

Kerr Tar Regional Food Council Meeting

Feb 25th, 2025 (10 am – 1 pm)

Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments

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

Attendees: Gabriel Cumming (Working Landscapes Warrenton), Alejandra Martinez (Franklin County Cooperative Extension), Terry Jones (Granville Vance Public Health), Alan Winstead (Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging), Wykia Macon (Vance County Extension Director), Judith Burnett-Arrington (Outreach specialist Warren, Vance and Granville counties), Madeline Eaton, Jennifer Brown, Jennfier Woods (Food Bank), Laila Abed (Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments), Earline Middleton (Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute), Korita Steverson, Martha Mobley (Franklin County Cooperative Extension), Vancie Peacock (Duke University), Sophie Thompsen (Duke University), Juniper Cumming (Research Intern)

Key Discussion Points

Attendees participated in a group model building session facilitated by Vancie Peacock, a doctoral student at Duke University. The goal of this session was to collaboratively map out the Kerr-Tar regional food system, which Vancie will turn into a system dynamics model to later be used by the food council in their planning and decision-making.

1. Hopes and Fears

During this activity, attendees wrote their hopes and fears related to the future Kerr-Tar regional food system on sticky notes. Then, they shared these in a round robin fashion and discussed similarities and differences among the group.

2. Graphs Over Time

Attendees were split into groups of 2-3. Each group drew a graph of an important component of the food system and how they hope, fear, and expect it will change over time. Attendees discussed common drivers of change among their graphs.

3. Building a List of Model Components

Attendees built a list of components important to the Kerr-Tar regional food system, which will become the basis of the system dynamics model.

4. Connection Circles

Attendees were split into groups of 2-3. Each group picked five components from the list and drew a [Connection Circle](#) using those components. A Connection Circle is a tool designed to understand cause-effect relationships within a system and their complexity. The relationships defined by attendees using their Connection Circles will also serve as the basis of the system dynamics model.

5. Wrap Up

This group will meet again in fall 2026 to view the systems model created from their input during this session. They will have the opportunity to suggest revisions to the model and brainstorm scenarios and risks they'd like to test using the model.