



# Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

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**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI)  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)  
**Date:** March 19, 2015  
**RE:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Agenda and Correspondence

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

March 25, 2015 1-2:30pm

Location: Fargo City Commission Chambers

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Appointment of Chairperson (**Attachment 1**) – Adam Altenburg
3. Approve Appointment of At-Large Members (**Attachment 2**) – Adam Altenburg & Megan Myrdal
  - a. Andrea Baumgardner
  - b. Janet Paul
  - c. Jessica Arneson
  - d. Dana Rieth
  - e. Jon Evert
4. Review Purpose and Powers of the Commission (**Attachment 3**) – Adam Altenburg
5. Presentation – Megan Myrdal & Kim Lipetzky
  - Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative History
  - Local Needs – Food Security, Overweight/Obesity & Economic Development
  - Task Force Groups & Projects
  - Role of the Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
  - A Look at Similar Councils/Commissions
6. Public Comment Opportunity (**Attachment 4**) – Megan Myrdal
7. Commission Action Steps (**Attachment 5**) – Megan Myrdal & Whitney Oxendahl
8. Adjournment

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Questions, comments, or concerns prior to the meeting can be directed to Adam Altenburg (701.232.3242 x34; [altenburg@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:altenburg@fmmetrocog.org)).

*People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special arrangements should contact Kate Wurtzler at Metro COG (701.232.3242 Ext. 31), at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements.*

**A PLANNING ORGANIZATION SERVING  
FARGO, WEST FARGO, CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND MOORHEAD, DILWORTH, CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

# Attachment 1

**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Adam Altenburg, Metro COG  
**Date:** March 16, 2015  
**Re:** *Appoint 2015 Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair*

The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission allows for the provision of a Chair to be selected in one of two ways: a non-jurisdictional member appointed bi-annually by a majority vote of the Commission; or rotated annually amongst current jurisdiction members. It is the recommendation of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative Steering Committee that the Chair for the Commission be rotated annually amongst jurisdiction members.

Using the rotation schedule developed by Metro COG for its Policy Board and other committees, the Steering Committee has recommended that the representative from the City of Moorhead serve as Chair, beginning with the second meeting of the Commission and serving for the remainder of 2015. The Chair would then be appointed annually beginning in January 2016. The Commission representative from Cass County is slated to fill-in as Chair if the City of Moorhead representative is unable to be in attendance at a meeting.

The current schedule for rotation of Chair and Alternate is as follows:

Year(s)	Chair Representative from:	Alternate from:
2015, 2021	City of Moorhead	Cass County
2016, 2022	Cass County	City of West Fargo
2017, 2023	City of West Fargo	Clay County
2018, 2024	Clay County	City of Dilworth
2019, 2025	City of Dilworth	City of Fargo
2020, 2026	City of Fargo	City of Moorhead

**Requested Action:**

**Approve the appointment of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair.**

## Attachment 2

**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Adam Altenburg, Metro COG & Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator  
**Date:** March 16, 2015  
**Re:** ***Approve Appointment of At-Large Members to the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission***

In addition to the six (6) jurisdiction members, the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission makes the provision for an additional five (5) at-large members to serve on the Commission. It is the intent that at-large members will bring additional and varied expertise to the Commission as it relates to food systems issues. At-large members are to be initially vetted by the Steering Committee before being brought to a vote by the Commission. Each at-large member will serve a two (2) year term.

In December 2014 and January 2015, the Steering Committee met to discuss possible candidates to recommend to the Commission. The Selection Committee narrowed its search to the following five (5) candidates:

- a) Andrea Baumgardner
- b) Janet Paul
- c) Jessica Arneson
- d) Dana Rieth
- e) Jon Evert

**Requested Action:**

**Approve the appointment of the five At-Large Members to the Commission**

## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Andrea Baumgardner

Phone: 701.306.2613

Email: [andrealbaumgardner@gmail.com](mailto:andrealbaumgardner@gmail.com)Preferred mailing address: 1506 12<sup>th</sup> Street South

City: Moorhead

State: MN

ZIP Code: 56560

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Part Time : The Barry Foundation

Employer address: 15 Broadway, Ste. 600

Phone: 701.356.7800

E-mail: [abaumgardner@barryfoundation.org](mailto:abaumgardner@barryfoundation.org)

Fax: 701.356.7801

City: Fargo

State: ND

ZIP Code: 58102

Position: Program Associate

## WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I am a restaurant chef and owner who has sourced local food and developed relationships with local producers for the past 13 years locally and in California for the nine previous years. As of one year ago, I began working with a private family foundation in researching and developing their health and nutrition initiatives. We currently focus on food exposure at the early elementary level and are in the process of developing collaborative community food events with diverse local partners.

## REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

Food is my lens for the world. I believe that access to nourishing, healthy food is something that all citizens should enjoy and not only impacts one's ability to perform on a daily basis, but also impacts long-term health and well-being. We all must eat and the way we eat can change the trajectory and quality of our lives.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn from the commission members' expertise and understand more about our community.

## PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

College experience in France and Spain opened my eyes to food as a career and avocation. After graduation from Macalester College in 1991, I ultimately decided to attend the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, California. I spent the following nine years working in San Francisco and Los Angeles restaurants, corporate catering and retail operations. I returned to North Dakota to be the opening chef at the Hotel Donaldson in the fall of 2001. Although not expecting to resettle in my hometown, it proved to be a permanent and fulfilling decision. I was a co-owner of Green Market, a restaurant and catering enterprise which operated for 6 ½ years until the partners chose to close it in 2013. Currently, I primarily work for a local nonprofit as a health and nutrition program associate. My husband and I have a six-year old son and live in Moorhead.

Signature: Date: 1/26/15

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – [meganmyrdal@gmail.com](mailto:meganmyrdal@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

Attn: Kim Lipetzky

401 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N

Fargo, ND 58102

## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Janet Paul

Phone: Mobile 701-866-5854

Email: janetfromfargo@yahoo.com

Preferred mailing address: 2916 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South

City: Moorhead

State: MN

ZIP Code: 56560

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Concordia College

Employer address: Dining Services, 901 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Phone: 218-299-4488

E-mail: [jpaul@cord.edu](mailto:jpaul@cord.edu)

Fax: 218-299-4409

City: Moorhead

State: MN

ZIP Code: 56562

Position: Director of Dining Services

## WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I have more than 25 years of experience in both commercial and noncommercial food service management, with the past 21 years in college dining, and I understand the challenges faced and requirements that must be met in the procurement process. In my role as director, I coordinate the efforts of 60+ regular staff, supervisors, and managers, and oversee an \$8 million budget. In addition, my extensive volunteer participation in a 600-member national trade association, including terms as national president, at large director, and committee chair, has provided excellent experience in consensus-building and increased my skill in working effectively with diverse groups of various sizes.

## REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I would like to serve on the CCFSAC because I have a personal and professional interest in helping develop a sustainable and practicable local food system.

**PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS):** NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Janet Paul is the director of Dining Services at Concordia College. Located in Moorhead, MN, Concordia is a private, 4-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Janet has 27 years of hospitality management experience, including 20 years in college and university dining. She holds a Master's degree in management with a minor in human resources from the University of Mary.

Janet is very active in the National Association of College and University Food Services (NACUFS), a 600 member trade association for college and university food service operators. She has served as national president of the association, national at-large director, regional president, facilitator and coach-mentor for education institutes, committee chair, and presenter. She is currently chair of the bylaws committee.

Janet has also been an active member of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative as part of the food infrastructure working group. In her spare time, Janet enjoys cooking, reading, volunteering, and spending time with family, friends, and her rescued dog, Joseph.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – [meganmyrdal@gmail.com](mailto:meganmyrdal@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**  
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky  
401 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N  
Fargo, ND 58102

## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Jessica Arneson

Phone: 701-261-6928

Email: jarneson@lssnd.org

Preferred mailing address: 1720 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. North

City: Fargo

State: ND

ZIP Code: 58102

### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Great Plains Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Employer address: 1720 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N

Phone: 701-476-9121

E-mail: jarneson@lssnd.org

Fax: 701-232-3871

City: Fargo

State: ND

ZIP Code: 58102

Position: Agency Relations Manager

### WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

As a community-based, macro-level social worker in a food bank setting, I am skilled at: system assessment in the context of community; creating and facilitating collaborative platforms for groups and individuals to explore opportunities to leverage one another's work through community engagement and development; and creating educational tools to bring awareness to food system issues. Representing the Great Plains Food Bank on the commission, I bring the understanding of the food assistance systems in our area that work to recover surplus food and redirect it to people in need, as well as the know-how of how to challenge mindsets that lead to the abstract – but very real - barriers to food by people in need of stigma and judgment.

### REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I strongly believe that there is enough food currently being produced to eliminate food insecurity in our region, and that access, distribution, and our Midwestern cultural mindset towards food assistance are the greatest challenges. I am committed to doing whatever I can professionally and personally to work towards solutions to these challenges, and to advance policies that promote a more just food system that eliminates barriers between people and food so families and individuals of all ages, abilities and socioeconomic status in our region can be stable, healthy, and thrive. I am dedicated to being 'part of the solution'!

### PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

Community-based social worker Jessica Arneson first began advocating for a more just food system after becoming involved with faith-based advocacy organization Bread for the World as a Hunger Justice Leader in 2008. Since 2009 she has served on the Eastern North Dakota ELCA Hunger and Justice Committee, raising support and awareness for ELCA World Hunger and local hunger relief programs, educating Lutheran congregations on food justice issues, and urging others to become advocates for policies that impact poverty and hunger. In June of 2012, Jessica joined the Great Plains Food Bank as Agency Relations Manager, where she builds and supports partnerships with over 150 food assistance programs in eastern North Dakota. In addition to being passionate about food access issues, she is also very passionate about community development and engagement, particularly through platforms that bring people of all generations, socioeconomic status, and cultures together to collaborate and share leadership towards local solutions. She lives in south Fargo with her husband Jered, their daughter Riley, three dogs and a cat, and spends her free time in the winter making hats and mittens and cheering for the Green Bay Packers, and in the summer breathing fresh air and planting things in dirt.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – [meganmyrdal@gmail.com](mailto:meganmyrdal@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

Attn: Kim Lipetzsky

401 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N

Fargo, ND 58102



## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Dana Rieth

Phone: 218-737-6553 (work), 701-367-7388 (cell)

Email: drieth@lcsc.org

Preferred mailing address: 3240 44 Ave S

City: Fargo

State: ND

ZIP Code: 58104

### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Lakes Country Service Cooperative/ PartnerSHIP 4 Health

Employer address: 1001 E Mount Faith

Phone: 218-737-6553

E-mail: drieth@lcsc.org

Fax:

City: Fergus Falls

State: MN

ZIP Code: 56537

Position: Registered Dietitian

### WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

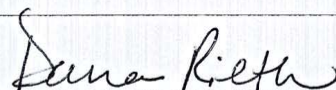
I am a licensed, registered dietitian with over 20 years of work experience. I have worked in healthcare food service management, and currently work with LCSC and PartnerSHIP 4 Health. I have served on the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative subcommittees and have been active in local food systems work.

### REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I have attended Cass Clay Food Systems meetings since 2012 and have served on the Economic Development and Infrastructure subcommittee. I have assisted with arranging grower-buyer networking meetings as part of CCFSI and have made several connections within the grower community in our region. I have a strong desire to increase access to healthy and local foods within the community in a variety of ways such as strengthening farmers markets, community gardens, and improving food choices in healthcare institutions, restaurants, and food pantries.

### PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

I am a licensed, registered dietitian, and also hold a School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) credential. I am currently a Registered Dietitian with Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls, where I provide consultation services to K-12 school food service programs in a 9-county region of west central Minnesota. In addition, I work with PartnerSHIP 4 Health in Clay, Becker, Otter Tail and Wilkin counties. My work is focused on healthier food access in schools, worksites, human service organizations, and the community. As a result of local food systems work and recognizing the need for a sustainable infrastructure to support local foods, I assisted with the launch of a regional food hub in Fergus Falls in 2014. I served on the drafting committee for the development of the Schools Leader Guide of the Minnesota Food Charter. I have given presentations at several conferences including the Minnesota School Nutrition Association, the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits, and the Minnesota Food Access Summit on topics including school meal regulations, Farm to School, and supporting healthy options in human service organizations.

Signature: Date: 3/2/15

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – [meganmyrdal@gmail.com](mailto:meganmyrdal@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**  
Attn: Kim Lipetzsky  
401 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N  
Fargo, ND 58102



## APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMISSION

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Jon Evert

Phone: 218-585-4148 (H); 218-849-4227 (C)

Email: pjevert46@gmail.com

Preferred mailing address: 6429 170<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

City: Moorhead

State: MN

ZIP Code: 56560

### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer: Retired

Employer address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Position:

### WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?

I have experience in farming (27 years), agricultural business (13 years), and agricultural sales (25 years). I have worked for USDA, as a farm advocate for a statewide social service agency, rural ministry coordinator for a three state area, and executive director for an 18 county non-profit organization. I have served on scores of boards and committees involving issues related to farming, hunger advocacy, local government, history, religion, politics, education, local foods and many others.

### REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:

I have long been interested in local food production and marketing. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Food Association, the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, the U of M NW MN Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, as well as the U of M RSDP Statewide Coordinating Committee. Having served my maximum number of years on each of these boards and having served as the chair of each, I would welcome the chance to apply the experience I have had on a local food system.

### PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.

I am a lifelong resident of Clay County. I graduated from Barnesville High School and Concordia College and did graduate studies at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. I was a 5th generation family farmer and an agricultural business owner and operator. I now assist my son on his organic farm operation when needed. I served as the Mayor of Comstock for 4 years and as a Clay County Commissioner for 20 years. I am married to Phyllis. We are the parents of 4 adult children and the grandparents of 7.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Megan Myrdal – [meganmyrdal@gmail.com](mailto:meganmyrdal@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

Attn: Kim Lipetzsky

401 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N

Fargo, ND 58102

# Attachment 3

**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Adam Altenburg, Metro COG  
**Date:** March 16, 2015  
**Re:** *Review Purpose and Powers of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission*

**Background.** In the fall of 2014, Metro COG worked closely with Fargo Cass Public Health and Clay County Public Health to develop a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission. This agreement was signed by the City of Fargo and Clay County, the entities directly responsible for public health in Cass and Clay Counties respectively.

**Purpose.** As laid out in the JPA, the purpose of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission is to advise policy makers and elected officials in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area on how to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. Amongst other activities, this Commission will:

- a) Assess the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area with consideration of state and national trends and issues;
- b) Educate policy makers in all local jurisdictions on food systems issues;
- c) Provide language for policies and codes based on research;
- d) Support community wellness through various activities related to healthy food consumption;
- e) Cultivate partnerships and foster collaborative communication between local jurisdictions and other public and private partners;
- f) Encourage inquiries from local jurisdictions on food systems issues;
- g) Propose recommendations on ways to improve the food system in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area; and
- h) Oversee the implementation of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan.

**Powers.** Consistent with and subject to the terms of the JPA and applicable laws, the Commission shall have the following powers:

- a) To coordinate and prioritize food systems planning efforts and activities undertaken by the Commission;
- b) To enter into agreements with entities, including private entities, to provide assistance on food systems activities, projects, or reports;
- c) To expend available funds in accordance to any and all stipulations, including funds received on behalf of the Commission through voluntary contributions from Members, grants, or other sources; and
- d) To perform other acts consistent with and necessary to implement the purpose of the Agreement.

**Members.** Following the terms of the JPA, the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission would consist of members appointed by each of the following governing bodies:

1. City of Fargo – one member of the City Commission
2. City of Moorhead – one member of the City Council
3. City of West Fargo – one member of the City Commission
4. City of Dilworth – one member of the City Council

## Attachment 3

5. Cass County – one member of the County Commission
6. Clay County – one member of the County Commission

In addition to six appointed member from the area governing bodies, five at-large members would be recommended by the CCFSI and agreed upon by a majority of appointed members at the first meeting.

**Ex-officio Membership.** Ex-officio (non-voting) membership shall be granted to the Fargo Cass Public Health, Clay County Public Health, the Steering Committee, and Metro COG.

## Attachment 4

**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator  
**Date:** March 16, 2015  
**Re:** *Public Comment Opportunity*

The Public Comment Opportunity is an open forum for the public to provide comments about specific items on this meeting's agenda, as well as any other issues that may pertain to food systems policies, programs, or documents.

Comments to the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission will be limited to one (1) minute per individual or at the discretion of the Food Systems Advisory Commission Chair.

## Attachment 5

**To:** Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission  
**From:** Megan Myrdal, Interim Chair and Project Coordinator & Whitney Oxendahl, Steering Committee  
**Date:** March 16, 2015  
**Re:** *Commission Action Steps*

As part of the initial efforts by the Steering Committee, a series of draft blueprints have been created that address current possible gaps and needs with regard to food system issues in the area. Moving forward, these documents are intended to provide much of the information and guidance on key food system issues relevant to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area.

Before the next tentatively scheduled meeting on May 13, the Steering Committee would ask that members of the Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission consider possible food systems issues in their respective jurisdictions and bring those to the next meeting. The Steering Committee would also like to ask that Commission members review implementation strategies on pages 34-37 of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan to help determine the next possible set of blueprints and other work moving forward.



## Urban Animal Keeping

### Background

Individuals across the U.S. are increasing their consumption of food grown and raised near them or by them. Why has there been a push for more locally-grown foods? A vibrant local food system enhances the local economy and improves environmental and social health. People are looking for creative solutions to obtain cheaper, less-travelled food. Others want to know where their food has been, and raising their own animals or growing their own vegetables allows them that control and self-sufficiency. Even those who might want agricultural land outside city limits have barriers, like the difficulty finding available land and the expense to purchase it.

The Fargo-Moorhead area has been experiencing increased interest in discussing and strengthening the local food system with a focus on urban agriculture. An aspect of urban agriculture that is picking up steam is urban animal husbandry, which is raising livestock within cities for products like milk, eggs, and manure, and/or for companionship. These animals can be pigs, ducks, rabbits, pygmy goats, chickens, and bees. There has been growing interest in the F-M area to address the last two animals on the list, especially chickens. In the fall of 2014, a request was brought to the Fargo city commission to address the issue of raising backyard chickens, and the question has been raised in other jurisdictions in recent years.

### Backyard Chickens

This issue brief will provide background information related to urban chickens, and address the common concerns and benefits from a health, environment, social, and economic standpoint. The brief will also address how each concern can be remedied through ordinance language and education. An appendix has been provided to share example policy language from other jurisdictions.

### Background

Hundreds of cities across the U.S. and at least 20 communities in Minnesota, including Fergus Falls, have permitted urban chicken keeping. People have a desire for urban chickens for a number of reasons, including companionship, teaching children about agriculture, and the ability to raise one's own food (one hen provides on average 3-4 eggs per week). After setting up the coop and the initial learning curve, urban chicken farmers say a small flock can be as easy as raising a dog.

The following are common issues addressed in local ordinances:

- Number of birds permitted per household
- Permit and fee process
- Regulation of roosters
- Enclosure/containment restrictions
- Distance of coop from other homes/property line (setback)
- Location on the lot (e.g. backyard)
- Nuisance clause
- Requiring written consent by neighbors
- Storing chicken feed in rat-proof containers
- Slaughtering restrictions
- Number of chickens based on property size
- Restrictions of chickens in multi-family areas
- Violation or penalty

- If eggs can be bought/sold or only consumed by owner

Table 1. Summary of chicken keeping approval in local jurisdictions

Moorhead	Dilworth	Clay County	Fargo	West Fargo	Cass County
Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted as accessory use*	Permitted with conditions**	Prohibited	Permitted***

\* For Residential Parcels: Minimum parcel size of two acres. A maximum of one animal unit per fenced acre of usable area (one chicken=0.01 animal unit). Fences should be located at least 10 ft from adjoining property lines. All manure shall be properly disposed of. Note: feedlots have different standards

\*\*Fowl cannot run at large. The enclosures must be at least 75 ft away from neighboring dwellings, unless written consent is signed by the neighbor. If an animal is deemed a nuisance, either by odor, noise, attracting vermin or danger to the health of neighbors, it must be kept at least 200 feet from neighboring dwellings. Must abate any nuisance within 10 days of notice.

\*\*\*Requires a 250 feet buffer zone and individual townships may have their own zoning regulations.

Table 2. Framework for evaluating urban chicken keeping

DOMAIN	BENEFIT	CONCERN
Health	Increases access to nutritious food source	Disease risk <sup>1</sup>
Environment	Keeps yard clean by eating bugs, pests, and weeds Chicken droppings can be composted and used as fertilizer, as long as safe composting practices are used May reduce food waste in garbage by feeding it to chickens Sustainable way to raise food in an urban environment (i.e. less energy used to transportation)	Attraction of unwanted pests or predators
Economic	Possible financial relief for low-income families Potential for individuals to sell backyard chicken eggs (if permitted) Reduces kitchen waste in municipal trash collections system	Cost of permitting fee, setting up a coop and the equipment may be cost prohibitive for low-income families Jurisdiction cost of monitoring and addressing issues Disposal of dead birds can be expensive for individuals if the only disposal option is a vet's office

<sup>1</sup> Human Health Concerns about Raising Poultry. Illinois Dept of Public Health. Accessed 2015 January 21. <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/Poultry.htm>

Social	<p>Can be regarded as pets and allows for positive social, cognitive, physical and emotional connection</p> <p>Increased awareness of the food cycle and connection to agriculture</p> <p>Can bring neighbors together</p> <p>Provide a positive family activity</p>	<p>Possibility of noise nuisance</p> <p>Odor and visual appeal of neighborhood if not properly cared for</p> <p>Can be difficult to keep in winter</p>
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Table 3. Common urban chicken keeping concerns addressed

CONCERN	MORE INFORMATION	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Disease	<p>Contracting a communicable disease, like the flu or respiratory illness is negligible for urban poultry farming because of the size of the flock. This is a larger concern in industrial farming.</p> <p>Bacteria, like <i>Salmonella</i>, can be found in poultry droppings</p>	<p>The hazards of bacterial infections can be mitigated by education regarding how to handle and care for poultry, including washing hands after returning indoors, and how to properly compost droppings for fertilizer. This can easily be addressed by educating urban chicken farmers with printed materials or offering classes.</p>
Attracting pests and predators	<p>Flies and other pests lay their eggs in droppings because they like moisture.</p> <p>Chickens do not attract urban predators any more than a cat or dog.</p>	<p>Pests can be minimized through proper bedding care, and chickens also help by eating pests.</p>
Cost for low-income families		<p>Part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is addressing issues of food access, possible barrier reduction could include funding and management from outside sources, like a nonprofit, to cover the startup costs</p>
Disposal		<p>Other communities have offered these:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City provides dead animal pick-up free of charge</li> <li>2. Buried on property at least two feet down.</li> <li>3. Closed securely in a plastic bag and placed in municipal trash</li> </ol>
Noise	<p>Hens “talking” at their loudest, speak at the same decibel level as human conversation (about 60 decibels). This is also personality-based; some hens are more talkative than others. Roosters crow at about the same decibel level as a barking dog (90 decibels).</p>	<p>Many urban ordinances ban roosters, because of their loud crowing.</p>

Smell	Chicken manure is high in nitrogen, which can lead to an ammonia smell if not properly cared for.	Adding carbon material, like dried leaves and straw, to the bedding will get rid of the smell; it's all about carbon to nitrogen ratio. Can be remedied through quality bedding.
Winter keeping		Proper education can reduce the impact of winter poultry farming: make sure to keep combs warm and use a heat lamp when the temperature gets below 20 degrees.

## Backyard Beekeeping

This issue brief will provide background information related to urban beekeeping, and address the common concerns and benefits from a health, environment, social, and economic standpoint. The brief will also address how each concern can be remedied through ordinance language and education. An appendix has been provided to share example policy language from other jurisdictions.

### Background

In 2014, the USDA issued a report declaring we are in a “critical time for efforts” to support our honeybee populations, since these populations have been in decline for decades. The colonies in the U.S have decreased from 6 million in 1947 to 2.5 million today.<sup>2</sup> No one knows the reason for the sharp decline, although some suspect colony collapse disorder (CCD) caused by a combination of environmental stressors such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, and pesticides.<sup>3</sup>

Beekeepers and citizens are concerned about colony collapse since bees are responsible for up to one-third of the food eaten by U.S. consumers.<sup>4</sup> With concerns about CCD, encouraging new research suggests that bees are thriving in urban environments due to the diversity plants in urban areas compared to farmland, which tends to consist of large swaths of a single crop (known as monocropping).<sup>5</sup>

The popularity of urban beekeeping has grown rapidly, and in the past few years, Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Duluth, MN have addressed that call by issuing permits for backyard hives.

The following are common issues addressed in local ordinances:

- Number of hives permitted
- Permit and fee process
- Hive restrictions
- Location on the lot (e.g. backyard)
- Removal of beekeeping equipment and bee combs from apiary\* grounds to prevent robbing\*\*
- Equipment requirements (e.g. hives with removable frames and in sound condition)
- Flyway barriers\*\*\*
- Source of fresh water

<sup>2</sup> USDA [online]. 2014. USDA Provides \$8 Million to Help Boost Declining Honey Bee Population. Accessed 2015 January 21. <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/06/0130.xml>

<sup>3</sup> Bartholomew, D. 2014. Los Angeles Daily News [online]. Accessed 2015 January 21. <http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20140308/los-angeles-may-join-other-cities-allowing-backyard-beekeeping>

<sup>4</sup> Roach, J. 2004. Bee Decline May Spell End of Some Fruits, Vegetables. National Geographic [online]. Accessed 2015 January 21. [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/10/1005\\_041005\\_honeybees.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/10/1005_041005_honeybees.html)

<sup>5</sup> University of Bristol. 2015. Study shows urban habitats provide haven for UK bees [online]. Cabot Institute. Accessed 2015 Feb 23. <http://www.bris.ac.uk/cabot/news/2015/urban-haven.html>.

- Setback distances
- Minimum lot size
- Rooftop considerations
- Nuisance clause
- Re-queening an aggressive colony
- Hive clearly marked with owner's contact information/permit number
- Hive disposal
- Educational requirements (e.g. beginner beekeeping class)
- Violation or penalty
- If honey and other products can be bought/sold or only consumed by owner

*\*Apiary: place where honeybee hives or colonies are kept*

*\*\*Robbing: pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects*

*\*\*\*Flyway barrier: an obstacle like a fence, wall, or vegetation used to force bees to fly upwards when they leave the hive to avoid contact with people and reduce the risk of stinging*

Beekeeping is not addressed in Fargo\*, Moorhead\*\*, Dilworth, West Fargo, Cass County, or Clay County ordinances.

*\*Bees are not addressed in the Fargo ordinances, although the city attorney's opinion is that bees would be illegal in the city*

*\*\*Moorhead ordinances were recently reviewed by a city attorney who ruled that bees are not allowed since bees are not addressed as an accessory use*

Table 1. Framework for evaluating urban beekeeping

DOMAIN	BENEFIT	CONCERN
Health	Increases easy access to nutritious food source	Allergies to bee stings
Environment	More fruitful gardens and plants due to increased bee pollination Increase in biodiversity Helps support dwindling honeybee populations	
Economic	Furnishing individuals and families with honey, wax and other useful products Potential for individuals to sell honey Increased pollination of food crops	Cost of permitting fee, setting up a hive and the equipment may be cost prohibitive for low-income families Jurisdiction cost of monitoring and addressing issues
Social	Increased awareness of the food cycle and connection to agriculture Provide a positive family activity	Fear of getting stung Nuisances include occasional stinging when they feel threatened, swarming, and gravitating to nearby shallow bodies of water



Table 2. Common urban beekeeping concerns addressed

CONCERN	MORE INFORMATION	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Bee sting	<p>One of the key concerns regarding urban beekeeping is the fear of being stung. We have a <a href="#">handout</a> that addresses common misconceptions about bee stings and may be a useful resource for citizens and beekeepers.</p> <p>Yellow jackets are the most aggressive and prone to stinging. Honeybees, by contrast, are the least likely to attack because honeybee strains have been bred for traits like gentleness and reduced swarming.</p> <p>A majority of individuals are allergic to yellow jackets, not honeybees.</p>	<p>Public education is crucial to minimizing the fear of stinging.</p> <p>Most ordinances require a six-foot tall flyway barrier at the hive exit which forces bees to fly up and away, reducing their contact with humans. Many ordinances have requirements, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The barrier be located a certain number of feet from the hive (e.g. 3-5 ft.)</li> <li>2. It extends anywhere from 2-10 feet on either side of the colony</li> <li>3. No barrier required if the hive is a certain number of feet (e.g. 15-30 ft.) from the property line or located on porches or balconies at least 10 feet high and five feet from the property line.</li> </ol>
Cost for low-income families		<p>Part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan is addressing issues of food access, possible barrier reduction could include funding and management from outside sources, like a nonprofit, to cover the startup costs</p>
Gravitating toward bodies of water		<p>Most ordinances require urban beekeepers to provide a water source for their colonies during the non-dormant period as to minimize the nuisance to surrounding property owners.</p>

## Resource

If you have questions, please contact Kim Lipetzky with the Fargo Cass Public Health Office at 701-241-8195 or [klipetzky@cityoffargo.com](mailto:klipetzky@cityoffargo.com).

## Appendix: Example Ordinances

### **Ann Arbor, MI (population 117,025)**

#### Chapter 107 (Animals) - 9:42. Keeping of Chickens

(1) Any person who keeps chickens in the City of Ann Arbor shall obtain a permit from the City prior to acquiring the chickens. No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of all residentially zoned adjacent properties (as defined below in subsection 3 (j)) consent in writing to the permit and this consent is presented along with an application for a permit. Written statements waiving the distance requirement in subsection (3) below shall also be submitted at the time of application and become a part of the permit if issued. Application shall be made to the City Clerk and the fee for the permit shall be as determined by Council resolution.

Permits expire and become invalid five (5) years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall have obtained a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

(2) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(3) A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- a. Have been issued the permit required under subsection (1) of this section.
- b. Keep no more than four (4) chickens.
- c. The principal use of the person's property is for a single-family dwelling or two-family dwelling.
- d. No person shall keep any rooster.
- e. No person shall slaughter any chickens.
- f. The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced enclosures are subject to all provisions of Chapter 104 (Fences).
- g. A person shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard. For purposes of this section, "backyard" means that portion of a lot enclosed by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the property's rear lot line and the side lot lines to the points where the side lot lines intersect with an imaginary line established by the rear of the single-family or two family structure and extending to the side lot lines.
- h. No covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall be located closer than ten (10) feet to any property line of an adjacent property;
- i. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than forty (40) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property provided, however, this requirement can be waived as follows:
  - (i) If the principal use of applicant's property is for a single-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
  - (ii) If the principal use of the applicant's property is for a two-family dwelling, to obtain such a waiver the applicant shall present at the time of applying for a permit the written statements of all adjacent landowners and of the occupants of the other dwelling stating that there is no objection to the issuance of the permit.
- j. For purposes of this section, adjacent property means all parcels of property that the applicant's property comes into contact with at one or more points, except for parcels that are legally adjacent to but are in fact separated from the applicant's property by a public or private street.
- k. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure.
- l. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.

m. If the above requirements are not complied with, the City may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation.

(4) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.

### **Boston, MA (population 645,966)**

#### **SECTION 89-9. Accessory Keeping of Hens.**

1. Use Regulations. See Underlying Zoning for applicable use regulations.

(a) For all areas covered under the Base Code, see Article 8 – Use No. 76.

(b) For all other areas not covered under the Base Code, see Use Regulation Table in specific Article.

(c) Where the Accessory Keeping of Animals is a Conditional Use in the applicable Underlying Zoning, the Board of Appeal shall not grant a Conditional Use Permit for the Accessory Keeping of Hens unless the following conditions are met.

(d) The maximum number of adult Hens in all Districts and Subdistricts not covered under the Base Code shall be six (6) per Lot.

(e) The maximum number of non-egg-laying replacement Chicks or Pullets in all Districts and Subdistricts not covered under the Base Code shall be six (6) per Lot.

(f) Roosters are expressly Forbidden.

(g) The on-site slaughtering of Hens is prohibited.

2. Dimensional Regulations.

(a) Maximum Height.

i. Coop. Enclosed Coop space shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.

ii. Run. Runs shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.

(b) Size.

i. Coop. Coop space must allow a minimum of two (2) square feet per Hen and one (1) nest box per three (3) Hens within, and shall not exceed a maximum size of eight (8) feet by six (6) feet.

ii. Run. Runs must allow a minimum of four (4) square feet per Hen, but in no case shall occupy more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the rear yard.

(c) Setbacks.

i. Subject to Article 10 (Accessory Uses), Coops and Runs shall be set back five (5) feet from all property lines in all Districts and Subdistricts unless there is a solid, opaque barrier such as a wall of fence along the property line.

ii. Coops and Runs shall not be located in the front yard or in a side yard that abuts a street in all residential and commercial Districts and Subdistricts.

iii. Coops and Runs shall not be within a fifteen (15) foot buffer of habitable structures on adjacent properties in all residential Districts and Subdistricts unless prior permission is granted in writing by the neighboring property owner(s).

(d) Materials.

i. All Coops shall be made of washable and sanitizable material such as fiberglass reinforced plastic.

ii. All Runs shall have a securely built frame, preferably wooden; shall be covered in wire mesh material such as hardware cloth; and designed to be predator proof.

(e) Screening.

i. Any portion of the Coop or Run directly visible from a street at any distance shall be screened by either a fence that is constructed to be at least sixty percent (60%) opaque or a landscaped buffer of at least four (4) feet in height.

(f) Free Ranging.

i. Free-ranging of adult egg-laying Hens shall be supervised and is allowed exclusively in fenced yards with consent of all residents and property owners who have legal access to the premises.

### **Fergus Falls, MN (population 13,351)**

(F) Keeping of Chickens.

(1) Chickens permitted. It is unlawful for any person to own, control, keep, maintain or harbor chickens on any premises within the City unless issued a permit to do so as provided in this section. No permit shall be issued for the keeping or harboring of more than four (4) female chickens or hens on any premises. The keeping or harboring of male chickens or roosters is prohibited.

(2) Definitions. For the purpose of this paragraph, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

“CHICKEN” means a female chicken or hen.

“AT LARGE” means a chicken out of its chicken run, off the premises or not under the custody and control of the owner.

“CHICKEN COOP” means a structure for housing chickens made of wood or other similar materials that provides shelter from the elements.

“CHICKEN RUN” means an enclosed outside yard for keeping chickens.

“PERSON” means the resident, property owner, custodian, or keeper or of any chicken.

“PREMISES” means any platted lot or group of contiguous lots, parcels or tracts of land and is located within the city.

(3) Permit. No person shall maintain a chicken coop and/or chicken run unless granted a permit by the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to issue a maximum of 12 permits annually for the keeping of chickens. The permit shall be subject to all the terms and conditions of this section and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the Animal Control Officer to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The necessary permit application may be obtained from the City Administrator’s office. Included with the completed application must be a scaled diagram that indicates the location of any chicken coop and/or chicken run, and the approximate size and distance from adjoining structures and property lines, the number and species of chickens to be maintained at the premises, and a statement that the applicant/permittee will at all times keep the chickens in accordance with this ordinance and all the conditions prescribed by the Animal Control Officer, or modification thereof, and failure to obey such conditions will constitute a violation of the provisions of this section and grounds for cancellation of the permit. The applicant shall include written consents/approval of the keeping of chickens on their premises from all abutting property owners, or shall provide proof of the certified mailing of a notice, and copies of said notice(s) to all abutting property owner(s) which advises the abutting property owner(s) the applicant is applying for a permit from the City of Fergus Falls for the keeping of chickens on their premises, the abutting property owner may object to the applicant’s permit application, any objection must be received by the Animal Control Officer within 10 days of the mailing date of said notice, and failure to provide written objections to the Animal Control Officer within 10 days of the mailing of said notice will authorize the Animal Control Officer to issue a permit for the keeping of chickens to the applicant at their premises. Upon receipt of a permit application, the Animal Control Officer shall determine if the application is complete and contains the required consents/approvals and/or proof of the certified mailing of the required notices. If the application is complete and includes written consents/approval from all abutting property owners, the Animal Control Officer shall issue a permit for the keeping of chickens to the applicant. If the application is complete and includes proof of mailing certified notices to abutting property owner(s) as required by this section, the Animal Control Officer shall issue a permit to the applicant 10 days after receipt of the completed application, unless the Animal Control Officer receives a written objection from an abutting property owner objecting to the applicant’s application for the keeping of chickens, in which case no permit shall be issued. No permit shall be issued for an incomplete application or for the keeping of chickens on any rental premises. A permit for the keeping of chickens may be revoked or suspended by the Animal Control Officer for any violation of this section following written notice. The applicant / permittee may appeal the revocation or suspension of their permit by requesting in writing a hearing before the city council within seven (7) days of the notice of revocation or suspension. The request for hearing must be either postmarked or received in the city administrator’s office within seven (7) days of the date of the notice. The city council shall hold a hearing on the applicant/permittee’s request for hearing within thirty (30) days of the request for hearing. An annual fee will be set by resolution.

(4) Confinement. Every person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains, or harbors chickens must keep them confined at all times in a chicken coop and chicken run and may not allow the chickens to run at large. Any chicken coop and chicken run shall be at least twenty-five (25) feet from any residential structure or any other structures on any adjacent premises.

(5) Chicken Coops and Chicken Runs.

(a) All chicken coops and chicken runs must be located within the rear yard subject to a twenty (20) foot setback from any adjacent premises and be at least twenty-five (25) feet from any residential structure or dwelling or any other structures or dwellings on any adjacent premises. All chicken coops must be a minimum of four (4) square feet per chicken in size, must not exceed ten (10) square feet per chicken in size and must not exceed six (6) feet in total height. Attached fenced-in chicken runs must not exceed 20 square feet per chicken and fencing must not exceed six (6) feet in total height. Chicken runs may be enclosed with wood and/or woven wire materials, and may allow

chickens contact with the ground. Chicken feed must be kept in metal predator proof containers. Chicken manure may be placed in yard compost piles.

(b) Chicken coops must either be:

(i) Elevated with a clear open space of at least twenty-four (24) inches between the ground surface and framing/floor of the coop; or,

(ii) The coop floor, foundation and footings must be constructed using rodent resistant construction.

(c) Chicken coops are not allowed to be located in any part of a home and/or garage.

(d) Chickens must be secured in a chicken coop from sunset to sunrise each day.

(6) Conditions and Inspections. No person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains, or harbors chickens shall permit the premises, whether the chickens are kept to be or remain in an unhealthy, unsanitary or noxious condition or to permit the premises to be in such condition that noxious odors are carried to adjacent public or private property. Any chicken coop or chicken run authorized by permit under this section may be inspected at any reasonable time by the Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or other agent of the City. A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by the Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or other agent of the City. Slaughter and breeding of chickens on any premises within the City is prohibited.

(7) Private Restrictions and Covenants on Property. Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the City, private restrictions and/or covenants on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, covenant declarations and deed restrictions. A permit issued to a person whose premises are subject to private restrictions and/or covenants that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(8) Refusal to Grant or Renew Permit. The Animal Control Officer may refuse to grant or renew a permit to keep or maintain chickens for failure to comply with the provisions of this section, submitting an inaccurate or incomplete application, if the conditions of the permit are not met, if a nuisance condition is created, or if the public health and safety would be unreasonably endangered by the granting or renewing of such permit.

(9) Removal of chicken coop and chicken run. Any chicken coop or chicken run constructed or maintained on any premises shall be immediately removed from said premises after the expiration of the permit or shall be removed within thirty (30) days upon ceasing to use the chicken coop and/or chicken run for the keeping of chickens.

(10) Residential Agricultural District. This ordinance does not apply to premises located in a residential agricultural district as that area is defined in this Code.

(11) Prohibited. The keeping of chickens, male or female, is prohibited in R-3, R-4 and R-5 Multiple-Family and Multiple-Residence Districts and all Business and Industrial Districts (B-1 through B-6 and I-1 through I-3) as those areas are defined in this Code.

(12) Violations a Misdemeanor. Any person who owns, controls, keeps, maintains or harbors chickens in the City of Fergus Falls without obtaining or maintaining a current permit or after a permit has been suspended or revoked by Council action shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

#### **Minneapolis, MN (population 400,070)**

70.10. - Permit required.

(a) No person shall anywhere in the city keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody, or control over any small animal or any fowl such as a chicken, turkey, duck, or pigeon, without obtaining a permit issued by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

(b) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may grant permit pursuant to this section after the applicant has sought the written consent of at least eighty (80) percent of the occupants of the several descriptions of real estate situated within one hundred (100) feet of the applicant's real estate. Such written consent shall be required on the initial application and as often thereafter as Minneapolis Animal Care and Control deems necessary.

(c) No permit shall be granted to keep any animal, fowl, or pigeon within a dwelling unit or part thereof, nor on any real estate which contains three (3) or more dwelling units.

(d) This section shall not apply to dogs, cats, ferrets, or rabbits nor to veterinarians or licensed pet shops or licensed kennels.

(e) Application for permit. Any person desiring a permit under this chapter shall make written application to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Approval of application is subject to conditions prescribed by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Failure to adhere to conditions is cause for cancellation of the permit and/or result in an administrative fine.



(f) Duration of permit. All permits issued shall expire on January 31 of the following year after its issuance unless sooner revoked. The application fee for such permit shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) which shall be paid at the time of application. The annual renewal fee thereafter for such permit shall be forty dollars (\$40.00). Minneapolis Animal Care and Control will inspect the premises annually or as deemed necessary.

(g) Five-year permit. The fee for a five-year permit will be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00). All five-year permits issued shall expire on January 31 of the year following the fifth year after its issuance unless sooner revoked. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control will inspect the premises annually or as deemed necessary.

(h) Refusal to grant permit. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may refuse a permit to keep or maintain animals or fowl hereunder for failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, and shall refuse a permit if such animals or fowl should not be kept upon the premises described in the application for the permit. If any such permit is refused, the fee paid with the application shall be retained by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

(i) Enforcement. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

### **Park River, ND (population 1,390)**

#### **AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CONTROL OF ANIMALS AND POULTRY**

Animals and poultry not to be raised or kept in certain areas, penalty. No person or persons shall raise or keep any domestic animals or poultry, or both, of the species of horses, mules, asses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, geese, chickens, ducks, turkeys, peacocks, guinea hens, or similar livestock or fowl within the city limits of the City of Park River, except as follows:

1. Up to 8 hen chickens (no roosters) will be allowed with a license.
2. Initial license must be approved by 75% of the property owners within 200 feet of the coop.
3. Applicant shall pay an initial license fee of \$25.00 and annual fee of \$5.00.
4. In the event a complaint has been filed with the City of Park River prior to renewal of said license within the past calendar year, the Building Inspector will determine if the license renewal is issued. If no complaints have been filed, the renewal shall be considered extended for all additional year provided payment is received.
5. Slaughtering of chickens on the premises is prohibited.
6. A separate coop and run is required to house the chickens. Coop must be located in the rear and be setback at least five feet from the property lines.
7. All premises on which hens are kept or maintained shall be an enclosed fence and be kept clean from filth, garbage, and any substances which attract rodents. The coop and its surrounding area must be cleaned to control odor so as not to be detectible on another property.
8. All grain and food stored for the use of the hens on premises with a chicken license shall be kept in a rodent proof container.
9. All applicants must notify the owner of the property if the applicant is not the owner.
10. A complaint against any person owning, keeping or harboring chickens may be filed with the City of Park River Building Inspector. If an investigation from the Building Inspector reveals that the use of chickens is in violation of this section or any other section of this Code the City Building Inspector shall have authority to require the owner or user of the property to fix, abate, or alleviate the problem. If the problem is not satisfactorily abated or alleviated the City Building Inspector shall have authority to revoke the license.

### **Salt Lake City, UT (population 191,180)**

#### **8.08.010: DOMESTIC FOWL AND LIVESTOCK; PERMIT REQUIRED:**

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, it is unlawful for any person to keep within the city any chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons or other similar domestic fowl, or more than two (2) rabbits, or other similar animals, without first making application for and obtaining a permit from the office of animal services to do so. The fee for such permit shall be five dollars (\$5.00) per animal, but shall not exceed forty dollars (\$40.00) per year.

B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this section, chickens may be kept in any area zoned as a residential district under Chapter 21A.24 of this code or its successor, subject to the requirements of Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.

C. It is unlawful for any person to keep within the city any sheep, goats, cows, calves, pigs, horses, jacks, jennies, or other similar animals, without first making application for and obtaining a permit from the office of animal services to do so. The fee for such permit shall be forty dollars (\$40.00) each year. Such permits shall not be issued for any area of the city except areas zoned as agricultural districts under Section 21A.32.050 of this code, or its successor section.

**SECTION 2. Amending Section 8.08.060.** That Section 8.08.060 of the *Salt Lake City Code*, shall be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

8.08.060: HOUSING AND FEEDING OF ANIMALS; LOCATION RESTRICTIONS:

It is unlawful to house, keep, run or feed any of the above mentioned animals within fifty feet (50') of any structure used for human habitation except as provided in Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.

SECTION 3. **Enacting Section 8.08.065.** That Section 8.08.065 of the *Salt Lake City Code* shall be, and hereby is, enacted to authorize the keeping of chickens in residential districts, subject to certain requirements, as follows:

8.08.065: KEEPING CHICKENS:

A. Subject to the requirements of this section and any other applicable provision of this chapter, fifteen (15) hen chickens (and no roosters) may be kept on a lot or parcel of land in a residential district for the sole purpose of producing eggs. The principal use on the lot or parcel shall be a one-family dwelling, a two-family dwelling, or a multi-family dwelling. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person who complies with the requirements of Section 8.08.030 of this title may keep chickens as provided in such section.

B. Chickens shall be confined within a secure outdoor enclosed area.

1. The enclosed area shall include a covered, ventilated, and predator-resistant chicken coop.

a. The coop shall have a minimum floor area of at least two (2) square feet per chicken.

b. If chickens are not allowed to roam within an enclosed area outside the coop, the coop shall have a minimum floor area of six (6) square feet per chicken.

2. The coop shall be located in a rear yard at least twenty-five (25) feet from any dwelling located on an adjacent lot.

a. The coop and enclosed area shall be maintained in a neat and sanitary condition and shall be maintained as provided in Section 8.08.070 of this chapter.

b. No chicken shall be permitted to roam outside the coop or enclosed area.

3. Chicken feed shall be stored and dispensed in rodent-proof and predator-proof containers.

C. Chickens shall not be kept on a residential lot or parcel unless the person keeping chickens first obtains a permit as provided in Section 8.08.010 of this chapter.

1. The permittee shall acknowledge the rules set forth in this section and shall, as a condition of permit issuance, agree in writing to comply with such rules.

2. The permit shall be good for one (1) year and may be renewed annually.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any chicken in a residential district in a manner contrary to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. **Amending Section 8.08.080.** That Section 8.08.080 of the *Salt Lake City Code*, shall be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

8.08.080: TRESPASS BY FOWL OR DOMESTIC ANIMALS:

It is unlawful for the owner or any person in charge of domestic fowl, such as turkeys, ducks, geese, chickens or other similar domestic fowls, or domestic animals such as dogs or cats, to permit such fowls or domestic animals to trespass upon the premises of another. It is unlawful for any person to house, keep, run or feed any such fowls within fifty feet (50') of any house used for human habitation except as provided in Section 8.08.065 of this chapter.

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**Boston, MA**

SECTION 89-10. Accessory Keeping of Honey Bees.

1. Use Regulations. For proposed ground level or roof level Hives, see Underlying Zoning for applicable use regulations.

(a) For all areas covered under the Base Code, see Article 8 – Use No. 76.

(b) For all other areas not covered under the Base Code, see Use Regulation Table in specific Article.

(c) Where the Accessory Keeping of Animals is a Conditional Use in the applicable Underlying Zoning, the Board of Appeal shall not grant a Conditional Use Permit for the Accessory Keeping of Honey Bees unless the following conditions are met.

2. Maximum Number of Hives.

(a) The maximum number of Hives on any given Lot or roof for personal consumption of Honey Bee products shall be two (2).

3. Maximum Height and Size.

(a) No Hive shall exceed five (5) feet in height and twenty (20) cubic feet in size on any Lot or roof.

4. Specific Ground Level Beekeeping Requirements.

(a) Setbacks.

i. Where there is a wall, fence or similar barrier between the subject property and adjacent property, no setback from the property line is required. Where there is no wall, fence or similar barrier between subject property and adjacent property, Hives shall be set back five (5) feet from the property line.

ii. Hives shall not be located in the front yard or in a side yard that abuts a street in all residential and commercial Districts and Subdistricts.

iii. No Hive shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from a public sidewalk.

(b) Hive Placement and Flyways.

i. For any ground level Hive that is within twenty (20) feet of the doors and/or windows of the principal building on an abutting Lot, either of the following conditions must exist:

a. The Hive opening must face away from doors and/or windows; or

b. A flyway of at least six (6) feet in height comprising of a lattice fence, dense hedge or similar barrier must be established in front of the opening of the Hive such that the Honey Bees fly upward and away from neighboring properties. The flyway shall be located within three (3) feet of the entrance to the Hive and shall extend at least two (2) feet in width on either side of the Hive opening.

5. Specific Rooftop Beekeeping Requirements.

(a) Setbacks.

i. Hives shall be set back six (6) feet from the edge of the roof.

(b) Hive Placement and Flyways.

i. For any roof level Hive that is within twenty (20) feet of the doors and/or windows of the principal building on an abutting Lot, either of the following conditions must exist:

a. The Hive opening must face away from doors and/or windows; or

b. A flyway of at least six (6) feet in height comprising of a lattice fence, dense hedge or similar barrier must be established in front of the opening of the Hive such that the Honey Bees fly upward and away from neighboring properties. The flyway shall be located within three (3) feet of the entrance to the Hive and shall extend at least two (2) feet in width on either side of the Hive opening.

6. Compliance with State and Local Laws.

(a) All beekeeping shall comply with applicable State and local laws and regulations.

### **Duluth, MN (population 86,128)**

Sec. 6-80.1. Keeping of honeybees.

(a) Each person holding a license to keep honeybees within the city of Duluth shall comply with the following

(1) No more than five hives may be located on a lot;

(2) No hive shall exceed 20 cubic feet in volume

(3) A constant supply of water shall be provided for all hives, except during the dormant period;

(4) No ground hive shall be located closer than five feet from any property line;

(5) No ground hive shall be located closer than 15 feet from a public sidewalk or 30 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot;

(6) A flyway barrier at least six feet in height shall shield any part of a property line that is within 30 feet of a ground hive. The flyway barrier shall consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof and it shall be positioned to transect both legs of a triangle extending from an apex to each end point of the part of the property line to be shielded;

(7) Rooftop apiaries are allowed but shall not be located closer than 15 feet from a principal building on an abutting lot.

### **Minneapolis, MN**

74.80. - Keeping of honeybees.

(a) No person shall keep, maintain, or allow to be kept any hive or other facility for the housing of honeybees on or in any property in the City of Minneapolis without a permit.

(b) The number and location of hives, colonies and/or facilities for the housing of honeybees permitted by this section shall be determined by a permit issued by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. The permit shall specify any restrictions, limitations, conditions or prohibitions required by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control as necessary to safeguard public health and the general welfare. Subject to a hearing to be held by a committee of the council or other designated hearing examiner, if requested within five (5) days of the notification, Minneapolis Animal Care and

Control may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit applied for or granted pursuant to this section if any condition or requirement is violated or if the keeping of honeybees becomes a public nuisance.

(c) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control may grant a permit pursuant to this section only after the applicant has met any educational requirements as established and published by the manager and has provided evidence of notification to all immediately adjacent property owners, in a format supplied by or approved by and to the satisfaction of Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. If the applicant is a renter, approval from the property owner will be required. Neighbor notification will be the responsibility of the property owner, though it may be carried out by the applicant.

(d) Any person desiring a permit for the keeping of honeybees shall make application to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Approval of the application is subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. All permits issued shall expire on January thirty-first of the year following issuance unless sooner revoked. The application fee for such permit shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) which shall be paid at the time of application. There shall be no fee for annual renewal but the permit must be renewed annually for administrative tracking and notification purposes in a format supplied by or approved by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Failure to provide such renewal may result in an inspection and penalties including citation and revocation of permit. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall inspect the premises as deemed necessary. Should the permit be refused, denied or revoked, the fee paid with the application shall be retained by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

(e) Minneapolis Animal Care and Control shall enforce the provisions of this section.

(f) Definitions. As used in this section:

- (1) Apiary means the assembly of one (1) or more colonies of honeybees at a single location.
- (2) Beekeeper means a person who owns or has charge of one (1) or more colonies of honeybees.
- (3) Beekeeping equipment means anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.
- (4) Colony means an aggregate of honeybees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one (1) queen and at times drones, brood, combs, and honey.
- (5) Hive means the receptacle inhabited by a colony that is manufactured for that purpose.
- (6) Honeybee means all life stages of the common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera* species of European origin.
- (7) Lot means a contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.
- (8) Nucleus colony means a small quantity of honeybees with a queen housed in a smaller than usual hive box designed for a particular purpose.
- (9) Undeveloped property means any idle land that is not improved or actually in the process of being improved with residential, commercial, industrial, church, park, school or governmental facilities or other structures or improvements intended for human occupancy and the grounds maintained in associations therewith. The term shall be deemed to include property developed exclusively as a street or highway or property used for commercial agricultural purposes.

(g) Standards of practice. Any person obtaining a permit pursuant to this section shall comply with the following standards of practice:

- (1) Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
- (2) Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony prior to and so long as colonies remain active outside of the hive.
- (3) Each beekeeper shall ensure that no wax comb or other material that might encourage robbing by other bees are left upon the grounds of the apiary lot. Such materials once removed from the site shall be handled and stored in sealed containers, or placed within a building or other insect-proof container.
- (4) For each colony permitted to be maintained under this article, there may also be maintained upon the same apiary lot, one (1) nucleus colony in a hive structure not to exceed one (1) standard nine and five-eighths-inch depth ten-frame hive body with no supers.
- (5) Each beekeeper shall maintain his beekeeping equipment in good condition, including keeping the hives painted, and securing unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism and occupancy by swarms. It shall be a violation of this section for any beekeeper's unused equipment to attract a swarm, even if the beekeeper is not intentionally keeping honeybees.
- (6) Each beekeeper shall enclose their property and/or the apiary with a latching fence. A fence shall not be required if the hives are approved to be located on a rooftop so as to be inaccessible to the general public

so that bee movements to and from the hive do not interfere with the ordinary movements of persons on adjacent properties or the public right-of-way.

- (7) Each beekeeper shall, if unable or unwilling to continue to maintain their permitted hives, promptly notify Minneapolis Animal Care and Control so that the hives may be made available to an approved honeybee rescue entity, or, if necessary, disposed of by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. There shall be a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee for disposal of hives.

(h) Colony density. Any person obtaining a permit pursuant to this section shall comply with the following restrictions on colony density:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, in each instance where a colony is kept less than twenty-five (25) feet from a property line of the lot upon which the apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, and any entrances to the hive faces that lot line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height. The flyway barrier may consist of a wall, fence, dense vegetation or a combination thereof, such that honeybees will fly over rather than through the material to reach the colony. If a flyway barrier of dense vegetation is used, the initial planting may be four (4) feet in height, so long as the vegetation normally reaches six (6) feet in height or higher. The flyway barrier must continue parallel to the apiary lot line for ten (10) feet in either direction from the hive. All other sides of the area encompassing the colonies shall consist of fencing, a wall, dense vegetation or combination of at least four (4) feet tall. The area encompassing the colonies need not entail the entire property. A flyway barrier is not required if the property adjoining the apiary lot line is undeveloped, or is zoned agricultural or industrial, or is a wildlife management area or naturalistic park land with no horse or foot trails located within twenty-five (25) feet of the apiary lot line. A flyway barrier is not required if the hives are located on the roof of a structure containing at least one (1) full story if all hives are located at least five (5) feet from the side of the structure and at least fifteen (15) feet from any adjacent and occupied structure.
- (2) No person is permitted to keep more than the following numbers of colonies on any lot within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the apiary lot:
  - a. One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acre or smaller lot: Two (2) colonies;
  - b. Larger than one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) acre but smaller than three-quarter ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) acre lot: Four (4) colonies;
  - c. Larger than three-quarter ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) acre lot but smaller than one (1) acre lot: Six (6) colonies;
  - d. One (1) acre but smaller than five (5) acres: Eight (8) colonies;
  - e. Larger than five (5) acres: As determined by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control.

(3) Regardless of lot size, so long as all lots within a radius of at least two hundred (200) feet from any hive, measured from any point on the front of the hive, remain undeveloped, the maximum number of colonies may be increased by Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. No grandfathering rights shall accrue under this subsection.

(4) If a beekeeper serves the community by removing a swarm or swarms of honeybees from locations where they are not desired, a beekeeper shall not be considered in violation of the portion of this section limiting the number of colonies while temporarily housing the swarm on the apiary lot in compliance with the standards of practice established pursuant to this section if the swarm is so housed for no more than thirty (30) days from the date acquired.

(i) Pursuant to section 244.2000(a) of this Code, any rental dwelling license holder notified by an immediately adjacent property owner of the intent to house beehives on the immediately adjacent owner's property shall post said notice in a common area of the rental property or, if a single-family home, the rental license holder shall provide said notice to the tenant by means of mail, hand delivery, or posting. Said notice shall be provided by the rental license holder to each new tenant thereafter for as long as the adjacent property continues to house beehives.

## **Salt Lake City, UT**

### **Chapter 8.10 BEEKEEPING**

#### **8.10.010: PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this chapter is to authorize beekeeping subject to certain requirements intended to avoid problems that may otherwise be associated with beekeeping in populated areas.

#### **8.10.020: CERTAIN CONDUCT UNLAWFUL:**

Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to maintain an apiary or to keep any colony on any property in a manner that threatens public health or safety, or creates a nuisance.

#### **8.10.030: HIVES ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS:**



A. As provided in this chapter, and notwithstanding any contrary provision in Title 21A of this code, an apiary, consisting of not more than five (5) hives or an equivalent capacity, may be maintained in a side yard or the rear yard of any residential lot. On a residential lot which is larger one-half (0.5) acre or larger, the number of hives located on the lot may be increased to ten (10) hives.

B. A person shall not locate or allow a hive on property owned or occupied by another person without first obtaining written permission from the owner or occupant.

**8.10.040: BEEKEEPER REGISTRATION:**

Each beekeeper shall be registered with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food as provided in the Utah Bee Inspection Act set forth in Title 4, Chapter 11 of the Utah Code, as amended.

**8.10.050: HIVES:**

A. Honeybee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable frames which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.

B. Hives shall be placed at least five (5) feet from any property line and six (6) inches above the ground, as measured from the ground to the lowest portion of the hive; provided, however, that this requirement may be waived in writing by the adjoining property owner.

C. Hives shall be operated and maintained as provided in the Utah Bee Inspection Act.

D. Each hive shall be conspicuously marked with the owner's name, address, telephone number, and state registration number.

**8.10.060: FLYWAYS:**

A hive shall be placed on property so the general flight pattern of bees is in a direction that will deter bee contact with humans and domesticated animals. If any portion of a hive is located within fifteen (15) feet from an area which provides public access or from a property line on the lot where an apiary is located, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, a flyway barrier at least six (6) feet in height shall be established and maintained around the hive except as needed to allow access. Such flyway, if located along the property line or within five (5) feet of the property line, shall consist of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation, or a combination thereof, which extends at least ten (10) feet beyond the hive in each direction so that bees are forced to fly to an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

**8.10.070: WATER:**

Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the colony continuously between March 1 and October 31 of each year. The water shall be in a location that minimizes any nuisance created by bees seeking water on neighboring property.

**8.10.080: BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT:**

Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other beekeeping equipment is left upon the grounds of an apiary site. Upon removal from a hive, all such equipment shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

**8.10.090: CONFLICT WITH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS:**

In the event of a conflict between any regulation set forth in this chapter and honeybee management regulations adopted by the Salt Lake Valley Health Department, the most restrictive regulations shall apply.

**8.10.100: VIOLATIONS:**

A violation of this chapter may be remedied as provided in Sections 8.04.500, 8.04.510, and 8.04.520 of this title.

When a violation of this chapter is committed, and provided it is not charged in conjunction with another criminal offense and does not constitute a fourth or succeeding notice of violation within a twenty-four (24) month period, an authorized agent of the City shall issue a civil notice of violation to such violator in lieu of a misdemeanor citation.

**Littleton, CO (excerpt from ordinance)**

(G) Queens: In any instance in which a colony exhibits usually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

- *Desired Outcome:* Develop educational and training programs and initiatives which expand the capacity of existing local food producers while at the same time increase the number of local food producers.

### ***Strategic Objectives #5: Improve Community Health Outcomes***

A local food system would improve the general community health by providing more access to healthy, affordable foods. Based on the data collected surrounding existing key health indicators, there are many opportunities to impact the health in the F-M Metropolitan area with improved access to healthy food options and local foods.

- *Desired Outcome:* Remove barriers to consuming healthy local foods by providing more access points throughout the F-M Metropolitan area.
- *Desired Outcome:* Increase the consumption of local foods by demonstrating proper handling, preparation, and preservation of fresh foods and developing programs that incentivize fresh food purchases.
- *Desired Outcome:* Develop incentives that support healthy and local food donations for the food bank and shelters.
- *Desired Outcome:* Provide nutrition education and training on healthy food choices, cooking and preparing meals, and the impact of food choices on health.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The *Strategic Objectives* and *Desired Outcomes* listed above present an opportunity to develop an inter-connected set of action items that will lead to the growth and development of a local foods system. Identified as the most important implementation step, is the creation of a Metropolitan Food Policy Council. Additional recommendations are varied in scope and have been broken down into the six (6) main focus areas.

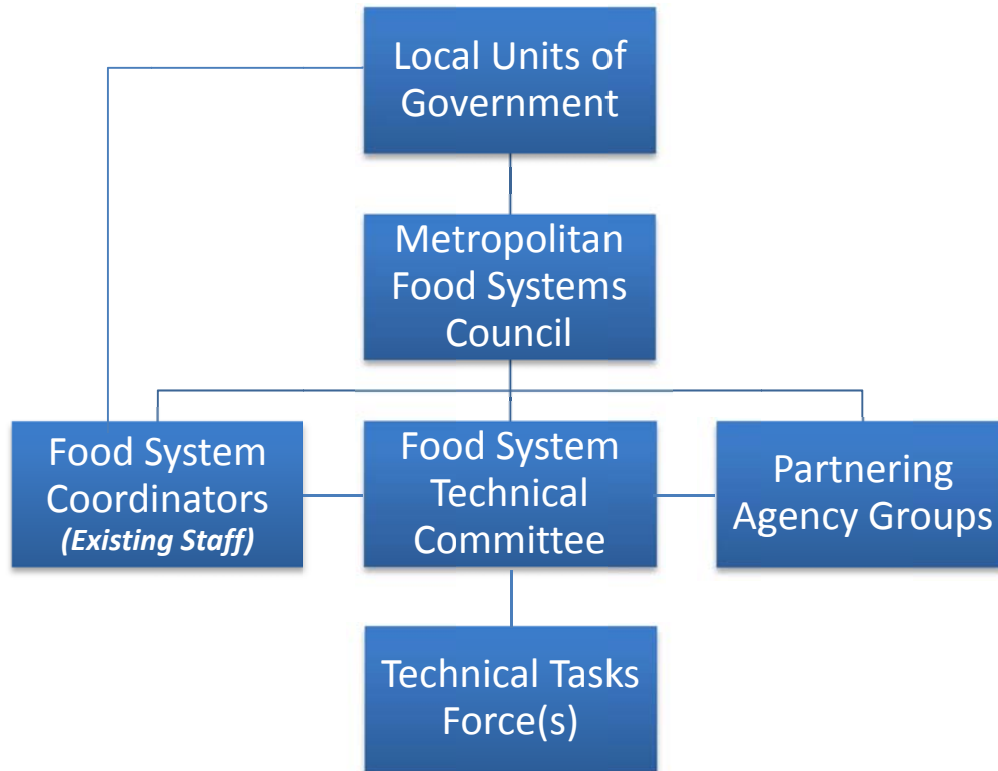
### **#1 Development of a Metropolitan Food Systems Council**

The Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative has operated since its inception with little political and legislative authority to bring about meaningful change to the development and expansion of the local food system within the FM Metropolitan area. In fact, most work of the CCFSI has to date been accomplished through smaller Task Forces, without any overarching political or policy direction framework from any local unit of government. In order to ensure real and meaningful progress towards the initiatives outlined in the Metropolitan Food System Plan, a more recognizable framework is needed.

To ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan and its many interrelated initiatives, it is recommended that local units of government and affiliated



interest groups explore the creation of a Metropolitan Food Systems Council. The Metropolitan Food Systems Council would be formed through an intergovernmental agreement between the cities of Fargo, Cass County, and Clay County. The broader framework for a Metropolitan Food Systems Council is outlined below.



The Metropolitan Food Systems Council would serve to coordinate and catalyze local efforts regarding improvements to the local food system. Similar to other inter-governmental boards in the FM Metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Food Systems Council could consist of a mix of both elected and possibly higher ranking administrative staff from affected local units of government. It is likely the Food Systems Council would be driven by a work program developed annually to ensure implementation of the Food System Plan and related initiatives.

The Food Systems Council would be initially staffed by Food System Coordinators, who would be existing city or county staff who have traditionally worked on local food systems issues since the inception of CCFSI. Food Systems Coordinators would be staffs from city and/or county public health departments, who are already engaged in Food Systems planning and implementation. Food Systems Coordinators would provide necessary logistical support for the Food Council and assist with outreach, development, and management. Overtime, as the Food System Council matures, the potential could exist to develop a metropolitan wide Food System Coordinator would work for the Food Systems Council.

The Food System Council would be driven by a Food System Technical Committee which would drive the day to day efforts regarding implementation of the Food Systems Plan. The Food

System Technical Committee would serve a similar function to the Food Systems Tasks Forces which have been in existence since inception of CCFSI, and would consist of staff level public health and planning staff from local units of government and Partnering Groups. Partnering Groups are envisioned to be those public and private sector entities who have shown an interest in food systems planning in the FM Metropolitan area (E.g. School, Colleges, Growers, Buyers, Distributors, Parks Departments/Districts, Extension Service, etc.). Partnering groups could provide expertise, resources, financial support, research, or any other useful support for specific food system projects and initiatives.

## #2 Economic Development

- Create and support a “Corner Store Initiative” that connects small farmers to corner stores, providing opportunities to buy and sell healthy and local food in neighborhood scale stores.
- Support the creation of a local food hub. A food hub would provide a centralized location for institutions to purchase local foods in large quantities.
- Establish cooperatives for local foods. These organizations could be organized in various ways to perform various functions like specialization of products, processing, or distribution.

## #3 Food Access

- Support and promote charitable food programs which encourage donations of healthy foods and excess fresh and local food products. There are many local and national projects to help facilitate this already in existence.
  - Hunger Free ND
  - [www.ampleharvest.com](http://www.ampleharvest.com)
  - [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)
- Remove barriers to accepting SNAP at farmers markets through paper scrip, token, or receipts. Increase the impact by soliciting funds to provide “bonuses” to SNAP users.
- Develop incentives for farmers to sell in low-income markets.
- Implement healthy and sustainable food service guidelines that are aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in Public Institutions.

## #4 Food Infrastructure

- Evaluate permanent locations for a farmers market. Permanency will increase visibility, stability, and provide an opportunity to include cultural events, infill, and redevelopment.
- Increase food-processing capacity in the region.

- Improve aggregation of local food to increase distribution efficiency and access to volume consumers.
- Establish a Metro Food Systems Profile that is updated annually.

#### #5 Outreach and Education

- Develop a comprehensive marketing campaign utilizing all forms of media to increase knowledge about local food benefits and availability.
- Create an expansive educational program that would offer gardening, handling, preparation, and preservation classes. Build upon the existing assets in the community: Minnesota and North Dakota extension services, university faculty, master gardeners and culinary experts.
- Integrate Farm to School Programs into the curriculum. Federal grants are available for educational greenhouses, school gardens, etc.
- Provide education on food safety regulations to increase consumer safety.
- Establish community kitchens that utilize existing licensed kitchen facilities. These kitchens would function to support small groups to prepare food products, teach cooking classes, and educate on safe food handling.

#### #6 Urban Agriculture

- Inventory underutilized public land that is available for community gardens.
- Incorporate urban agriculture into the zoning code and ordinances to permit urban agriculture activities by creating “best practices.” Provide model ordinances to facilitate the process of adoption.
- Ensure local and State government regulations and policies support local food goals.
- Provide incentives to strengthen food entrepreneurship.
- Create a community garden association.

The Metropolitan Food Systems Plan evaluates the trends, barriers, and existing conditions of the local food system. It provides a detailed list of issues, objectives and next steps. With effort from CCFSI, Metro COG, and the public these steps will change the F-M Metropolitan food system by increasing food access and food security through information, infrastructure, and efficiencies.