppers.

Skagit Food for Skagit People will build a common understanding of food access concerns by collecting and compiling existing data; summarizing results of low-income listening sessions; and convening two facilitated stakeholder all day work meetings. With the voice of low-income individuals and a wider coalition of stakeholders, the stage will be set for developing a comprehensive response to food access and food insecurity in the Skagit County.

The goal is to describe the landscape of the Skagit Food System and promote a comprehensive response to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues. A report will be developed to serve as a guiding document for community as we work together to improve access to food.

APPENDIX C – 2017 FOOD POLICY FORUM PROVISO

Food Policy Forum Proviso in WSCC Operating Budget

As passed and signed – June 30, 2016

(2)(a) \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 is provided solely for the commission to convene and facilitate a food policy forum. The director of the commission is responsible for appointing participating members of the food policy forum in consultation with the director of the department of agriculture. In making appointments, the director of the commission must attempt to ensure a diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspectives by building on the representation established by the food system roundtable initiated by executive order No. 10-02.

(b) In addition to members appointed by the director of the state conservation commission, four legislators may serve on the food policy forum in an ex officio capacity. Legislative participants must be appointed as follows:

- (i) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives; and
- (ii) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(c) The commission shall coordinate with the office of farmland preservation and the department of agriculture to avoid duplication of effort. The commission must report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, with the forum's recommendations by October 31, 2017.