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 2, 2016

RE: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Agenda and Correspondence

7th Meeting of the
Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

March 9, 2016 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Fargo City Commission Chambers

10:30 am 1. Welcome

   a. Approve Order & Contents of the Overall Agenda
   b. Review & Action on Minutes from January 13, 2016 **(Attachment 1)**

10:35 am 2. Backyard Composting

   a. Backyard Composting Education **(Attachment 2)** – Stephanie Reynolds
   b. Backyard Composting Blueprint **(Attachment 3)** – Megan Myrdal
   c. Public Input
   d. Commission Discussion

11:00 am 3. Concordia College High Tunnel – Ken Foster, Samantha Hill & Tyler Franklin

11:15 am 4. Advisory Commission One-Year Recap **(Attachment 4)** – Megan Myrdal

11:40 am 5. Minnesota Food Access Planning Guide Update – Adam Altenburg

11:45 am 6. Online Community Input **(Attachment 5)** – Kim Lipetzky

11:35 am 7. Public Comment Opportunity – Chair Durand

11:40 am 8. Commission & Steering Committee Roundtable

11:55 am 9. Commission Action Steps

   a. Evaluation of Commission Purpose & Activities
   b. Next Meeting – May 11, 2016

12:00 pm 10. Adjournment

Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory 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 Nakhaly Swearingen at Metro COG at 701.232.3242. 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 City of Fargo Let's Eat Local website at **www.letseatlocal.org** and Metro COG's website at **www.fmmetrocog.org**.

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

Attachment 1

6th Meeting of the
Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
January 13th, 2016
Fargo Commission Chambers

Members Present:
Heidi Durand, Moorhead City Council, Chair
Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commission
Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission
Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council
Mike Williams, Fargo City Commission
Jessica Arneson, At-Large Member
Jon Evert, At-Large Member
Janet Paul, At-Large Member
Dana Rieth, At-Large Member

Members Absent:
Arland Rasmussen, Cass County Commission
Andrea Baumgardner, At-Large Member

Others Present:
Megan Myrdal, Project Coordinator
Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Rita Ussatis, North Dakota State University Extension
Noelle Harden, University of Minnesota Extension
Abby Gold, Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative
Adam Altenburg, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments

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

1(a). 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 Mr. Mongeau. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

1(b). Review and Action on Minutes from November 4, 2015
Mr. Evert stated that a small correction needed to be made to the 2016 Commission Chair Appointment discussion to reflect that the motion was seconded by Mr. Aasness. Mr. Altenburg replied that that correction would be made.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Evert and seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

2(a). Urban Chickens Education
Ms. Myrdal explained that the topic of urban chickens was previously discussed at the Commission meeting in November 2015. Ms. Myrdal stated that since several Commissioners were absent at that meeting, the Steering Committee would review the information again so as to give everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts and provide input on the issue and the accompanying blueprint.

Ms. Myrdal explained that the growing desire in backyard chickens is partly attributable to the growing interest as a food source (eggs) and also people seeking a closer connection to their food. Ms. Myrdal stated that one hen is able to provide three to four eggs a week. Ms. Myrdal stated that chickens may also be kept as companion animals that can provide a source of comfort. Ms. Myrdal explained that backyard chickens may also be a way to teach children about nature, agriculture, and how to responsibly care for animals. Ms. Myrdal concluded that chickens are omnivores and are able to help with food waste reduction as part of an integrated food system.

Ms. Myrdal stated that there are many different breeds of chickens that are available that have been specifically bred for a backyard environment. Ms. Myrdal explained that breeds often used in an urban setting have been bred to have a mellow temperament, sustained egg laying, and northern climate tolerance. Ms. Myrdal provided several examples of heavier breeds adaptable to northern climates including the Buff Orpington, Ameraucanas, and the Speckled Sussex.

Ms. Myrdal explained that a proper diet and fresh water are important to maintain backyard chickens. Ms. Myrdal stated that chickens will eat grains, fruits, vegetables, and insects, as well as fruit, vegetable, and garden scraps. Ms. Myrdal stated that feed requirements tend to increase in the winter and decrease in the summer due to metabolic changes. Ms. Myrdal explained that chickens need to be fed daily, let out of their coops each morning and put inside their coops at dusk each night, and that eggs should be picked up twice a day.

Ms. Myrdal stated that hens begin laying eggs at around six months and continue for five to ten years depending on the breed, nutrition, and health of the animal. Ms. Myrdal explained that peak production usually happens within the first two years and drops each year as the hen molts in the early fall, in tandem with the loss of daylight hours every season. Ms. Myrdal stated that it is essential that hens have at least 12 to 14 hours of daylight each day to continue laying eggs and that a regular light bulb inside coops is essential to allow for sufficient lighting to keep producing eggs.

Ms. Myrdal explained that a coop and a run are two important structures for backyard chickens, as well as nest boxes, with one nest box per four to five birds. Ms. Myrdal stated that chickens also like to be up high and a place to roost is important. Ms. Myrdal stated that coops must provide protection from weather and predators and be well-insulated. Ms. Myrdal also stated that coops should have a light bulb or heat lamp for winter months, as well as ventilation for fresh air. Ms. Myrdal stated that it is recommended that coops have a minimum three to five square feet per bird, including outdoor space. Ms. Myrdal explained that the main predators to chickens are raccoons, rats, owls, hawks, and cats – and that an enclosed space at night is essential for their protection. Ms. Myrdal stated that the run is important to provide chickens a fenced, protected area while they are outside.

Ms. Myrdal stated that Fleet Farm and other retailers have, in recent years, noticed an upward trend in backyard chicken keeping. Ms. Myrdal explained that 2015 was the first year in which Fleet Farm held poultry clinics, which explained best practices on how to keep backyard chickens. Ms. Myrdal stated that nine clinics were held in 2015 and that 20 were scheduled for 2016, including one in Fargo. Ms. Myrdal stated that urban chicken keeping requires about a $500 minimum investment.

Ms. Myrdal explained that chickens raised in backyard settings generally stay healthy and are not easily susceptible to diseases. Ms. Myrdal stated that monitoring changes in a chicken's personality or energy level is importation in monitoring a chicken's health. Ms. Myrdal stated that sanitation is also key and that coops and outdoor areas should be cleaned weekly or as needed to control manure and odor build-up. Ms. Myrdal explained that feeders and waterers should be regularly cleaned and

disinfected. Ms. Myrdal stated that troughs, perches, and nests should also be regularly cleaned and disinfected and that thorough cleaning of the coop and run is done once a year.

Ms. Myrdal informed the Commission of common concerns that are expressed with raising backyard chickens and how they may be addressed or debunked. Ms. Myrdal explained one concern in that roosters are loud and that allowing chickens in an urban setting is a nuisance. Ms. Myrdal stated that egg-laying hens are female while roosters are male and that most urban settings ban roosters. Ms. Myrdal explained that hens at their loudest speak at the same decibel level as human conversation but is also personality based, with some hens being more talkative than others.

Ms. Myrdal stated that another common concern is that birds carry diseases, and of particular concern salmonella, and that people will get sick from backyard chickens. Ms. Myrdal explained that live poultry may have salmonella germs in their droppings and on their bodies and that people become infected with salmonella when they put their hands on areas that have been in contact with feces in or around their mouth. Ms. Myrdal provided information from the Centers for Disease Control on guidelines to reduce salmonella infections from live poultry including: washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling live poultry, using hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available, supervising young children anytime they are around live poultry, washing hands after removing soiled shoes and clothing, thoroughly cooking eggs, cleaning any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry, and always assuming that anywhere that live poultry has roamed is contaminated. Ms. Myrdal explained that children younger than five, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems should not handle live poultry. Ms. Myrdal also stated that people should not eat or drink in areas with live poultry and that chickens should not be allowed roam inside people's houses. Ms. Myrdal stated that most outbreaks of salmonella have been linked with people bringing live poultry into their homes.

Ms. Myrdal expressed that another common concern is that urban chickens will attract unwanted pests such as flies. Ms. Myrdal stated that flies and other pests lay their eggs in droppings because of the moisture content and that waste should be removed every four to five days. Ms. Myrdal also stated that proper bedding care is important to prevent pest breeding. Ms. Myrdal stated that chicken owners often use materials such as wood shavings, sawdust, dry leaves, or straw provide a dry cushion and also help control odor and pests. Ms. Myrdal explained that coop bedding may be collected with manure and disposed in a composting bin or that manure and soiled bedding may be separated and cleaned on a daily basis.

Ms. Myrdal stated that an increased presence of predators such as rats, raccoons, and hawks into the urban setting has also been listed as a common concern. Ms. Myrdal explained that chickens should not attract urban predators more than a cat or dog. Ms. Myrdal stated that, with the exception of hawks, most predators are nocturnal while chickens are active during the day, and that enclosing chickens at night should prevent predators from accessing them. Ms. Myrdal explained that not leaving feed out overnight is also a good practice.

Ms. Myrdal addressed a final common concern in which the egg-laying potential of chickens is limited to only a few years and concerns with what to do with chickens after that period. Ms. Myrdal explained that hens do outlive their ability to produce eggs but that there are options to do after that period including: slaughtering and processing options in the region, donating to local producers, or choosing to keep birds as companion animals regardless of egg production.

Ms. Myrdal concluded that people desire to keep backyard chickens for a variety of reasons including food, education, companionship, and sustainability. Ms. Myrdal stated that a number of communities across the United States and in the region have changed ordinances to allow for a certain number of backyard hens with defined guidelines and restrictions.

2(b). Urban Chickens Blueprint
Ms. Harden informed the Commission that several revisions had been made to the backyard chickens blueprint since the Commission meeting in November 2015. Ms. Harden explained that the background section includes reasons people choose to keep backyard chickens, as well as a list of common issues that ordinances address. Ms. Harden stated that within the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Area, chicken keeping is permitted in Cass County, Clay County as an accessory use, and Fargo with conditions.

Ms. Harden explained the framework for evaluating urban chickens including health, environment, economic, and social aspects. Ms. Harden explained a health benefit of urban chicken includes an increased access to nutritious food source, while a concern would be disease risk. Ms. Harden stated that environmental benefits include keeping yards clean of bugs, pests, and weeds, utilizing chicken droppings as fertilizer, and reducing overall food waste, while a concern may be the attraction of unwanted predators. Ms. Harden explained that economic benefits include possible financial relief for low-income families and the potential for individuals to sell backyard chicken eggs, while concerns may be cost of permitting fees and costs associated with setting up a coop along with concerns about disposal of dead birds. Ms. Harden stated that social benefits include regarding chickens as companion animals and increasing awareness of the food cycle, while concerns may include noise, odor, visual worries, and difficulty in keeping chickens in winter.

Ms. Harden addressed a list of common concerns, as well as potential solutions for backyard chickens including: disease, pest attraction, predator attraction, costs to low-income families, disposal, noise, smell, and winter keeping.

Ms. Harden informed the Commission of the status of backyard chicken keeping in regional jurisdictions and those which allow backyard chicken keeping including: Duluth, MN, Lincoln, NE, Rochester, MN, and Sioux Falls, SD. Ms. Harden stated that Bismarck, ND and Grand Forks, ND do not allow backyard chickens.

Ms. Harden stated that some of the common themes in the example ordinances on backyard chicken keeping include: licensing or permitting process, restrictions on the number of hens allowed, prohibition of roosters, and coop design.

Mr. Evert asked what areas of the blueprint have been changed since the previous Commission meeting. Ms. Myrdal explained that information on the North Dakota State University Vet Diagnostic Lab has been added to the section on disposal.

2(c). Public Input
A member of the audience displayed eggs she had collected from her chickens that day. The member reiterated that she believed urban chickens are a great idea and that she and her family had learned a lot in the past 15 months. The member stated that she believed there were simple ways that the blueprint could be modified so that it could be utilized by each of the jurisdictions.

Lindsay Breuler, citizen, asked whether copies of the blueprint were available to the public. Ms. Myrdal answered that the backyard chickens draft blueprint as well as the other previously approved blueprints on backyard beekeeping and community gardens are available on the Let's Eat Local website (letseatlocal.org).

2(d). Commission Discussion
Mr. Thorstad asked one of the audience members to expand upon her thoughts of what else could be included in the blueprint. The audience member stated that it had more to do with coop design and

that by incorporating a plate or piece of wood under the roosting bar, it would be able to catch much of the bird droppings and help keep the rest of the coop cleaner. The audience member stated this is a very easy modification to incorporate into the coop design and the blueprint.

A motion to approve the Backyard Chickens Blueprint was made by Ms. Mongeau and seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

3. Growing Together

Jack Wood of Growing Together stated that when the organization first started out in 2006, it had one garden plot and eight families that gardened there. Mr. Wood explained that today, Growing Together involves over 150 families and encompasses five sites, six gardens, and produced over 45,000 pounds of food in 2015. Mr. Wood stated that Growing Together has worked with seven different organizations to help them develop their own gardens through a toolkit which it has developed. Mr. Wood stated that Growing Together also works with schools and community groups including Bennett Elementary and Charism. Mr. Wood stated that as the organization moves forward, it will continue to work with churches to develop additional community gardens. Mr. Wood also talked about several youth programs which promote gardening to children and young adults.

4. Meeting with Metro-Area Planners

Mr. Altenburg informed the Commission that on December 10, 2015, the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Steering Committee hosted a meeting with area planners to discuss their experience with regard to food systems and urban agriculture. Mr. Altenburg stated that planners from the cities of Fargo, West Fargo, and Dilworth were in attendance. Mr. Altenburg expressed that this meeting was a good opportunity for the Steering Committee to get a better sense of what some of the cities' attitudes were regarding food systems and urban agriculture, as well as find out what types of questions and requests cities were receiving. Mr. Altenburg stated that it was also an opportunity to share with planners some of the projects the Commission has worked on and to share experiences

Mr. Altenburg stated that some of the questions asked of metro-area planners included: what were jurisdictions hearing from local residents in regard to food systems issues, what were their thoughts on their department's role in food systems issues, what were cities' receptiveness towards food systems changes, and what additional resources or assistance could the Commission or the Steering Committee provide in the future.

Mr. Altenburg explained that planners from both Fargo and West Fargo have been receiving more questions about what's allowed and not allowed in the area, notably the issue of urban chickens. Mr. Altenburg stated that planners from Fargo, West Fargo and Dilworth expressed that they would like to know more about what resident's attitudes are currently with regard to food systems and urban agriculture. Mr. Altenburg shared a view from the meeting that it really is the public contacting the cities, as well as individual city commission or council members, that helps move an issue such as urban agriculture forward. Mr. Altenburg stated that it was in one planner's view that it is more productive for an individual citizen to sit down with an elected official rather than having a larger group or organization try to press an issue forward.

Mr. Altenburg stated that each of the planners present were very interested in any additional resources, including handouts or brochures, that could be provide to the cities. Mr. Altenburg concluded that planners were impressed with the work the Commission has been doing, especially with regard to the blueprints that had been developed, and to continue the dialog and apprise planners about future Commission endeavors.

5. Meeting with Twin Cities Food Systems Consultant
Ms. Harden informed the Commission that on November 24, 2015, the Steering Committee met with Maggi Adamek, a food systems consultant who has done an extensive amount of work on food systems and food policy. Ms. Harden explained that Ms. Adamek provided examples of work done with other food policy councils active in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Ms. Harden also stated that Ms. Adamek provided key strategic guidelines related to communication with the public and the media. Ms. Harden also explained that Ms. Adamek provided examples of additional opportunities the Commission may be able to tap into as the Commission heads into its second year.

6. NDSU Masters of Public Health Student Projects
Ms. Myrdal informed the Commission that in late 2015, the Steering Committee was approached by Dr. Mary Larson of North Dakota State University Masters of Public Health program about several possible collaboration opportunities. Ms. Myrdal explained that through initial conversations, the Steering Committee worked to develop three student group projects that explored the Commission.

Ms. Myrdal explained that the first project was a report based on interviews with Commission members. Ms. Myrdal stated that the purpose of this project was to hear from Commission members about what they felt was going well and areas where Commission members saw room for improvement. Ms. Myrdal stated that a series of ten questions were summarized as part of the report including: issues that are most pressing, changes or suggestions to improve the Commission, whether the makeup of the Commission is sufficient, and whether there were additional community entities that the Commission should be working with.

Ms. Myrdal stated that two other student group projects dealt with message framing and how to share messages that may appeal to people on a value-based perspective. Ms. Myrdal explained that the first of these two projects was related to the Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative as a whole and some of the implementation strategies included as part of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. Ms. Myrdal explained that the second of these projects dealt solely with urban agriculture and key messaging and framing approaches.

7. Online Commuity Input
Ms. Lipetzky explained that community members who may not be able to attend Commission meetings are able to submit public comments through the City of Fargo Let's Eat Local website. Ms. Lipetzky stated that two public comments had been received between November and December 2015 and that both were related to urban chickens.

Ms. Lipetzky stated that the first comment came from a Moorhead resident who was in favor of backyard chickens and having the right to provide fresh food for yourself, as well as the benefits to children about the education that comes from raising chickens. Ms. Lipetzky stated that the second comment came from a Glyndon resident who was in attendance at the November 2015 Commission meeting. Ms. Lipetzky explained that the commenter had provided additional thoughts on ways to mitigate concerns regarding urban chickens.

Ms. Myrdal added that she had also spoken with the commenter from Glyndon and that one of the biggest issues they wanted to share was the need to form a poultry producers association should there be a need for education, networking, and resource sharing among people interested in urban chicken practices.

8. Public Comment Opportunity
Chair Durand informed the Commission that time would be allotted for public comments.

Paul Peter Nielson of Dirthead Microgreens informed the Commission that he produces microgreens for small, local-area restaurants, as well as wholesale bulk sales for several grocery stores. Mr. Nielson stated that he would like to move his business into urban farming which would utilize plots of land that are currently unused or underused in the metro area for restaurant-style production. Mr. Nielson asked for support from the Commission on potential issues that may come up including: production rules, food handling, packaging, and distribution – in addition to any additional laws and regulations for urban growing on a commercial scale.

Mr. Williams asked what type of scale Mr. Nielson was looking at producing microgreens in the metro area. Mr. Nielson answered that he would initially like to start with a half-acre, depending on the property and the need for raised beds, and moving towards two to three acres total. Mr. Nielson also stated he would like to utilize season extenders such as hoop houses, greenhouses, or high tunnels for year-round production of cut greens.

Mr. Evert asked if it was Mr. Nielson's intention to have the two to three acres all in one location or different plots spread out across the metro area. Mr. Nielson replied that pieces of land in various locations would be fine but would prefer them to be in or around the downtown area close to where most of the produce would be going. Mr. Nielson also stated he would prefer properties that already had access to plumbed water.

Lindsay Breuler informed the Commission that she is a new resident to the Fargo-Moorhead area and has previous experience in working with urban gardening and identifying food deserts in Columbus, OH. Ms. Breuler stated that part of her work involved the creation of a farmers market that had initiatives to allow people with SNAP benefits to receive double benefits on produce purchased at the market. Ms. Breuler stated that she was interested in knowing where the Commission was at on those types of activities.

Ms. Lipetzky answered that the Red River Market in downtown Fargo allows SNAP benefits and that work was being done on getting more farmers markets in the area to accept SNAP benefits.

Mr. Williams asked Ms. Breuler on the types of funding mechanisms used in her projects. Ms. Breuler stated that one program was a locally funded program through grant funding through the City of Columbus, as well as and private donors. Ms. Breuler explained that that program then went in on a state-wide grant through the United States Department of Agriculture and the State of Ohio, all of which helped to fund 15 gardens and 15 farmers markets in the Columbus area.

9. Commission and Steering Committee Roundtable

Chair Durand asked for the Commission and the Steering Committee to share any additional updates.

Mr. Thorstad shared information on an experience that West Fargo went through five years ago when a young couple approached the city about allowing backyard chicken keeping. Mr. Thorstad stated that discussion was spirited but that the neighborhood was against the prospect by a ten to one ratio. Mr. Thorstad agreed that a small part of this may have been due to misinformation, including the thought that this would allow roosters in urban areas. Mr. Thorstad explained that the City Commission's biggest concern was the attraction of predators, as the couple owned property along the northern edge of West Fargo and the area already had issues with skunks, fox, and coyotes. Mr. Thorstad also stated that West Fargo didn't believe it had the means to conduct proper inspections Mr. Thorstad concluded that many of the neighbors against the prospect of backyard chicken keeping at the time viewed it as a rural activity not suitable to an urban environment.

Ms. Paul asked Mr. Thorstad for clarification if those who were against urban chickens were neighbors of the couple. Mr. Thorstad answered that many of those opposed were indeed from the development area.

Ms. Paul provided information to the Commission about Concordia College's efforts to work with the Fresh Connect food hub to provide locally-grown produce. Ms. Paul stated that she was very satisfied with the produce that they received and that the model tended to work well. Ms. Paul explained that she was looking forward to continuing the partnership Fresh Connect in the summer.

Ms. Mongeau stated that she appreciated the efforts that had been made in reaching out to area planners and other leaders as the Commission moves forward on urban agriculture efforts.

Ms. Gold expressed gratitude in what the Commission has been working to achieve and the efforts of each of its individual members to increase access to healthy foods in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Ms. Gold emphasized that the Commission is becoming a model on how to move forward with food systems issues and that it is one of only three networks in North Dakota and Minnesota moving ahead on different food access and public health concerns.

Ms. Myrdal informed the Commission that Ken Foster and Jerry Raguse would be at the next Commission meeting to discuss the high tunnel project at Concordia College, including the challenges they ran into in trying to build a structure of that nature within city limits.

Mr. Evert expressed his appreciation in the work that Jack Wood has been doing with Growing Together and that the community has seen a lot of change in the past five years with how it

Mr. Evert asked Ms. Paul whether Concordia College was concerned with what may be termed 'ugly' food as opposed to what a grocery store may be concerned with. Ms. Paul answered that it depended on the item but for those which may be diced or mixed, it doesn't matter. Ms. Paul stated there had been minor issues with locally-grown apples that were completely edible but were not as visually appealing as store-bought apples.

Mr. Williams informed the Commission of the Fargo Land Development Task Force and how it is working to meet the goals of redevelopment, infill, and creating walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods. Mr. Williams stated that is important that other Commission members try to find ways to integrate their work on the Food Systems Advisory Commission with other committees and task forces they may work on. Mr. Williams shared that it may be beneficial for Ms. Myrdal to be part of the Land Development Task Force.

Mr. Aasness stated that he was working on expanding the community gardening network within the City of Dilworth.

10. Commission Action Steps

Ms. Myrdal stated that the next meeting would be held on March 9, 2016.

Mr. Altenburg explained that in the past year, the Commission had been focusing on ways to improve urban agriculture, one of the six focus areas of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan. Mr. Altenburg stated that Commission members would begin to look at other focus areas including: economic development, food access, food infrastructure, and outreach and education. Mr. Altenburg asked Commission members to be prepared to discuss which future focus areas they would like to work on at the Commission meeting in March.

Chair Durand adjourned the meeting at 11:52 AM.

Attachment 2

Backyard Composting

Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

Definitions

- Organics: living matter such as yard waste and food waste
- C:N Ratio: Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio
- Leachate: liquid run-off that contains nutrients such as nitrates

General Overview

- What is composting?
  - Decomposition of organic material such as yard and food waste through microbial activity and other organisms, creating a soil amendment.
- Two common backyard composting methods
  - Hot Compost
  - Cold Compost

Why People Compost

- Make their own soil amendment
  - Rich Organic Matter
  - Reduce Fertilizer Costs
  - Suppress Disease
  - Increase Moisture Holding Capacity
- Reduce Solid Waste Costs
  - 30 to 40% of all Municipal Solid Waste(MSW) can be composted

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 1: Select a dry, shady spot near a water source

- Shade will protect the compost pile from drying out too quickly.
- Compost piles are effective if piled 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide.
- Less work will be required to maintain moisture if the pile is near a water source.

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 2: Add brown and green material in alternate layers.

- Browns= Carbon
  - Leaves, twigs, straw, etc.
- Greens= Nitrogen
  - Food waste, chicken manure, etc.
- C:N Ratio is recommended to be 30:1 to 50:1
- Cover pile with a layer of browns.

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 3: Keep the compost moist (but not too wet).

- The compost pile should maintain moisture similar to a wrung out sponge.
- Bacteria, fungi, and other organisms need water to survive.
- An environment for organism to survive will maintain the rate of decomposition.

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 4: Occasionally turn your compost mixture to provide aeration.

- Turn once a week.
- Oxygen is required for microbial and organismal life.
- If the pile smells, reduce amount of nitrogen your adding and turn the pile.

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 5: As materials breakdown, the pile will get warm.

- If microbial activity heats up to above 160 °F, turn the pile to reduce risk of fire.

Backyard Compost Common Practices

Step 6: All done!

- Compost is a nutrient dense soil amendment. The quality of plants health and the taste of the food will be increased.

Important Considerations

- Residents of Minnesota need a MN State permit if the pile exceeds 120 cubic yards
  - Minnesota is mainly concerned about commercial compost facilities
- Leachate
- Rodents: Don’t compost animal waste, meat, bones, grease, oils, or fats
- Proper Odor: Earthy soil smell
- Proper education

How cities/jurisdictions can support residential composting?

- Make laws that do not prohibit compost practices such as containment of compost.
  - Containment of compost prohibits the act of turning the compost

What education is currently available to FM residents to learn to compost properly?

- NDSU Extension: Master Gardner Program
  - Online Education: *Composting Practices*: H885
- River Keepers: Composting workshop
- Clay County Solid Waste and the City of Fargo
  - Sell Composters

Clay County Commercial Compost Facility

- Full-Circle Organics
- Location: Clay County Landfill; Hawley, MN
- Recent Permits
  - Minnesota Yard Waste Permit
  - Conditional Use Permit from Moorhead and Hawley
- Early Stages of Development
  - If the facility is built, yard waste will be first composted until otherwise permitted to compost other materials.

Attachment 3

Backyard Composting

This issue brief provides background information related to backyard composting and addresses the common concerns and benefits from health, environmental, social, and economic standpoints. Appendices have been provided to share how regional jurisdictions are managing their backyard composting as well as example policy language from other jurisdictions.

Background

Backyard composting is the controlled decomposition of specific organic materials into a usable soil-like material. These organic materials can be grass, leaves, food scraps, paper products, and more. The process is an easy and economical way for residents to dispose of their household compostable waste (see Appendix C).

Communities with many residents composting in their backyards save money because they do not have to add these materials to their waste stream, which leads to filling local landfills at a slower pace and lowers the cost of waste pickup. Residents who compost can save money on waste collection and on garden resources, like fertilizers, pesticides, and water.

Not only backyard gardeners, but everyone impacts the waste cycle:

- **650 pounds**: the compostable materials generated by the average U.S. household each year[1]
- **4 pounds:** the amount of trash the average person generates *per day*[2]
- **1.5 tons**: the amount of solid waste the average person generates *per year*[3]
- **200 million tons**: the amount of garbage Americans produce in a year[4]
- **60 percent**: the organic waste (food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, etc.) going into landfills that could be composted[5]

With the many benefits for municipalities and residents (see Table 2), more cities are encouraging their residents to compost their organic waste. In the Fargo-Moorhead area, yard trimmings can be processed into compost, and the Fargo composting site has begun collecting methane from this decomposition process to use for energy. Metro area residents benefit from being able to compost yard trimmings, but these compost sites preclude other organic materials, like food waste and paper.

Table 1 provides a summary of composting ordinances in local jurisdictions. Although the City of Fargo does not address backyard composting in its municipal code, the Solid Waste Department sells backyard composters to residents and promotes using them to compost vegetable scraps, egg shells, tea bags, coffee filters, and more.

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[1] Penn State Extension. 2013. Some Composting Facts. [accessed 29 Sept 2015] http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/news/2013/some-composting-facts

[2] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Municipal Solid Waste [accessed 29 Sept 2015]. http://www3.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/

[3] Ibid.

[4] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 10 Fast Facts on Recycling. [accessed 29 Sept 2015]. http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/solidwasterecyclingfacts.htm

[5] Penn State Extension. 2013.

Table 1. Summary of backyard composting approval in local jurisdictions (as of September 2015)

Moorhead	Dilworth	Clay County	Fargo	West Fargo	Cass County
Permitted*	Not addressed	Not addressed**	Not addressed	Not addressed***	Not addressed

**Sections 3.4.10 states composting is permitted within all residentially zoned districts. Enclosed containers cannot exceed 250 cubic feet and 4 feet in height, must be placed in the rear yard with a 20 foot setback to any habitable building. Public nuisance regulations per 3.3.2(B)(6) would apply which specifically restrict "any use of property, substance or things...emitting or causing foul, offensive, noisome, nauseous or disagreeable odors."*
*** Yard waste composting (community or neighborhood) addressed as an Accessory Use.*
**** Yard waste composting is allowed per Chapter 15 nuisance clause, precludes vegetables and other compostables.*

Table 2. Framework for evaluating backyard composting

DOMAIN	BENEFIT	CONCERN
Health	Creates a rich fertilizer to improve health of garden	Attraction of pests or vermin
Environment	Reduces garbage going into the waste stream Reduces methane gas, which is a potent greenhouse gas Enriches the soil, reducing the need for pesticides and herbicides Reduces groundwater pollution and toxicity in landfill runoff Increases water retention and moderates soil pH Promotes beneficial soil microorganisms Suppresses plant diseases & pests Can prevent & manage soil erosion problems	
Social	Increases awareness of food cycle and waste Reduces smell of kitchen garbage	Odor Appearance Possible effects on nearby property and property value if compost pile not managed
Economic	Saves landfill space and delays building a new one Saves residents money if it leads to a smaller garbage bin for trash collection Conserves resources, like store-bought fertilizers and water (gardens fed with compost material require less water)	Jurisdiction cost of administering the composting system or monitoring and addressing issues

Resources

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

Composting at home:
http://www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

Community backyard composting programs:
http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/composting/pubs/backyard-composting.pdf

Food waste facts:
http://www.unep.org/wed/2013/quickfacts/

MN Pollution Control: Start composting in your backyard
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/living-green/living-green-citizen/composting/start-composting-in-your-backyard.html

Appendix A: Composting Management in Regional Jurisdictions

Bismarck, ND
Per the Environmental Health Department, backyard composting (including food waste) would be allowed provided it is managed in a way as not to become odorous or harbor rodents. They have one backyard compost ordinance (Title 8-07-04, subsection 12) but it is yard waste specific.

Duluth, MN
Allows backyard composting of food and yard waste (see appendix B).

Grand Forks, ND
Although they do not have a related ordinance, backyard composting is allowed.

Lincoln, NE
Backyard composting is allowed with some common restrictions (see appendix B).

Mankato, MN
Backyard composting is not addressed in their ordinances.

Rochester, MN
Backyard composting is allowed with common restrictions per Olmsted County ordinance (see appendix B).

Sioux Falls, SD
Backyard composting is not addressed in City code, but it is allowed. Environmental Health promotes it and gives out informational material to residents.

Appendix B: Backyard Composting Example Ordinances

Blaine, MN (pop. 60,407)
ARTICLE IV. - COMPOSTING
Sec. 34-91. - Definitions.
The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
Compost means a mixture of decayed organic matter.
Composting means any aboveground microbial process that converts organic matter to a soil amendment or mulch by decomposition of material through an aerobic process furnished adequate oxygen and moisture.
Yard waste means compostable, organic material consisting of grass clippings and leaves but excluding hedge trimmings and tree limbs.
(Code 1980, § 11-61; Ord. No. 92-1301, 7-16-1992)
Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-2.
Sec. 34-92. - Intent of article.
The intent of this article is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the community by regulating the home composting of food and yard waste. Food and yard waste that is not properly composted may create a nuisance to the community through odor and appearance, and be detrimental to nearby property or property values, and may constitute a public health and safety issue by attracting vermin.
(Code 1980, § 11-60; Ord. No. 92-1301, 7-16-1992)
Sec. 34-93. - Penalty for violation of article.
Any person in violation of any of the provisions in this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day on which such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
(Code 1980, § 11-64; Ord. No. 92-1301, 7-16-1992)
Sec. 34-94. - Declaration of nuisance.
Compost material stored or processed in violation of this article is declared to be public nuisance and shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of the applicable ordinances and state law.
(Code 1980, § 11-63; Ord. No. 92-1301, 7-16-1992)
Sec. 34-95. - Regulation.
Composting is permitted only in residential properties up to four dwelling units, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(1) Permitted composting materials. Only yard waste, small shrub trimmings or twigs (one-quarter inch diameter maximum), straw, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells generated from the site on which the composting is located. In addition, commercially available composting ingredients can be placed in a composting container.
(2) Prohibited materials. The following materials shall not be placed in the composting container: meat, bones, fat oils, whole eggs, dairy products, unshredded branches or logs, plastics, synthetic fibers, human or pet wastes, diseased plants, and any other garbage or refuse except for those permitted above in subsection (1) of this section.
(3) Composting structure. All composting materials must be contained in a bin which may be constructed of wood, wire mesh, a combination of wood and wire or commercially fabricated compost bins designed to contain composting materials.
(4) Composting container size. Composting shall be conducted within an enclosed container not to exceed a total of 100 cubic feet (for example, five feet × five feet × four feet in volume for those lots less than 10,000 square feet. For those lots greater than 10,000 square feet, a total of 150 cubic feet in volume will be allowed. The maximum height of the composting container shall be five feet.
(5) Composting container location. Composting containers shall be located at least five feet from the property line and shall be entirely contained with the rear yard.
(6) Maintenance. All composting operations shall be maintained in such a manner not to create a nuisance to the community. This shall include appropriately frequent watering and turning of the compost pile.

(Code 1980, § 11-62; Ord. No. 92-1301, 7-16-1992)

Boston, MA (pop. 645,966)
SECTION 89-8. **Composting.**

1. Accessory Composting.
    a. Use Regulations. Accessory Composting shall be Allowed where any Ground Level Urban Farm, Roof Level Urban Farm is permitted.
    b. State Requirements. Accessory Composting on an Urban Farm is subject to regulation by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) under 330 CMR 25.00, Agricultural Composting Program.
    c. Maximum Height.
        i. Maximum height of Composting structures or bins shall not exceed ten (10) feet for Ground Level and Roof Level Urban Farms in any District or Subdistrict.
        ii. On a Roof Level Urban Farm, any Composting must be contained within an enclosed bin that does not have direct contact with flammable materials.
    d. Setbacks
        i. Subject to Article 10 (Accessory Uses), compost bins, structures and windrows shall be set back five (5) feet from all property lines on Ground Level Urban Farms in all Districts and Subdistricts.
        ii. Compost bins, structures and windrows 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.
    e. Lot Coverage
        i. Composting which is accessory to an Urban Farm shall be used primarily to support onsite operations, and shall comprise no more than seven and a half (7 ½) percent of the Lot area (See Section 89-6.6(a)iii.a.
2. Composting as Primary Use
    a. Use Regulations
        i. When the primary use to be performed on a Lot is Composting, the activity shall be Conditional in all Industrial Districts and Subdistricts and Forbidden in all other Districts and Subdistricts.
    b. State Requirements.
        i. Composting operations are subject to regulations administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under 310 CMR 16.00.
    c. Setbacks.
        i. Subject to Article 10 (Accessory Uses), compost bins, structures and windrows shall be set back five (5) feet from all property lines on Ground Level Urban Farms in all Districts and Subdistricts.
        ii. Compost bins, structures and windrows 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.

Chicago, IL (pop. 2.7 million)
In June 2007, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance regulating small-scale compost operations, such as those found in residential backyards. Small-scale compost operations, as defined by the ordinance, are exempt from City permit requirements. The ordinance, however, requires that these compost operations are well-managed. Residents may compost up to 10 cubic yards of lawn and garden waste or up to 5 cubic yards of food and yard waste in-vessel (container with no opening larger than 1/4"). Larger amounts may be allowed with a permit.
7-28-715 Composting standards.
(1) Any composting operation which meets the qualifications of paragraphs (3), (4) or (5) of this section shall be exempt from the permit requirements of Chapter 11-4 of this Code.
(2) *General composting standards.* All composting operations which meet the qualifications of paragraphs (3), (4) or (5) shall promote proper conditions for composting and shall operate under the following standards, in addition to all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations:
(a) *Nuisance.* In no event shall any composting activities be conducted in a manner which creates an odor, litter, dust or noise nuisance, or attracts vectors or pests.

(b) *Rat and other vector control.* The presence of insects, rodents, birds and other vectors or pests shall be controlled through specific measures. These specific measures may include grinding the ingredients, providing screens or netting, or conducting the composting operation in-vessel.

(c) *Surface water.* The composting operation shall be located or designed and constructed to prevent the composting material and compost from sitting in ponded surface water.

(d) *Mixing.* Composting material shall be mixed or turned at regular intervals as conditions mandate to re-mix ingredients, distribute moisture, rebuild porosity and aid in physical breakdown until composting is complete.

(e) *Moisture level.* The moisture level of the composting material shall be maintained within a range of 40% to 60% moisture.

(f) *Sewage restriction.* The composting material shall not contain sewage, sludge, septage or catch basin waste. For the purposes of this section, "sewage" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 11-4-120 of this Code; "sludge" shall mean any solid, semi-solid, or liquid waste generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility or any other such waste having similar characteristics or effects; "septage" shall mean the waste found in a septic tank; and "catch basin waste" shall mean the waste found in a catch basin.

(3) *Garden compost operation.* A composting operation that composts only landscape waste shall be exempt from the permit requirements of Chapter 11-4 of this Code if it meets the following criteria:

(a) *Ingredients.* The composting operation composts only landscape waste.

(b) *Noncommercial.* The composting operation is not engaged in commercial activities related to composting, the acceptance of landscape waste or commercial landscaping.

(c) *Size.* The composting operation contains no more than a total of 10 cubic yards of landscape waste, composting material and end product compost on-site at any one time, unless express written authorization has been issued by the commissioner of streets and sanitation allowing a greater volume, not to exceed 25 cubic yards.

(4) *On-site organic waste composting operation.* A composting operation that composts food waste and/or non-hazardous carbonaceous waste, whether or not landscape waste is added to the composting mixture, shall be exempt from the permit requirements of Chapter 11-4 of this Code if it meets the following. criteria:

(a) *Ingredients.* The composting operation composts only organic waste that is generated on-site.

(b) *In-vessel requirement.* Any composting of food waste and/or non-hazardous carbonaceous waste is conducted in-vessel. This requirement also applies to mixtures of landscape wastes with these wastes.

(c) *Size.* The composting operation contains no more than a total of 5 cubic yards of landscape waste, composting material and end product compost on-site at any one time, unless express written authorization has been issued by the commissioner of streets and sanitation allowing a greater volume.

(d) *Compost use.* All generated compost is used on-site.

(5) In addition to those composting operations described in paragraphs (3) and (4), all composting operations which meet the criteria for a permit-exempt facility pursuant to 35 Illinois Admin. Code Section 830.105 shall meet the standards of paragraph (2)(a) through (f) of this section, in addition to all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

(6) *Enforcement provisions.* Any composting operation that fails to comply with the requirements of this section and is not operating under a permit under Chapter 11-4 that permits composting is hereby in violation of Section 7-28-710(a). Each and every violation of a standard set forth in this section or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder is hereby declared to be a nuisance and a separate violation of Section 7-28-710(a), and shall be punished by penalty pursuant to Section 7-28-800.

(7) The commissioner of streets and sanitation is authorized to adopt, promulgate and enforce reasonable rules and [G4] regulations pertaining to the administration and enforcement of this section.

(Added Coun. J. 4-11-07, p. 102577, § 1)

Duluth, MN (pop. 86,128)

Sec. 24-30 Composting regulations

(a) Any person disposing of yard waste shall do so only at a back yard compost site or a yard waste compost facility;

(b) Back yard compost sites shall be located in the rear yard, as defined in Chapter 50 of this Code, of the property and at least 15 feet from any dwelling;

(c) Compost piles in back yard compost sites shall be enclosed with a rigid enclosure suitable to keep the enclosed compost from escaping and to keep animals out of the pile;

(d) Only yard waste and other vegetative wastes shall be composted. No animal wastes, manure, or petrusible animal or food matter shall be composted;
(e) No back yard compost site shall be operated in a manner that it becomes infested with insects, rodents or other animals or produces offensive odors that disturb other property owners in the area.
(Ord. No. 5618, § 392; Ord. No 8254, 7-26-1976, § 2; Ord. No. 9011, 12-10-1990, § 24.)

Grand Rapids, MI (pop. 192,294)
Sec. 9.107. - Definitions.
The terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings or definitions provided for below.
5. *Residential Composting* means the collection of organic materials from household kitchen food and yard waste, in a fully enclosed and commercially manufactured compost receptacle.
Sec. 9.108. - Nuisances Prohibited on Public and Private Property.
The following conditions are declared a public nuisance. All property within the City, whether occupied or vacant, improved or unimproved, shall be maintained by the owner free of the following nuisances:
(5) Garbage or rubbish or any other unhealthy, hazardous or offensive condition, object or substance, subject to the following exceptions. Residential composting, as that term is defined in this Chapter, shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:

a. Residential composting is only permitted on the premises of an occupied residential dwelling.
b. The compost may not contain animal waste, meat, bones, grease, oils, fats, or cooked foods of any kind.
c. The compost must be completely contained in a fully enclosed and commercially manufactured compost receptacle.
d. The compost receptacle must be located in the rear yard of the residential dwelling.
e. The compost receptacle must be kept tightly covered except when opened for deposit or removal of compost materials.
f. The compost receptacle shall have a capacity of no greater than 64 cubic feet.
g. The compost receptacle shall be constructed of rigid and durable materials, which shall not include any of the following: burlap, tarp, vehicle tires, wire mesh, chicken wire, flexible fencing material of any kind, or any substantially similar materials.

Lincoln, NE (pop. 268,738)
5.41.190 Residential Composting; Nuisance Conditions.
(a) It shall be the duty of every owner, lessee, tenant, or occupant of any premises in any residential zone within the city, or within three miles of the corporate limits thereof, to conduct any composting upon such premises in a safe and sanitary manner so as not to permit, keep, or maintain thereon any condition detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.
(b) Conditions detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare related to residential composting shall also include:

1. Composting of any organic materials that are not generated or derived from the same premises.
2. Composting activity within twenty-five feet of any dwelling unit off the premises.
3. Composting that produces any odor that is detectable off the premises by an odor detection and measurement device.
4. Composting that involves human body wastes; fecal or other body wastes from dogs, cats and other animals; meat or dairy organic material; raw sewage or treated sewage sludge; animal or paunch manure; or any other material that is not biodegradable.

(c) Any premises found to be in violation of the above conditions is declared to be a public nuisance and may be abated by the Director in the manner provided in Section 8.26.030. (Ord. 16602 §19; May 2, 1994)

Minneapolis, MN (pop. 400,070)
244.770. - Composting.
(a) Defined. For the purposes of this article, composting is a microbial process that converts plant materials to a usable organic soil amendment or mulch.
(b) Compost containers. Composting shall be conducted within a covered or uncovered container, enclosed on all vertical sides. Containers shall be of a durable material and shall be constructed and maintained in a structurally sound manner. Wood used in the construction of a compost container must be sound and free of rot.

(c) Size. The maximum size for a compost area on lots with a residential structure shall be two hundred forty-five (245) cubic feet for lots smaller than five thousand (5,000) square feet, four hundred five (405) cubic feet on lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and five hundred (500) cubic feet on lots over ten thousand (10,000) square feet. The maximum size on lots without a residential structure shall be four hundred five (405) cubic feet on lots smaller than five thousand (5,000) square feet, seven hundred twenty (720) cubic feet on lots five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000) square feet, and one thousand, one hundred twenty-five (1,125) cubic feet on lots larger than ten thousand (10,000) square feet.
(d) Location on property. The compost container(s) shall not be located closer than one (1) foot from the rear property line and shall not be located in any required front or side yard as defined in the zoning code, nor closer than twenty (20) feet to any habitable building off of the subject property.
(e) Compost materials. Compost piles shall include an appropriate mix of nitrogen-rich materials (or "greens") and carbon-rich materials (or "browns") to reduce odor and ensure adequate composting. Meat, bones, fat oils, grease, dairy products, diseased plant material in which the disease vector cannot be rendered harmless through the composting process, feces, plastics or synthetic fibers shall not be placed in the compost container(s).
(f) Maintenance. Compost materials shall be layered, aerated, moistened, turned, and managed to promote effective decomposition of the materials in a safe, secure and sanitary manner. Compost materials shall be covered with a layer of material such as leaves, straw, wood chips, or finished compost to reduce odor.
(g) Abatement. All compost containers and/or compost materials not in compliance with this section shall be declared a public nuisance and are subject to abatement as provided in Chapter 227 of this Code. In addition, the director may require individuals whose compost containers and/or materials are not in compliance with this section to attend a master composter or similar educational program as a condition of continuing to compost on a subject property. (90-Or-245, § 1, 9-28-90; 2012-Or-007, § 1, 3-8-12)

Red Wing, MN (pop. 16,513)
Subd. 2. Definitions
The following terms, as used in this Section and Sections 10.02 and 10.03, shall have the meanings stated:
7. “Composting” – The controlled microbial degradation of organic waste to yield a humus-like product.
Subd. 9. Compost Sites and Facilities

1. All Backyard Compost Sites shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the following standards:
    a. Location. The compost site shall be located only in backyards, shall be a minimum of four feet from any lot line and shall be screened from view of the public right-of-way. No responsible tenant shall operate more than one backyard compost site.
    b. Area Specifications. The compost site shall be no greater than ten (10) feet in diameter and five (5) feet in height. All compost sites shall be fenced or enclosed on at least three (3) sides to prevent scattering of compost material unless the dimension standards are varied by permit of the city.
    c. Composition and Operation. Backyard compost sites must be managed in a nuisance-free condition to prevent odor and the stockpiling of material that does not readily decompose within a calendar year, including but not limited to refuse, fibrous material and prunings. To prevent the attraction of rodents and other animals, no meat, bones, grease, whole eggs, or dairy products shall be added to compost sites. The pile must be turned regularly and all inert material must be removed from compost sites at least once every six (6) months.
2. Any compost site other than a backyard compost site as defined in this ordinance must be licensed and constructed in accordance with both the Goodhue County Waste Management Ordinance and any rules and regulations adopted by the City of Red Wing.

Subd. 10. Violations

1. Any person who violates or fails, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished therefor as provided by Minnesota Statutes. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each separate day during or which a violation occurs or continues.
2. This Section, in addition to other remedies, may be enforced by injunction, action or compel performance or other appropriate remedies in District Court to prevent, restrain, correct or abate violations.

Rochester, MN

3506.02. Yard Waste.

Subs. 1. On-Site Yard Waste Composting. On-site, or “backyard” compost sites, are allowed if the sites are managed in such a manner to prevent annoying odors, Public Health Nuisances, or unsafe conditions. Compostable organic materials suitable for backyard compost sites include: Yard Waste, straw, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and egg shells. Unless special management practices are used, sawdust, wood ash, and newspapers should not be composted. To prevent Public Health Nuisances, avoid composting human and pet feces, meat, bones, grease, whole eggs, dairy products, weeds with seeds and diseased plants. The County accepts the methods and guidelines published by the Minnesota and Olmsted County Extension services as
suitable for on-site composting. On-site composting which does not comply with these methods and guidelines is not permitted.

Appendix C: Composting Educational Material

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/blog/inside-nature-infographic-how-to-compost/

Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission

Attachment 4

A Year in Review & Moving Forward

Advisory → Action

- What has been your experience bringing these issues into the community/jurisdictions as Advisory Commission members?
- What have the conversations been like when you discuss moving these issues forward?
- What do you see as the next step to move these blueprints forward?
- What do you see as your role to bring these issues into action?

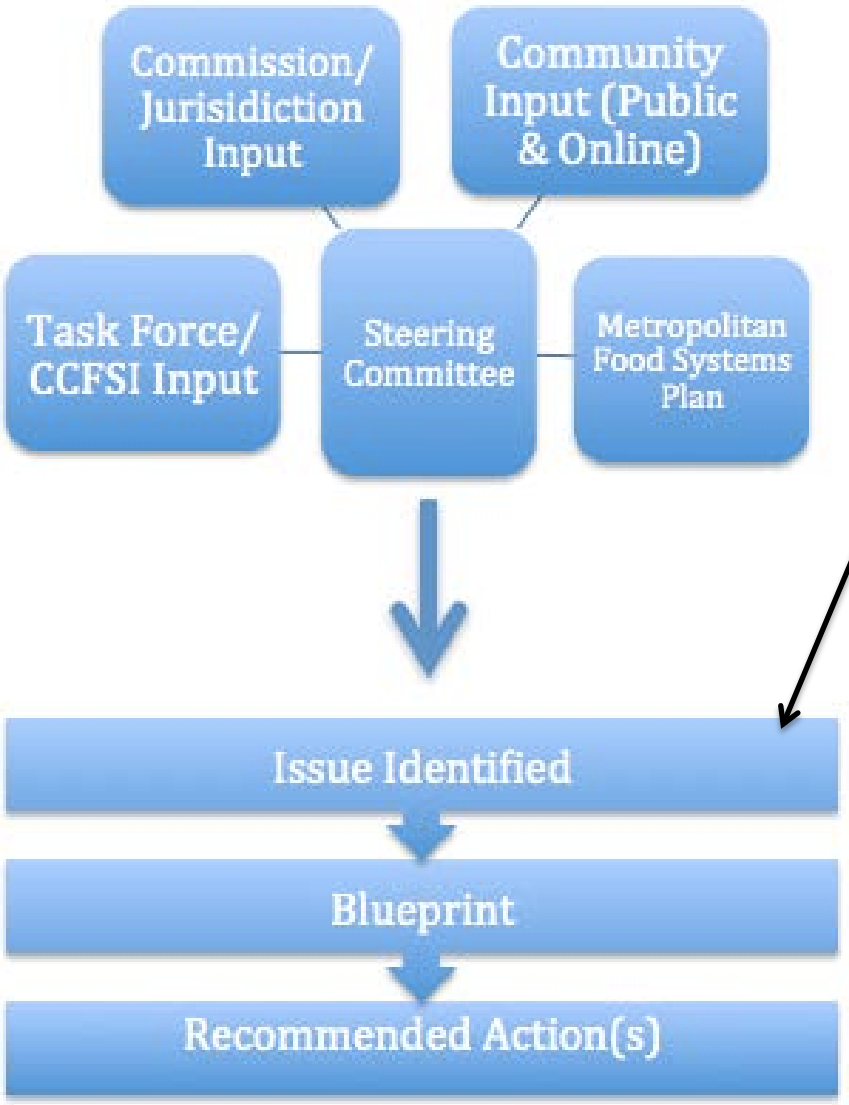
Advisory Commission Timeline

- Joint Powers Agreement: November 2014
- First official meeting: March 25, 2015
- ***Urban Agriculture*** was identified as a priority issue in the F-M Metropolitan food system by the Steering Committee
- In June 2015, an online community survey was begun to prioritize urban agriculture issues. ***Community gardens*** was identified as the most important issue to F-M Metro Area residents
- Three ***Blueprints*** have been created, discussed & voted for approval by the Commission:
  - Community Gardens
  - Urban Bees
  - Urban Chickens

Cass Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission Purpose

- **Assess** the food system in the FM Metropolitan area with consideration of state and national trends and issues
- **Educate** policy makers in all local jurisdictions on food systems issues
- **Provide language** for policies and codes based on research
- **Support community wellness** through various activities related to healthy food consumption
- **Cultivate partnerships and foster collaborative communication** between local jurisdictions and other public and private partnerships
- **Encourage inquiries** from local jurisdictions on food system issues
- **Propose recommendations** on ways to improve the food system in the FM Metropolitan area
- **Oversee the implementation** of the Metropolitan Food Systems Plan

Issue Prioritization Process



- **Survey** developed to gauge community and Commission interest with regards to Urban Agriculture
- **117 community members** completed the survey
- **Community gardens ranked #1 by both Commission & community**
  - Commission:
    - #2 – Sales
    - #3 – Farming practices,
    - #4 – Food safety/processing
    - #5 – Urban Animals
  - Community:
    - #2 – Farming practices
    - #3 – Urban animals
    - #4 – Food safety/processing
    - #5 - Sales

Ugly Food of the North's Work

A community organization working to bring awareness to food waste and food sustainability issues through education, networking and community organizing.

Ugly Food Market + Potluck

Local Ugly Food Buffet

Community Conversation: Urban Agriculture

Leftover Junksgiving

Great Plains Food Bank + Repackaging Ugly Potatoes

Community Conversation: Chef's Panel

Community Conversation: Composting Panel

Next event: Community Conversation Farmer Panel – March 20, 4-6 p.m. at The Rourke Art Museum

www.fmuglyfood.com
#FMUglyFood
@FMUglyFood

Future Blueprints

- Municipal Composting
- Structures (high-tunnels, green houses, hoop houses, etc.)
- Farmers Markets
- Residential Gardening

Advisory Documents → Action

- What has been your experience bringing these issues into the community/jurisdictions as Advisory Commission members?
- What have the conversations been like when you discuss moving these issues forward?
- What do you see as the next step to move these blueprints forward?
- What do you see as your role to bring these issues into action?

Attachment 5

To: Cass-Clay Food Systems Advisory Commission
From: Kim Lipetzky, Fargo Cass Public Health
Date: March 2, 2016
Re: ***Online Community Input***

In order to keep the Food Systems Advisory Commission apprised of various issues and inquiries raised by the community, the Cass-Clay Food Systems Initiative (CCFSI) Steering Committee will keep a record of questions and comments received on behalf of the public and will review them with Commission members on a continuing basis. These will include public comments received through the City of Fargo *Let's Eat Local* website (**www.letseatlocal.org**) and other venues.

Attachment 5a includes questions and comments regarding food systems issues submitted to the City of Fargo and Fargo Cass Public Health from January to February 2016. Names have been redacted to ensure the privacy of each of the individuals.

Requested Action: None

Attachment 5a

Received 1/13/16 Fargo

I have had chickens and ducks in my backyard since 2012. I started with 6 hens and two ducks. The duck pair were highly entertaining and the female produced excellent eggs. I ended up giving them to a duck fancier out of town because the ducks made chicken keeping more difficult by adding additional moisture to coop in winter and the male duck was harassing the hens. I am now down to 4 chickens. I will probably add two more so I have enough eggs to share with my friends and family. 6 was a very manageable number. I keep them in a 8x8 shed with a attached 10x10 dog run with a net over top. They are far less noisy than the dogs in this neighborhood and I have experimented with a number of different manure management. All work to some extent to control odor, of which there is usually none (except for straw smell when I use straw) and the odor is less offensive than the strong smell of chemicals that people apply to their lawns on a regular basis. My neighbors were unaware of my chickens unless they were told about them; this includes the hundreds of people who walked within 20 feet of my coop for the last 4 years. Fargo's CSO responded to one anonymous complaint in this time and found it to be without merit. We were able to deduce the complainant had been told about the chickens by another neighbor (who was excited about the possibility of having his own chickens). I have had several neighbors stop by to see the chickens and ask about them because they were interested in getting their own chickens. Kids often want to see the chickens and I show them and educate them about proper cleanliness when handling livestock of any kind. We end every visit with hand sanitizer and/or hand washing. Regarding the disposal of unwanted chickens. Within the chicken raising community culling is a common practice. If your bird is sick, no longer productive or just not performing as hoped, one simply culls the bird. (Some animal lovers will re-home as well, I have done both.) Culling is simply killing the bird. One may clean it and eat it or dispose of it the way one would a dead squirrel on their property. The methods of culling are no different than those a hunter uses to finish off a wounded bird. Hunters frequently clean their kill in town, in their garage, on their driveway, etc. It should be no different with chickens. Although I would guess many who keep birds in town would keep them on as pets. Chickens are also wonderful companion animals for people who cannot tolerate pets in their home. The daily care of feeding, watering, and gathering of eggs is very calming for some reason. Watching chickens is also interesting. They are like little velociraptors. (So says nearly every dinosaur fan that sees them!) I keep chickens for humanely sourced eggs. I will re-home or cull non producing chickens, unless they are particularly friendly birds. It has been my experience that re-homing to folks with freeranging flocks ends up in the bird being taken by predators within the year anyway so culling is just as humane in my opinion. I am strongly in favor of urban chicken keeping opportunities and would urge that the permission of neighbors not be required. If birds become a nuisance, a complaint may be made to authorities but a neighbor should not be allowed to dictate what I do in my yard, especially when it will have so little impact on them.