

Attachment 1

**31st Meeting of the
Cass Clay Food Commission
November 4th, 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.