

Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting

April 29, 2026

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

The Food Council Meetings are funded by the Triangle North Healthcare Foundation

Attendees:

Earline Middleton (Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute), Mike Peterson, Terry Jones (Granville Vance Public Health), Korita Steverson, Thomas Blaine (Strong Arm Baking), Michael Ellington (Vance County Cooperative Extension), Wendy Tatum (Granville Cooperative Extension), Phylcia Barker (Commissioner of Stovall/Operation Spring Plant), Alejandra Martinez (Franklin County Cooperative Extension), Martha Mobley (Franklin County Cooperative Extension), Madeline Eaton (Fairport Farms), Allison Satterfield (Butcher's Daughter), Gabe Cumming (Working Landscapes), Dorothy Barker (Farmer -Olusanya Farm, LLC), Alan Winstead (Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging), Desiree Brooks (Kerr-Tar Regional COG – Community & Economic Development Manager)

Leadership Transition

- Gabe stepping down as co-chair after 2-year term; Martha continuing as co-chair (1 year remaining)
- Judith Arrington nominated and elected as new co-chair via text message vote
- Council members' terms: half ending after next meeting, staggered 2-year terms
- Membership committee formed: Sue, Korita, and Martha to review applications and make recommendations
- Secret ballot voting process for new member selection

Food System Assessment Update

- Survey results presentation delayed to next meeting due to data issues requiring resolution
- Three-component assessment: regional survey, UNC Planning School stakeholder interviews, Duke food system modeling workshops
- Goal: inform council priorities and strategy with regional stakeholder input beyond current membership
- Potential public presentation at Car-Tar Council meeting or Northeastern Regional Food Council gathering (May 29, Rocky Mount)

- Report sharing planned for broader community engagement

Full Fridge Platform Presentation

- Working Landscapes launching online local food marketplace in June
- Weekly ordering cycle, farm-to-business and household delivery
- Addresses farmer-buyer connection gap identified in preliminary assessment
- Features: customizable orders, live inventory, farm profiles, county filtering
- Byway Certified food safety program providing liability coverage for participating farms
- Integration possible with existing county programs (Granville County local product platform)
- SNAP/EBT access to be developed

Committee Reports

- **Agriculture Committee:** discussed collaboration between committees, community awareness needs, marketing materials development, participation in local events
- **Food Security & Access:** working to engage food pantries, created invitation letters, considering rotating meeting locations, mapping all food distribution including informal networks
- Google Calendar and communication group being established for better coordination

Advocacy and Funding

- Local Food Advocacy Day scheduled May 5 in Raleigh (Carolina Farm Stewardship Association coordinating)
- USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership grant resubmission due June 5 (3-year funding, includes council staff position)
- Discussion of full-time council staff position with Car-Tar COG support

Upcoming Events

- Regional Economic Development Summit: October 8, McGregor Hall, Vance County
 - Theme: “Rooted, Grounded Locally, Growing Regionally”
 - Farmers market 12-5pm, blocked street, local musicians
- Women in Agriculture tour: May 9 (10 days from meeting), 12 participating farms
- Dinner in the Meadow: September 13, \$5,000 grant available for beginning farmers

Next Steps

- **Desiree:** coordinate with Abby Piner on Food Council coalition participation, send Rocky Mount meeting info to members, work on USDA grant resubmission
- **Earlene:** coordinate food assessment presentation at Northeastern Regional Food Council gathering
- **John White:** present Full Fridge platform to county extension offices and restaurant groups
- **Thomas:** facilitate Person County restaurant owner meeting for Full Fridge
- **Committee chairs:** determine preferred meeting format (virtual, breakout rooms, or post-meeting sessions)
- **All members:** spread word about council membership applications when announced
- **Next council meeting:** June 24, 2026