

# Attachment 1b

**26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Cass Clay Food Commission  
September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Fargo Commission Chambers**

**Members Present:**

Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commission, Chair  
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council  
Chelsey Johnson, Horace City Council  
Mindy Grant, At-Large Member  
Nancy Carriveau, At-Large Member  
Jeremiah Utecht, At-Large Member

**Members Absent:**

Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission  
John Strand, Fargo City Commission  
Sara Watson Curry, Moorhead City Council  
Vern Bennett, Cass County Commission  
Kayla Pridmore, At-Large Member  
Bukola Bakare, At-Large Member

**Others Present:**

Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health  
Rory Beil, Clay County Public Health  
Kayla Carlson, NDSU Extension  
Noelle Harden, U of M Extension  
Abby Gold, NDSU Department of Public Health  
Deb Haugen, Cass Clay Food Partners  
Margie Bailly, Cass Clay Food Partners  
Don Kinzler, Cass County Extension, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

A quorum was not present at the meeting. Non-actionable items were presented as information to the Commission and no action was taken on any items.

Chair Thorstad noted two new steering committee members: Kayla Carlson, NDSU Extension; and Emma Notermann, Clay County Planning

**1a. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda**

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Mr. Aasness and seconded by Ms. Carriveau. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

**1b. Review and Action on Minutes from May 8, 2019**

No action was taken.

**2. Commission Check-In**

Chair Thorstad stated that Commission members and the steering committee had an opportunity to provide updates on news or events happening in the community.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Horace would hold its first farmers market on October 11 from 3:30 to 7:00 PM at the Horace Fire Department. She indicated that vendors looking to sell consumable items were welcome.

Mr. Utecht informed the Commission that the Aronia Berry Harvest Festival would be held on September 15 at the Nelson Aronia Farm near Amenia, ND.

Ms. Grant stated that, as part of Welcoming Week, the Plains Art Museum would be hosting the first International Pop-Up Market on September 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. She indicated that the market would have fresh produce grown locally by New American farmers as well as crafts by local artisans.

Ms. Carriveau stated that trucks supplying fresh vegetables, bakery items, and boxed goods would be at Axis Clinicals in Dilworth September 11 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM as part of the Great Plains Food Bank Pop-Up Perishable Food Program. She indicated that anyone in need of food assistance was welcome to attend and receive food at no cost.

Mr. Aasness indicated that the Dilworth Farmers Market was moved from Whistle Stop Park to the Dilworth Community Center for the remainder of the season.

### **3. Single Use Packaging Materials Issue Brief and Snapshot**

Ms. Harden provided an update regarding three changes to the single use packaging materials snapshot. She informed the commission that an additional educational piece on MinnKota EnviroServices had been added which included information on their recycling efforts. She also stated that two additional bullet points had been added under 'Community Actions' including: providing consumers with additional recycling education to lessen recycling contamination; and assist local businesses to start as waste-free, low waste business, or work with existing businesses to move toward that goal.

Mr. Utecht stated that he owns a zero-waste craft soda business. He indicated that he would be happy to provide any additional information on how his business was able to become waste-free.

No action was taken.

### **4. Metro Food Plan Update**

Mr. Altenburg provided the Commission an update on the Metro Food Plan. He stated that the purpose of the plan is to help local governments and the public understand why food systems planning is important in the community, identify food production and food security challenges and opportunities in the area, and provide strategic recommendations for local governments to guide the development of the local and regional food system.

Mr. Altenburg stated that the previous Metropolitan Food Systems Plan was first completed in October 2013 and that it established the first framework and policy considerations for understanding and strengthening the local food system. He iterated that this plan was adopted by the City of Fargo, Fargo Cass Public Health, and Clay County Public Health.

Mr. Altenburg informed the Commission that the Metro Food Plan would be centered on the five values of the Cass Clay Food Partners, including: a food system that is inclusive, integrated, and equitable, a food system that supports and enhances quality of life for all residents; a food

system that respects all cultures, a food system that is economically and ecologically resilient, and a food system that fosters entrepreneurship and sustainable innovation. He indicated that case studies supporting these core values will be highlighted in the plan.

Mr. Altenburg provided brief information on the indicators and trends that would be analyzed as part of the Metro Food Plan. He also highlighted public input efforts that were conducted as part of the plan as well as current goals, objectives, and next steps.

### **5. Strengthening Ties between the Cass Clay Food Commission and Action Network**

Ms. Gold a brief overview of the relationship between two components of the Cass Clay Food Partners: the Cass Clay Food Commission and the Action Network, also known as First Fridays. She concluded with a call to action for Commissioners to attend First Fridays at Theatre B to hear about events happening in the community, or volunteering to deliver announcements about upcoming Commission meetings.

### **6. Approaches to Pollinator Conservation**

Don Kinzler, Cass County Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources, provided the Commission information on approaches to pollinator conservation. He stated that one-third of all the food people eat comes as the result of pollinators and that many of the foods we eat would not be around if not for bees, butterflies, and other insect pollinators and pollinating birds. He stated that ways in which people can help pollinators to by providing food in the form of pollinator gardens, sheltering techniques for both summer and winter, and limiting the use of pesticides.

Ms. Johnson asked if vector control for mosquitos affects bee populations. Mr. Kinzler stated that he was not positive of the impacts of current vector control spraying but that insecticides in general have more toxicity to pollinators than other pesticides.

Mr. Utecht asked what square footage acreage was needed to maintain a stable pollinator base. Mr. Kinzler answered that he wasn't aware of any figures but that they are probably out there and that it would be an interesting question to investigate.

Ms. Grant asked if Extension works with different park districts in the area to assist in developing pollinator-friendly planting. Mr. Kinzler stated that he was unaware of any collaboration efforts but stated that, in many cases, it would be an easy transition to integrate pollinator sustainers and switching up some of the varieties of plants and flowers.

### **7. Pollinator Habitat Issue Brief and Snapshot**

Ms. Lipetzky provided the Commission information on an issue brief and snapshot developed for pollinator habitats. She stated that an excellent resource is the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Pollinator Plan that has nine action steps on how to maintain pollinator habitats. She indicated that one of the top actions that benefit pollinators is to protect and restore natural areas, including planting trees and pollinator-friendly plants, as well as prairies and wetland restoration. She also indicated that NDSU and NDSU Extension have a number of resources.

Ms. Lipetzky informed the Commission of a number of local initiatives including: a pollinator garden at the Moorhead Country Club, Clay County Community Solar Gardens, Plains Art Museum Buzz Lab, Public Art Saint Paul: Bee Real Bee Everywhere, and the Longspur Prairie Fund Annual Bee Hunt. She also provided information on different promotions including World Bee Day on May 20, World Honey Bee Day on August 15, and National Pollinator Week the third week in June.

### **8. Public Comment Opportunity**

Chair Thorstad informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments.

No comments were made.

### **9. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable**

Chair Thorstad asked for the Commission and the steering committee to share any additional updates.

Ms. Harden mentioned that the Northern Plains Botanical Society was doing a fundraiser for their Edible Forest on September 28 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. She also highlighted an MPR news story on the work of Growing Together.

### **10. Commission Action Steps**

Chair Thorstad stated that the next Commission meeting would be held on November 13. He also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held on October 4, 8:00 AM at Theatre B in Moorhead.

Chair Thorstad adjourned the meeting at 11:42 AM.