

RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN REGIONAL FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Proposed Structure

Creation of a regional food policy council was one of the nine priority projects recommended by the Regional Farm and Food Plan adopted by the Commission in October 2015. This council will function much the same as the Commission's existing committees, particularly the Foothills Housing network which has a formal structure with designated participants. A more formal structure with appointed members is sought because the council will be making policy recommendations. A looser structure with an open-door policy and continually revolving membership is likely to be less effective in meeting the goals of the Farm and Food Plan. Housing this council within RRRC's organizational structure provides oversight by the Commissioners via member appointments, staff participation and review of major decisions.

Purpose:

- To oversee the implementation of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Farm and Food Plan
- To serve as a forum for discussing regional food system issues and opportunities
- To foster coordination between sectors within the region's food system
- To evaluate existing policies related to the regional food system, and provide recommendations on policy development and revisions
- To launch or support the development of initiatives that benefit the regional food system
- To periodically reassess the health of the regional food system and develop goals and strategies for improvement

Council Member Appointments

- Each county in the region will appoint a representative to serve on the council; towns may elect to appoint a representative also.
- A minimum of six additional members will be appointed as technical advisory members with equal voting rights to the locality representatives. The RRRC Agriculture Workgroup has proposed a list of individuals for the Commission's approval. In the future, the Council will fill any technical member vacancies that occur.
- One RRRC staff person will also act as a member of the council and lead the council for the first year at which time a chair and vice chair will be elected by the council members.
- Council members will not have terms, but will serve as long as they wish, or for locality representatives at the discretion of the locality.

Meeting Logistics

- The Council will meet monthly for the first six months, then go to a bi-monthly schedule.
- Meetings will last no more than two hours and members will be polled to determine the best time of day for meetings.
- Meetings will be held in the RRRC conference room.