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**To:** Cass Clay Food Commission  
**From:** Cass Clay Food Partners  
Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)  
**Date:** January 11, 2021  
**RE:** Cass Clay Food Commission Agenda and Correspondence

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### 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Cass Clay Food Commission

January 13, 2021 10:30 am – 12:00 pm  
Location: Virtual Meeting –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81021811832?pwd=NOR5dGhBbzRYQ1UzM0o2M3hhdUZiQT09>

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| 10:30 am | 1. Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Approve Order &amp; Contents of the Overall Agenda</li><li>b. Review &amp; Action on Minutes from November 4, 2020 (<b>Attachment 1</b>)</li><li>c. Welcome to New Food Commission Members: Duane Breitling, Cass County &amp; Deb White, City of Moorhead</li></ul> |
| 10:35 am | 2. Commission Check-In – Chair Mongeau   |
| 10:40 am | 3. Approve Appointments of At-Large Members – Adam Altenburg ( <b>Attachment 2</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. New Appointment: Jeff York</li><li>b. Reappointment: Jeremiah Utecht</li></ul>   |
| 10:45 am | 4. Jurisdiction Spotlight: City of Fargo – Arlette Preston   |
| 10:55 am | 5. Hunger Update – Taylor Syvertson, Great Plains Food Bank  |
| 11:20 am | 6. Cass Clay Food Partners Strategic Planning Exercise: Recap – Noelle Harden ( <b>Attachment 3</b> )  |
| 11:40 am | 7. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Mongeau  |
| 11:50 am | 8. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable – Chair Mongeau  |
| 11:55 am | 9. Commission Action Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Next First Fridays – February 5, 2021</li><li>b. Next Commission Meeting – March 10, 2021</li></ul>  |
| 12:00 pm | 10. Adjournment  |

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Cass Clay Food Commission meetings are taped and rebroadcast on cable channel TV Fargo 56 each Friday at 11:00 am. People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and need special accommodations should contact Savanna Leach at Metro COG at 701.532.5100. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements. Meeting minutes are available on the Cass Clay Food Partners website at [www.cassclayfoodpartners.org](http://www.cassclayfoodpartners.org) and Metro COG's website at [www.fmmetrocog.org](http://www.fmmetrocog.org).

A PLANNING ORGANIZATION SERVING

FARGO, WEST FARGO, HORACE, CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA AND MOORHEAD, DILWORTH, CLAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

# Attachment 1

**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the  
Cass Clay Food Commission  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission, Chair  
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council  
Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commission  
Chelsey Johnson, Horace City Council  
Sara Watson Curry, Moorhead City Council  
Mandy George, West Fargo City Commission  
Beth McConnon, At-Large Member  
Jeffrey Miller, At-Large Member  
Janice Tweet, At-Large Member

**Members Absent:**

Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commission  
Kayla Pridmore, At-Large Member  
Jeremiah Utecht, 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  
Timothy Hiller, Concordia College – Community Engagement  
Deb Haugen, Cass Clay Food Partners  
Gabrielle Lommel, Moorhead Community Garden Coordinator  
Verna Kragnes, Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Jack Wood, Growing Together  
Nola Storm, Growing Together  
Fayme Stringer, Arc Friendship Gardens and Community Orchard  
Jack Wood, Growing Together  
Don B., Public Citizen  
Laurie Beth, Public Citizen  
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

Chair Mongeau called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

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

A motion to approve the order and contents of the overall agenda was made by Ms. Watson Curry and seconded by Ms. George. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

**1b. Review and Action on Minutes from September 9, 2020**

A motion to approve the minutes for January was made by Ms. Preston and seconded by Ms. Watson Curry. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

## **2. Commission Check-In**

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

Ms. Lipetzky noted that Kayla Pridmore has moved out of the Fargo-Moorhead area and would no longer be serving as an at-large member on the Commission. She stated that the steering committee would be accepting applications for a new at-large member via the Cass Clay Food Partners website. Chair Mongeau asked if applicants needed to be from a certain jurisdiction or have a certain expertise in food systems. Ms. Lipetzky responded that applicants aren't restricted by geography and that the steering committee will gladly accept and review any applications it receives.

## **3. Pesticide Use on School Grounds Snapshot**

Ms. Lipetzky noted that the draft community snapshot regarding pesticide use on school grounds had been presented at the Food Commission meeting in September and that Commission members had asked for more time to review the document before approval. She stated that the steering committee had not received any additional comments, inputs, or changes and that the document was unchanged from the prior meeting.

Ms. Watson Curry asked a clarifying question as to whether the snapshot could be presented to area school boards. Ms. Lipetzky stated that there is a lot of useful data in the snapshot and that it would be a good idea to share it with the different school boards and make them aware of the information. She also noted that the steering committee was looking to follow-up with Moorhead Area Public Schools and Ellen Hopkins Elementary School no-spray test site.

Ms. Preston asked if there have been any conversations or analyses on pesticide use with regard to park district land and other city- or public-owned land. Ms. Lipetzky answered that a separate snapshot had been approved by the Commission which addresses pesticide use on public land and that that information is available in a separate document.

A motion to approve the pesticide use on school grounds snapshot was made by Ms. Watson Curry and seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

## **4. Update on Discussion of Formation of Pesticide Working Group**

Ms. Harden provided a follow-up to the discussion at the Food Commission meeting in September regarding the formation of a pesticide working group.

Ms. Harden noted that the Commission had now approved three documents regarding pesticide use: two documents that look at pesticide and herbicide use on public lands and another document that addresses pesticide application on school grounds. She stated that, based on feedback at the prior Commission meeting, the steering committee has decided that it would be more beneficial to continue working directly with Cass County Weed Control and the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District rather than creating a separate working group. She noted that the steering committee would also like to continue conversations with Moorhead Area Public Schools and Ellen Hopkins Elementary School as it evaluates its no-spray test site near its playground and garden site.

Ms. Harden also explained that part of the reasoning for this decision is that previous discussions and engagement activities have been extremely productive on their own and iterated that both Cass County Weed Control and the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District have presented to the Commission in the past.

Chair Mongeau stated that she believed this would be good plan moving forward.

Ms. Watson Curry explained that she saw three interconnected issues regarding pesticides and herbicides: vector control, noxious weeds, and cosmetic applications. She stated that the goal to keep in mind is how best to keep the food supply and public use sites safe.

Ms. Preston asked whether staff from the City of Fargo has been involved or if the steering committee was planning to meet with anyone. Ms. Harden answered that the steering committee hadn't met with any staff from Fargo yet but that it would continue working with Cass County Weed Control and the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District and move from there.

#### **5. Jurisdiction Spotlight: City of Moorhead**

Ms. Watson Curry and Gabrielle Lommel, Community Garden Coordinator for the City of Moorhead, provided the Commission an update on the city's three community gardens: Grateful Garden at First Presbyterian Church, River View Garden at Moorhead Public Housing, and the Bridgepointe Community Garden at Bridgepointe Community Church.

Ms. Lommel explained that the benefits of Moorhead's community gardens include: increased food security and fresh food donations to people in need, land access and shared responsibility in growing food, and community involvement. She noted that the Grateful Garden recently doubled in size from 800 square feet to 1,600 square feet, with improved raised garden beds, targeted volunteer outreach in the surrounding neighborhood, and signage explaining the garden's history and mission. She stated that River View Garden was also expanded from 1,900 square feet to 3,800 square feet, with new fencing to keep deer out and plans to hold a workshop with MPH residents for involvement in the garden in the spring of 2021.

Ms. Lommel concluded with several additional updates including the formation of the Moorhead-Fargo Community Garden Network and meeting with the Local Foods Coordinator with the City of Bismarck to learn more about its partnership between the city, the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, and Bismarck Public Schools. She noted that Probstfield Gardens would be closing and that over 50 gardeners may be looking for space in the upcoming growing season. She also explained that the City of Moorhead's new comprehensive plan would be addressing local food and that she would be working with the Ecosystems Services Working Group on a proposal for an edible forest at M.B. Johnson Park.

Ms. George asked if there has been any work with community gardens in West Fargo. Ms. Lommel stated that she was unsure of any community gardening activities in West Fargo. Ms. Haugen noted that a prior community garden had been located at Triumph West and that she was unsure of the status of another garden in one of West Fargo's core neighborhoods. Jack Wood of Growing Together believed that the garden at Triumph West was restarted in 2019. Chair Mongeau asked if Mr. Altenburg could send Ms. George the Commission's blueprint on community gardens.

Ms. Preston left at 10:59 AM

#### **6. Cass Clay Food Partners Strategic Planning Exercise: Breakout and Discussion**

Ms. Harden led an exercise in which the Commission, steering committee, and community members broke out into small groups to discuss the strategic planning needs of the Cass Clay Food Partners. She asked groups to discuss two separate questions: what are the most important issues that the Cass Clay Food Partners should be working on over the next two years and what work were people most proud of. She also shared the 2020 impact report which

included history of the Cass Clay Food Partners, information on the 20 policy documents created since 2015, and the Commission's response to Covid-19.

### **7. Public Comment Opportunity**

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

No comments were made.

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

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

Chair Mongeau noted that Clay County would be moving forward with an update to its comprehensive plan and was looking forward to utilizing the snapshots and other documents in that plan.

Ms. Harden and other members of the Commission and steering committee thanked Ms. Watson Curry for her time and service on the Food Commission.

### **9. Commission Action Steps**

Chair Mongeau stated that the next Commission meeting would be held on January 13. She also mentioned that the next First Fridays event would be held online on November 6 at 8:00 AM.

Chair Mongeau adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.

## Attachment 2

**To:** Cass Clay Food Commission  
**From:** Adam Altenburg, Metro COG  
**Date:** January 6, 2021  
**Re:** *Approve Appointments of New At-Large Commission Members*

In addition to members from each of the seven jurisdictions in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area, there is provision for an additional five at-large members to serve on the Food Commission. It is the intent that at-large members bring additional and varied expertise to the Commission. At-large members are initially vetted by the Steering Committee before being brought to a vote by the Commission. Each at-large member serves a two-year term.

With Kayla Pridmore concluding her term, the Steering Committee sought applicants for one new at-large member in late November and early December. With the completion of this process, the Steering Committee recommends the appointment of Jeff York as new at-large member to the Food Commission.

The Steering Committee also recommends the reappointment of Jeremiah Utecht to an additional two-year term on the Commission.

**Requested Action:**

**Approve the appointment of Jeff York and reappointment of Jeremiah Utecht to the Food Commission**

APPLICATION FOR CASS CLAY FOOD COMMISSION		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name: Jeff York		
Phone: 701 367 1904		
Email: jdyork@gmail.com		
Preferred mailing address: 408 Roberts ST N APT 414		
City: Fargo	State: ND	ZIP Code: 58102
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION		
Current employer: RD Offutt Company		
Employer address: 700 7th ST S		
Phone: 877 444 7363	E-mail:	Fax:
City: FARGO	State: ND	Zip: 58103
Position:		
WHAT SKILLS, TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION?		
None. Just wanting to help. I work in IT analytics.		
REASON FOR YOUR INTEREST TO SERVE ON THIS COMMISSION:		
I both live and work downtown. This summer I saw people digging into dumpsters for food. It broke my heart. I want to make a difference and this could be a way.		
PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF BIO (200 WORDS OR LESS): NOTE: THIS MAY BE USED FOR PUBLICATION TO DESCRIBE THE COMMISSION.		
Although I wasn't born here, I grew up in Fargo and consider it my hometown. I attended Fargo South and Moorhead State University studying Political Science. I have worked a number of jobs in my career but have spent the last 16 at RD Offutt Company as a Database Administrator/Business Intelligence Architect.		
Signature:		Date:
<p>Please return this form to Kim Lipetzky – <a href="mailto:KLipetzky@FargoND.gov">KLipetzky@FargoND.gov</a></p> <p>Or mail to:</p> <p><b>Fargo Cass Public Health</b>  Attn: Kim Lipetzky  1240 25<sup>th</sup> Street South  Fargo, ND 58103-2367</p>		



# Cass Clay Food Partners

## PRIORITIES FOR 2021



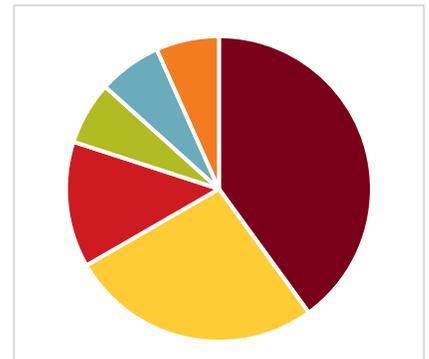
### CASS CLAY FOOD COMMISSION – SUMMARY OF ACTION PLANNING

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, members of the Cass Clay Food Commission and the Cass Clay Food Partners Steering Committee engaged in an action planning conversation during part of the regular bi-monthly meeting. In four breakout groups, attendees discussed two questions:

- 1) What are the most important issues Cass Clay Food Partners should work on in the next two years?
- 2) What would success look like for our network two years from now?

Attendees identified six potential priorities for our next two years of work. Fifteen attendees then voted for the top priority that our network should focus on for 2021 as follows:

- Integrate food into comprehensive planning efforts (6)
- Continue our COVID response efforts (4)
- Form a stronger connection with the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition (2)
- Continue policy efforts related to gardens and chickens (1)
- Promote urban farming / gardening on flood buy-out land (1)
- Support school gardens (1)



### STEERING COMMITTEE ACTION PLANNING SUMMARY

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the CCFP Steering Committee met for action planning. We discussed:

- Current operations and Steering Committee roles
- Key partnerships and special projects
- Priorities and overall focus for 2021 – 2022 on governmental planning efforts

### CCFP PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2021

It is our top priority in 2021 to integrate food systems into governmental planning efforts, including comprehensive, emergency, recreational plans, corridor studies, etc. We will continue to center issues of equity and justice by addressing hunger and environmental resilience. We will also continue to work toward implementation of our policy blueprints and COVID response, including ongoing efforts to support a more accessible boulevard gardening program in Fargo.